



19/03/21
Issue 7

DECORATIVE JUMPER DAY 24TH MARCH

On Wednesday 24th March 2021 Graham James Primary Academy will be having a Decorative Jumper Day!

As you will remember, we were due to have a Jolly Jumper Day before Christmas which was to raise money to buy a Nintendo Switch for Basildon Hospital Cancer Apartment. This was where one of our pupils spent so much time whilst undergoing treatment for Leukaemia. This apartment is used for children undergoing treatment for Cancer who are unable to go into the main children's play area.

Amelia has now successfully finished her treatment which is wonderful news. We all felt that this was such a worthy cause and something everyone wanted to support, that we did not want to let the opportunity to raise money go by.

So on Wednesday we are asking children to come into school in a Special Jumper. It can be a Christmas one if you have one you want to wear, it can be a glittery one or a bright coloured one, it just needs to be one that makes you smile!

Children do not have to wear uniform, but we ask that they do not wear football kits. We are asking for a suggested donation of £1.00 per child and this will go towards purchasing the Nintendo Switch to raise a smile for the children that need it most. We will be making sure the Hospital knows that it has been bought by the children and families at Graham James and that we have raised this in support of Amelia who was so courageous and her family and friends that have been amazing throughout her journey!

DIARY DATES



Wednesday 24th March
Decorative Jumper day - see across

Friday 26th March
Birthday Friday - see page 5
Break up for Easter Holidays

Monday 12th April
Return to school

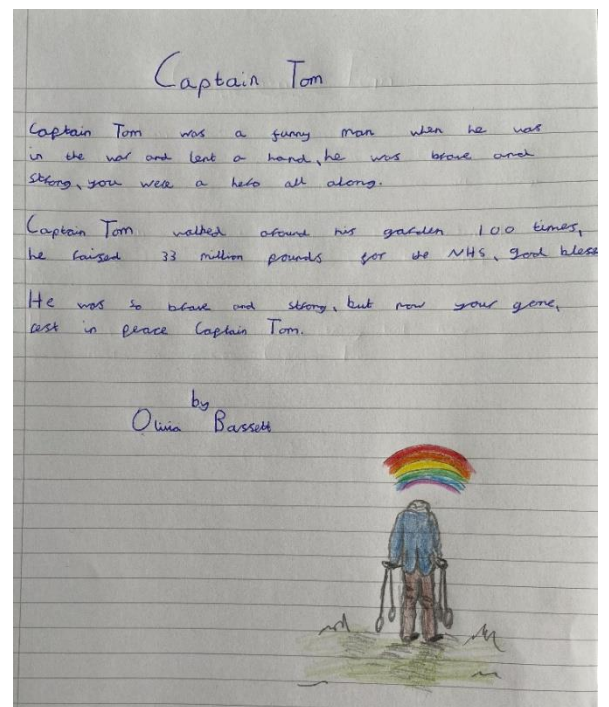
Wednesday 19th May to Friday 21st May
Year 6 Residential Trip to Stubbers

Friday 28th May
Break up for half term

Monday 7th June
Return to school

Friday 9th July
Break up for Summer holidays

CAPTAIN TOM POEM BY OLIVIA BASSETT 4AB



IMPORTANT NOTICE -

DINNER MONEY

Reminder that dinner money should be paid on the day or in advance.

Our preferred method of payment is Parent Pay. If you do not have a log-on, please ask at the office and we can arrange this for you.

Now more than ever we are encouraging parents to pay using ParentPay where possible as receiving cash payments increases the chance of contact between staff, parents and children whilst social distancing measures are in place - exposing everyone to unnecessary risks.

It is the parents' responsibility to know how much credit is on their account. Parent Pay now shows up to date running balances.

Office staff will now only send dinner money arrears texts once per week.

However, please note that we do not allow arrears to go over £10.50. We will not provide a school dinner for children if the arrears are over £10.50 and parents will be contacted informing them that they need to either pay before lunch time, bring in a packed lunch or collect their child to take them home for lunch.

REGULAR ARREARS

When an account is regularly in arrears, we will insist on payment up front and a lunch will not be provided without payment in advance.

BREAKFAST CLUB

When arrears reach £10.50, parents will be contacted and asked to bring the arrears up to date immediately. Failure to do this could jeopardise a child's place at Breakfast Club.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive either:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit - provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Universal Credit - provided your total net earnings are no more than £616.67 each month, starting from 1 April 2018
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Please apply online if you think you may be entitled.

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-meals/free-school-meals>

Even if you do not currently pay for your child's meals (because they are in reception, Year 1 or Year 2) you should still apply if you think you are entitled. Whilst in lockdown we were able to make weekly payments to families who receive free school meals and you could miss out if schools are forced to close again.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much to the P.T.A. who kindly donated £1645.00 for I.T. equipment. The money was used to purchase laptops for children to use for home schooling during lockdown. The laptops will now be used in school.

MUSIC LESSONS (Years 3-6)

If your child is interested in participating in Music lessons from April, then please contact the office. A minimum of at least 3 children per instrument is required for the lesson to go ahead.

The cost is £57.50 for 10 lessons. **Payment due by Monday 22nd March.**

DAISY - 6CM

Daisy has been published in a book called Peculiar Pets from the Young Writers' website which was published last month.

My water dragon's lair

Their names are Luna and toothless,
And they don't make much mess,
Just swim around all day or walk on the wood,
Sometimes though they are up to no good,
You see axelotles are my tiny dragons,
Under the water building imaginary wagons,
To pull kings and queens to the shore,
Fire breathing! Oh how they would roar,
One white, one black, a boy and a girl,
The perfect pair making a swirl,
Dreaming of riches but wanting for none,
Out living us all till they are one hundred and one,
Plants galore a tank full of plenty,
And not having to spend a penny,
You see I look after them and feed them
their worms,
And make sure their water has no germs,
They have their own kingdom behind glass,
Swimming or walking amongst the grass,
What dreams would there be for them to
play,
We will have to wait for another day...

MILK

Children under 5 receive free milk at school.

If your child is over 5 and you would like them to receive milk then please register your child online, visit www.coolmilk.com The current cost is approximately 22p per day.

IF YOUR CHILD IS OFF...

If your child is absent then you must phone on the first day of absence and leave a message when prompted. Please state the following:

- your child's name
- class
- **reason for being off**

It is not sufficient to just say that they will not be in. As a school we are expected by Ofsted and the Local Authority to know why a child is not in school and report any cases where there are persistent and/or unexplained absences.

Please ensure that you send a letter in with your child when they return to school. Please state the reason for absence as we need this for your child's file.

When children are off regularly and parents do not call in to report their child's absence we will consider doing a home visit.

LATENESS

Can we please remind you that the school day starts at 8.55am. We have an increasing number of children arriving after this time. It is disruptive to classroom and office staff when your child is late and your child is missing out on valuable learning time when they arrive after their classmates.

Letters are sent home to those with persistent lateness and meetings will be arranged if there is no improvement after the first letter has been sent.

After School - Club Timetable

Monday	Jujitsu (re-starting w/c 12/4/21)
Tuesday	Study Club – Year 6 Alternate weeks Group A w/c 12/4 Group B w/c 19/4
Wednesday	Tennis Club – Year 4 (from 14/4)
Thursday	Athletics Club – Year 5 (from 15/4) Athletics Club – Year 6 (from 15/4)
Friday	Cricket Club – Year 2 (from 16/4)

P.E. KITS

Please could you ensure children have both indoor and outdoor P.E. kits.

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| Indoor | - | red or black shorts, plain white T-shirt and plimsolls/trainers |
| Outdoor | - | Outdoor trainers, tracksuits or joggers and sweatshirts or hoodies (any colour) |

PARKING

There is no parking for parents on the school grounds. This includes Breakfast Club drop off.

In addition, please be considerate of our neighbours when parking in the side roads and do not park across driveways (this includes the dentist surgery).

Also, please refrain from walking up the drive particularly now there are construction workers using the drive to access the building site.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION:

Should you have any queries or concerns, in the first instance please ensure you speak with your child's teacher. **At the current time this should be by emailing the teacher direct via Teams who will deal with the situation.**

Please note that emails will not be routinely answered but will be actioned and dealt with accordingly.

After speaking with the class teacher, and you are unhappy with the response received please follow the escalation procedure below:

- Class Teacher
- Key Stage Assistant Head Teacher (by appointment)
- Deputy Head Teacher - Mr Turner (by appointment)
- Head Teacher - Mrs Back (by appointment)

EARRINGS ON P.E. DAYS

Reminder that the only earrings that are permitted in school are simple stud earrings. These should be removed on P.E. days. Those who have newly pierced ears i.e. within the last 6 weeks, may keep them in provided that ear tape is worn. This must be provided by the parent.

WELLBEING WORKSHOP



On Tuesday 1st December, Year 6 were treated to a Well-Being Workshop led by Michael Vingerhoets. During the workshop, Michael shared with us his story of how he let fear of what people thought about him hold him back when he was younger. He told us about how he didn't put himself forward for the school football team just in case others thought he wasn't good enough. He encouraged us to think about what we would like to achieve and not be afraid to give things a try and push ourselves forward. Luckily, his story had a happy ending as years later, he overcame his fears and won the league as an adult!

We would like to say a big thank you to Michael for taking the time to come and work with year 6!

OFFICE

Please limit your visits to the office. Where possible could you call or email instead.

Please see 'channels of communication' on next page for more information re contacting teachers.

If you do need to come into school, then we ask that only one person is at the office window at one time. If another parent is there, please wait outside until they have finished.

GOLD AWARDS

10.03.21	Hollie Bates	2KR	Fantastic work in Maths
10.03.21	Ethan O'Sullivan	2KR	Fantastic work in Maths
10.03.21	Ryder Notley	2KR	Fantastic work in Maths
10.03.21	Kylan Whittaker	2KR	Fantastic work in Maths
10.03.21	Ronnie Lake	2KR	Fantastic work in Maths
10.03.21	Hollie Sargent	2KR	Fantastic work in Maths
10.03.21	Cooper Johnson	2KR	Fantastic work in Maths
10.03.21	Alexia Gibson	2LP	Fantastic Maths
10.03.21	Harry Mannion	2LP	Fantastic Maths
12.03.21	Oliver Creighton	2KR	Great letter writing
12.03.21	Kyle Foote	2KR	Great letter writing
15.03.21	Freddy Challis	2LP	Fantastic long writing
15.03.21	Jesse Renew	2LP	Fantastic long writing
15.03.21	Calvin Clifford	6JCA	Most improved writer

BIRTHDAY FRIDAY

As a result of the current Covid restrictions, many children are missing out on celebrating their birthday with family and friends as they usually would, with parties or gatherings that are currently not allowed during this time.

Therefore, we would like to give them the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays in school with their class friends. A party will be held within each class on the last Friday of each month, this will be to celebrate all who have their birthday in that month.

Staff will provide fun games, activities, and a party atmosphere. If children wanted to bring in sweets to give out to their classmates for their birthday, please can you ensure they are individually wrapped and sealed sweets that the children can take home to eat. We will hold the sweets in school until the Birthday Friday when they will be distributed.

Hopefully this will enable our children to feel they have had a celebration for their birthday. We will resume this on Friday 26th March with a bumper birthday party for all birthdays during December, January, February and March.

ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 19/03/21 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

EYFS/KS1

Class 1MW with 98.7%

KS2

Class 3OT with 99.3%

MENU CHANGE NEXT WEEK

On Wednesday 24th March there will be two options - Red = roast Turkey, roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, vegetables. Dessert will be Easter themed chocolate cupcake. Blue = Quorn Roast with all of the above.

On Thursday we will have a menu swap where we will serve the usual week 3 Wednesday menu red - beef burger, blue - vegetable burger and green - jacket potato and beans.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2021

We may have been in Lockdown but it didn't stop our children dressing up for World Book Day.



HOLIDAY DATES 2020-21

Autumn	<p>Tuesday 1st September to Friday 18th December</p> <p>Half term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October</p> <p>Christmas break: Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January</p>
Spring	<p>Monday 4th January to Friday 26th March</p> <p>Half term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February</p> <p>Easter break: Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April</p> <p>Bank holidays: Good Friday 2nd April, Easter Monday 5th April</p>
Summer	<p>Monday 12th April to Friday 9th July</p> <p>Half term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June</p> <p>Bank holidays: Monday 3rd May, Monday 31st May</p> <p style="color: red;">Last day of school is Friday 9th July 2021</p>



NUMBOTS WINNERS



MOST COINS EARNED BETWEEN 1ST MARCH - 14TH MARCH

Anastazja Baffour-Asare	RSD	1 st	Jake Adams	RSK	1 st
Cameron Dickens	RSD	2 nd	Ethan Gilbey	RSK	2 nd
Hayden Hunt	RSD	3 rd	Lottie Walshe	RSK	3 rd
Connie Denton	1GS	1 st	Tomas Latham	1MW	1 st
Darcy Alves	1GS	2 nd	Dulcie Simpson	1MW	2 nd
Teddy Baldwin	1GS	3 rd	Darcy Davis	1MW	3 rd
Evie Hinks	2LP	1 st	Eila Hallissey	2KR	1 st
Nathanael Nsubuga	2LP	2 nd	Kylan Whittaker	2KR	2 nd
Autumn-Rose Taiani-Knight	2LP	3 rd	Cooper Johnson	2KR	3 rd

MOST GAMES COMPLETED FEBRUARY 2021

Cameron Dickens	RSD	1 st	Lacie Whittle	RSK	1 st
Jenson Rawson	RSD	2 nd	Victoria Gorobic	RSK	2 nd
Harrison Cosentino	RSD	3 rd	Logan Bevan	RSK	3 rd
Darcy Alves	1GS	1 st	Darcy Davis	1MW	1 st
Arthur Lloyd	1GS	2 nd	Connor Griffiths	1MW	2 nd
William Lockey	1GS	3 rd	Evelyn Rosales Carlosama	1MW	3 rd
Evie Hinks	2LP	1 st	Eila Hallissey	2KR	1 st
Thomas Dear	2LP	2 nd	Fletcher Rimini	2KR	2 nd
Amelia Clark	2LP	3 rd	Kylan Whittaker	2KR	3 rd

MOST CORRECT ANSWERS JANUARY 2021

Malachi Jackson-Layne	RSD	1 st	Victoria Gorobic	RSK	1 st
Hayden Hunt	RSD	2 nd	Lacie Whittle	RSK	2 nd
Theo Winchester	RSD	3 rd	Chidera Nwankwo	RSK	3 rd
Darcy Alves	1GS	1 st	Brody McGovern	1MW	1 st
Ivy Webster	1GS	2 nd	Connor Griffiths	1MW	2 nd
Connie Denton	1GS	3 rd	Shae Frostick	1MW	3 rd
Evie Hinks	2LP	1 st	Hallie Beard	2KR	1 st
Freddy Challis	2LP	2 nd	James Putnam	2KR	2 nd
Theo West	2LP	3 rd	Fletcher Rimini	2KR	3 rd



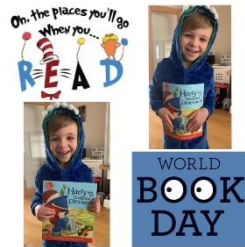
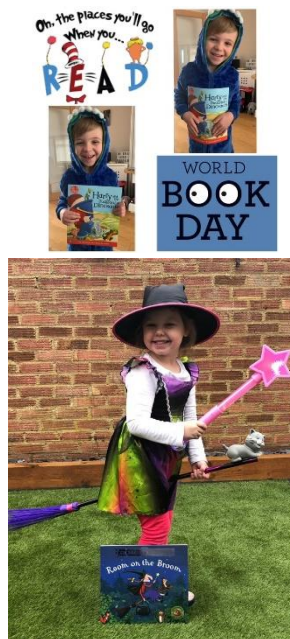
TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS AWARDS
Biggest increase in coins from 8/3/21-17/3/21



Charlie Lloyd	3AC	1 st	Rose Denton	3OT	1 st
Daria Gorobic	3AC	2 nd	Jimmy Ellison	3OT	2 nd
Eloise Harris	3AC	3 rd	Sarina Kaur	3OT	3 rd
Kayden Joseph	4AB	1 st	Ruby May-Simpson	4SAT	1 st
Jessie Flowers	4AB	2 nd	Josh Bradley	4SAT	2 nd
Katie Merrill	4AB	3 rd			
Adam Wafik	5ES	1 st	Thomas Pope	5RW	1 st
Finley Bines	5ES	2 nd	Jacob Smith	5RW	2 nd
Kenaya Idikayi	5ES	3 rd	Freddie Wright	5RW	3 rd
Sarah Stanescu	6CM	1 st	Samuel Munro	6JCA	1 st
			Ronnie Garland	6JCA	2 nd
			Billy Webb	6JCA	3 rd

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THURROCK LOCAL
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN
PARTNERSHIP

Operation Encompass

At Graham James Primary Academy we are working in partnership with Essex Police to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic violence in their household, this scheme is called **Operation Encompass**.

The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguarding and support children and young people who have been involved in or witness to a domestic abuse incident. Domestic abuse impacts on children in a number of ways. Children are at increased risk of physical injury during an incident, either by accident or because they attempt to intervene. Even when not directly injured, children are greatly distressed by witnessing the physical and emotional suffering of a parent.

Encompass has been created to highlight this situation. It is the implementation of key partnership working between the Police and Schools. The aim of sharing information with local schools is to allow "Key Adults" (the Designated Safeguarding Leads), the opportunity of engaging with the child and to provide access to support that allows them to remain in a safe but secure familiar environment.

In order to achieve this, Essex Police will share information of domestic incidents where one of our pupils has been present, with the Key Adult. On receipt of any information, the Key Adult will decide on the appropriate support the child requires. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). We will record this information and store this in accordance with the record keeping procedures outlined in these regulations.

The purpose and procedures in Operation Encompass have been shared with all parents and governors. Further information can be found by click on the following link www.operationencompass.org

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