



17/09/21
Issue 1

Graham James Primary – Newsletter

WELCOME

A big welcome to all of the new children and their families that have just joined our school.

Welcome back to all our old children. The children have settled well.

DISPLAY EVENING

Thursday 14th October 2021
5.00 pm - 7.00 pm

You are invited to visit our school, stroll through the classrooms & chat to the children and staff.

Book Fair available throughout the evening

The Display Evening is for families who already have children at Graham James and also for those who are thinking of applying for their child to attend from September 2022 so please share this date with your family and friends if applicable.

AFTER SCHOOL COLLECTION

Please ensure someone is here to collect your child at 3.15pm. If you know you are going to be late then please make arrangements for someone else to collect your child at 3.15pm.

If your child is going to a friend's house after school, please write a note letting the teacher know that another parent will be collecting your child.

DIARY DATES



Wednesday 22nd September
National Fitness Day
Non uniform (sportswear)

Wednesday 13th October
Individual photos

Thursday 14th October
Display Evening – see across

Friday 22nd October
Break up for half term

Monday 1st November
Return to school

Friday 19th November
Children in Need – details to follow

Friday 17th December
Last day of term

Tuesday 4th January
Return to school

ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 17/9/21 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

EYFS/KS1

Miss Pulfer's Class 2LP with 100%

KS2

Mrs Sparkes' Class 4AS with 98.6%

FITNESS DAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Children can come to School in their sportswear and they will be taking part in some physical activities during the day. They do not need to bring in any money as it is a national day to raise awareness of the benefits and fun of keeping fit and healthy.

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 £11.00. We will not provide a school dinner for children if the arrears are over £11.00 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 £11.00, 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're 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 we went into another lockdown.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION:

Should you have any queries or concerns, in the first instance please ensure you speak with your child's teacher.

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)

APPLYING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE

If your child is in Year 6, you must now apply for a secondary school place. Please ensure you apply before the closing date of 31st October 2021.

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/secondary-school-admissions/applying-for-secondary-school-place>

APPLYING FOR RECEPTION 2022 PLACE

If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, you must apply for their reception school place for September 2022.

The applications open on Monday 1st November and you must apply before 15th January 2022.

NURSERY WAITING LIST

If you have younger children who you would like to add to our nursery waiting list, then please contact Mrs Tolan-Wheeler in the school office:

info@grahamjamesprimary.thurrock.sch.uk

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 won't 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 ran by Angela Conquest	
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Football Club	Year 2
Thursday	Boys' Football Football Club	Year 5-6 Year 4
Friday	Girls' Football Boys' Football	Year 5-6 Year 5-6

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)

BREAKFAST CLUB - IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the popularity of our Breakfast Club, we do ask that you pre-book. Places should be booked by Friday for the following week. Forms can be collected from the school office.

The advance notice will help us ensure that the club is fully staffed and enough food is ordered.

Please arrive before 8.20am for your child to receive breakfast.

Although we ask parents not to, we know that some do continue to drive into the school grounds and we ask that you ensure you turn your engine off when the car is stationary to prevent the amount of exhaust fumes in the air.

P.T.A

Our P.T.A. are always looking for new people to join and help out. They welcome new ideas from parents and you can be as involved as you wish. We know that some parents can spare a few hours a year, e.g. at a one off event whereas others can commit more regularly. This year's AGM will be held in school on Tuesday 2nd November at 2.00pm. Please come along if you are interested in joining the PTA.

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.

PARKING

There is no parking for parents on the school grounds. This includes Breakfast Club drop off. This is to ensure the safety of the children.

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).

WILL YOUR CHILD BE 5 YEARS OLD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2022 AND AUGUST 2023?

WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG FOR A TOUR OF OUR SCHOOL TO VISIT THE CLASSROOMS AND SEE THE CHILDREN AT WORK?

WE WILL BE CONDUCTING TOURS ON:

THURSDAY 21 st OCTOBER 2021	10.00am
MONDAY 1 st NOVEMBER 2021	2.00pm
WEDNESDAY 3 rd NOVEMBER 2021	10.00am
TUESDAY 9 th NOVEMBER 2021	2.00pm
THURSDAY 11 th NOVEMBER 2021	2.00pm
WEDNESDAY 17 th NOVEMBER 2021	10.00am
MONDAY 22 nd NOVEMBER 2021	2.00pm
WEDNESDAY 5 th JANUARY 2022	10.00am

ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

NO NEED TO PRE-BOOK. JUST TURN UP.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

HARPER - 2KR



In the Summer holidays Harper decided to donate some of her hair to the Little Princess Trust who provide real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other conditions. She raised £863.00 in sponsorship.

She loves her new hair style and is happy to be helping others.

Well done Harper. We think your new hairstyle looks great!

ETHAN - 3MW



Well done to Ethan. He received a trophy for 'Most improved player of the year' for his football club St Clere's under 8 team.

OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

We love to hear what children have been up to outside school, ranging from sporting achievements, music lessons, raising money for charity and much more. We will feature as many as we can each week. If your child would like to be in the Newsletter please email info@grahamjamesprimary.thurrock.sch.uk



NUMBOTS WINNERS

HIGHEST NUMBER OF COINS From 3rd-16th September



1 st	Lacie Whittle	1GS	1 st	Holly Rook	1KC
2 nd	Chidera Nwankwo	1GS	2 nd	Jenson Rawson	1KC
3 rd	Hayden Hunt	1GS	3 rd	Logan Bevan	1KC
1 st	Leighton Nicholson	2KR	1 st	Henry Rose	2LP
2 nd	Shae Frostick	2KR	2 nd	Connor Griffiths	2LP
3 rd	Layla Carney	2KR	3 rd	Kienan Akdeniz	2LP

GOLD AWARDS

07.09.21	Kienan Akdeniz	2LP	Great writing – using capital letters
09.09.21	Evelyn Rosales-Carlosama	2LP	Fantastic Maths work
09.09.21	Orlando Wells-Newman	2LP	A lovely piece of writing using punctuation
10.09.21	Grace Darrah	2LP	Amazing long writing
10.09.21	Teddy Wilkinson-Smith	2LP	
10.09.21	Henry Rose	2LP	
10.09.21	Chloe Nason	2KR	Great long writing
10.09.21	Esme Scicluna	2KR	
10.09.21	Tomas Latham	2KR	
10.09.21	Melody Bacon	2KR	
10.09.21	Lennie Wright	2KR	
10.09.21	Bonnie Merrigan	2KR	Great mindset in Maths
10.09.21	Olivia Choate	2KR	
15.09.21	William Rollins	2LP	Fantastic adjectives
16.09.21	Sienna Scopes	2LP	Fantastic long write
16.09.21	Teddy Baldwin	2LP	
16.09.21	Oscar Gilbey	2LP	

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS AWARDS

Highest number of coins from 03/09/21-16/9/21



Nathan Sotire	3OT	1 st	Nicholas Huluta	3MW	1 st
Ashton Gorham	3OT	2 nd	Freddie Norman	3MW	2 nd
Alexia Gibson	3OT	3 rd	Amelia Clark	3MW	3 rd
Jimmy Ellison	4AS	1 st	Charlie Lloyd	4SD	1 st
Ayden Nason	4AS	2 nd	Rose Denton	4SD	2 nd
Daria Gorobcic	4AS	3 rd	Sarina Kaur	4SD	3 rd
Kayden Joseph	5ES	1 st	Travis Gorham	5RW	1 st
Jessie Flowers	5ES	2 nd	Minh Tran	5RW	2 nd
Tyler Holmes	5ES	3 rd	Eren Van Litsenborgh	5RW	3 rd
Harry Spenceley	6CM	1 st	Adam Wafik	6JCA	1 st
Kenaya Idikayi	6CM	2 nd	Thomas Pope	6JCA	2 nd
Cassie Peters-Clark	6CM	3 rd	Joseph Mann	6JCA	3 rd

SAFEGUARDING SECTION



Have you set up parental controls?

Parental controls are an important way to keep your child safe online.

Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. And the good news is parental controls are really easy to set up.

Innocent searches sometimes reveal not so innocent results. So if you're worried about what your child is searching for online, who they're talking to or what they're seeing, we can help.

It's simple to get started. And, along with talking to your child regularly, using parental controls is one of the best ways to help keep children safe online.

What are parental controls?

Parental controls are software and tools which you can install on phones or tablets, games consoles or laptops - and even your home broadband.

You can also use them to help you block or filter the content your child sees when searching online. And family-friendly public WiFi can help when you're out and about.

Parental controls are also available to help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- stop them from downloading apps they're too young for
- manage the content different members of the family can see.

So whatever your child is doing online, there's a way that you can help keep them safe.

For more information visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

	HOLIDAY DATES 2021-22
Autumn	Wednesday 1st September to Friday 17th December Half term: Monday 25 th October to Friday 29 th October Christmas break: Monday 20 th December to Monday 3 rd January
	Tuesday 4th January to Friday 1st April Half term: Monday 14 th February to Friday 18 th February Easter break: Monday 4 th April to Monday 18 th April Bank holidays: Good Friday 15 th April, Easter Monday 18 th April
	Tuesday 19th April to Wednesday 13th July Half term: Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June Bank holidays: Monday 2 nd May, Thursday 2 nd June, Friday 3 rd June Last day of school is Wednesday 13th July 2022