



11/10/21  
Issue 2

# Graham James Primary – Newsletter

## KAYDN – 5RW

Congratulations to Kaydn on securing his place at the national finals in November. Kaydn competed for the first time in over two years due to covid scoring a huge 65.75 which put him in 3rd place in the country. Kaydn competes in November to try and secure his place on the Great Britain squad. Training 26 hours a week and putting in so much hard work he absolutely deserves to be there.



## DISPLAY EVENING

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## DIARY DATES



Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
Individual photos

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October  
Display Evening – see across

18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Year 6 – Residential Trip to Mersea

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Break up for half term  
Crazy Hair Day – Non-Uniform

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November  
Return to school

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November  
Children in Need – details to follow

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
Last day of term

## ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 08/10/21 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

EYFS/KS1

Miss Robert's Class 2KR with 95.9%

KS2

Mrs Sparkes' Class 4AS with 100%

## CRAZY HAIR DAY



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER

£1.00 Donation per child  
NON-UNIFORM

Go crazy on Crazy Hair Day... coloured, gelled or twisted, wigs, scarves or accessories, punk or just plain messy!  
No make up or face paint. NO SHAVING!

All colours to be washed out before returning to school after half term.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> November and you must apply before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## 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.

## SITE MANAGER VACANCY

We are currently advertising for a site manager, if you or someone you know is interested in finding out more please click on the link below. Applications must be in by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm.

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/SearchResults.aspx?VacancyType=Support&Position=Caretaker/Site%20Managers>

## 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.

## 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](http://www.coolmilk.com) The current cost is approximately 22p per day.

## 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

## WORLD SPACE WEEK

### LIVE LESSON WITH PROFESSOR BRIAN COX

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October our Year 5 children participated in a live online lesson with world famous physicist Professor Brian Cox. The children really enjoyed this lesson.



Today we went onto a live lesson with Brian Cox. We learnt all about space. It was really fun to learn what things in space are made of.

Pixie (5ES)

Today we had a BBC live lesson with Brian Cox. We did three fun work sheets. On the work sheets we named planets and things in space and we are designing our own space buggies.

Jessie (5ES)

On our first activity we named all the planets and on the second activity we wrote what is in space and on the third we drew our own moon buggy.

Bobby (5ES)



## HARVEST FESTIVAL

5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021

A huge thank you to all of you who donated items for Harvest Festival. Your generosity is appreciated and we know that St Luke's Hospice and Thurrock Foodbank will be grateful for your donations. Father John came in to deliver our Harvest Assembly.



### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2021	10.00am
MONDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2021	2.00pm
WEDNESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2021	10.00am
TUESDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021	2.00pm
THURSDAY 11 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021	2.00pm
WEDNESDAY 17 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021	10.00am
MONDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2021	2.00pm
WEDNESDAY 5 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022	10.00am

**ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!**

**NO NEED TO PRE-BOOK. JUST TURN UP.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU**



**RYAN - 3MW**



Well done to Ryan who received Managers Player Award & Top Goal Scorer of 47 goals from last season at the Football Presentation Achievements for East Thurrock.

**ANICET - 5ES**



Anicet received his Explore certificate from the Arts Award centre, Templesprings on Thursday 26th August 2021. He has been playing the drums for two years now. Last academic year, he had to do his lessons online.

This is his second award, the first was the discover award. Well done Anicet.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:info@grahamjamesprimary.thurrock.sch.uk)



### **NUMBOTS WINNERS**

**HIGHEST ACCURACY**  
From 17<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September



1<sup>st</sup> Summer Barrett  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gabriel Gibson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Chidera Nwankwo

1GS  
1GS  
1GS

1<sup>st</sup> Theo Winchester 1KC  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cameron Dickins 1KC  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anastazja Baffour-Asare 1KC

1<sup>st</sup> Lila Moss  
2<sup>nd</sup> Harper Cooke  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ivy Webster

2KR  
2KR  
2KR

1<sup>st</sup> Evelyn Rosales-Carlosama 2LP  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cooper Pogmore 2LP  
3<sup>rd</sup> Oscar Gilbey 2LP

## GOLD AWARDS

08.10.21	Madison Pogmore	5RW	}	Music: For playing and singing the song
08.10.21	Minh Tran	5RW	}	'For Strings We Play' to the class as a
08.10.21	Harry-James Sadler	5RW	}	solo using a ukulele.
08.10.21	Olivia Bassett	5RW	}	Music: For playing and singing the song
08.10.21	Maddison Fenwick	5RW	}	'That Thumb Brush Strum' to the class in
08.10.21	Freya Harvey	5RW	}	a group of four. They also practiced
08.10.21	Elsie Wright	5RW	}	during their lunch time. Excellent!
08.10.21	Katie Merrill	5RW		Music: For playing and singing the songs
				'For Strings We Play' and 'That Thumb
				Brush Strum' using a ukulele to the class
				as a solo. Excellent!
08.10.21	Arlo Robinson	5RW	}	For drawing an astronaut in pencil and
08.10.21	Minh Tran	5RW	}	creating an interesting background. By
08.10.21	Kaydn Jackson	5RW	}	going over your drawing in black pen,
08.10.21	Ronald Elcomb	5RW	}	you highlighted the detail in your picture.
08.10.21	Jacob Foote	5RW	}	
08.10.21	Freya Harvey	5RW	}	
08.10.21	Olivia Bassett	5RW	}	
08.10.21	Maddison Fenwick	5RW	}	
08.10.21	Taiwo Mafimisebi	3MW	}	For writing a fantastic diary entry
08.10.21	Safa Rahman	3MW	}	
08.10.21	Olivia Hart	3MW	}	
08.10.21	Dara Abdul-Azeez	3OT		Writing a fantastic diary entry

## TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS AWARDS

Highest Accuracy 17<sup>th</sup> September - 30<sup>th</sup> September



Ashton Gorham	3OT	1 <sup>st</sup>	Noa Starkey	3MW	1 <sup>st</sup>
Autumn-Rose Taiani-Knight	3OT	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ruby Lawrence	3MW	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Savva Lapajev	3OT	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Joshua Ball	3MW	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Luke Surry	4AS	1 <sup>st</sup>	Blazej Samsel	4SD	1 <sup>st</sup>
Poppy Mountford	4AS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Amelia Ashdown	4SD	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Emanuella Ajayi	4AS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Noah Osborne	4SD	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Tyler Holmes	5ES	1 <sup>st</sup>	Katie Merrill	5RW	1 <sup>st</sup>
Caleb McQuade	5ES	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kai Collier	5RW	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Kayden Joseph	5ES	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Danny Brine	5RW	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Lola Belle Dowdall	6CM	1 <sup>st</sup>	Harrison Nurse	6JCA	1 <sup>st</sup>
Emmanuel Mafimisebi	6CM	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lucas Spiteri	6JCA	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Ronni Johnson	6CM	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Joseph Mann	6JCA	3 <sup>rd</sup>



## SAFEGUARDING SECTION



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