



13/01/22  
Issue 5

# Graham James Primary – Newsletter

## RETIREMENT

After 22 years of dedication to Graham James Primary, our wonderful Mrs Ward, has decided the time is right for her to retire. Her last day will be 1<sup>st</sup> April.

We are obviously heartbroken to see her go, but are equally happy for her and excited for all the great things she will now get to do.

The staff here at GJPA will mark the occasion in our own way, but I know there will be so many parents who will want to wish her well too.

Mrs Ward has touched so many families in her own caring and gentle way. She has mopped many brows, tended to many cuts and bruises and has listened to so many children, staff and parents over the years, so often being that one person that makes you feel so much better.

On a personal note, Mrs Ward has been there for me from day one! She has helped and guided me through so much with her understanding of the families and the whole community and I shall feel a little lost!

If you would like to contribute to a gift for Mrs Ward, please do feel free to speak to Mrs Tolan-Wheeler who will be able to help.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Ward for being 'One of a Kind!'.

With love  
Petra Back

## DIARY DATES



Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January  
4AS Class Assembly

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Assembly  
1GS Class Assembly

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
1KC Class Assembly

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
5RW Class Assembly

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
Non-Uniform Day  
Break up for half term

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
Return to school

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Class 2LP Class Assembly

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
3MW Class Assembly

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
World Book Day - Details to follow

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March  
3OT Class Assembly

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
2KR Class Assembly

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
4SD Class Assembly

## CLASS ASSEMBLIES ARE BACK!

We are pleased to announce that class assemblies are back. Please check above for upcoming assemblies. Parents are welcome to watch class assemblies. They take place in the morning and are usually finished by 9.45am. Other family members are welcome to attend if parents are unable to watch.

## 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)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 24p 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	
Wednesday	Target Games	Year 2
Thursday	Boys' Football Target Games Study Club	Year 5 Year 4 Year 6
Friday	Girls' Football Boys' Football	Year 5-6 Year 5-6

## 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). Please note traffic wardens have been in the area and have issued at least one ticket to a parent who parked at the dentist surgery during the school run.

## KAYDN SELECTED FOR GB SQUAD

We're pleased to announce that Kaydn who is an artistic gymnast has been selected for the Great Britain high-performance programme in 2022. Kaydn had his trial at Lilleshall National Sports Centre in December and was successful. He is now part of the Great Britain development squad program and set to be an Olympic hopeful.

Congratulations Kaydn.

## Recruiting Now



Would you like to be able to make a difference in your Community?

Ever thought about becoming a School Crossing Patrol?

If you are interested or would like further information please contact Julie Cooper on 07801 279 184 or email [Road.Safety@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Road.Safety@thurrock.gov.uk)

 [thurrock.gov.uk](http://thurrock.gov.uk)

## 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.

## 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) |

## WELL DONE FREYA AND AVA



Last month Freya & Ava competed at the Superdance National Finals in Gloucester and had a fantastic weekend making the finals in the under 12's Ballroom and Latin being placed 5th in 3 dance ballroom and 6th in 4 dance Latin.



## WE ARE GOING CASHLESS

After February half term we will no longer accept any cash at all in school. ParentPay log activation letters will be sent home prior to this. Please ensure you activate your account.

## YEAR 6 - PLANTING



Before Christmas we helped plant some plants at the new medical centre next to our school. We were given some tools and plants to put in the holes we dug. It was fun but it was also very messy. We got help from the lovely staff and they took some photos. There was a nice man who helped some of us dig holes with his shovel. We took some pictures too and at the end our shoes were very muddy. We enjoyed it very much and would love to go again if we could.

By Cassie and Ruby

## WELL DONE PAIGE



Paige won an award last month for 'Player of the Season' at her netball presentation. She plays for Fusion netball in team wolves.

## CONGRATULATIONS JENSEN



In November Jensen attended the annual Evans dancing awards evening. Lots of different medals and trophies were given out. Jensen won teachers' choice award for most improved hard working and confidence.

## NUMBOTS WINNERS

### HIGHEST NUMBER OF COINS EARNED From 25<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> December

1 <sup>st</sup>	Isabelle Smith	RAC	1 <sup>st</sup>	Aiyah Aldridge	RSK
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ashley Phillips-Nutley	RAC	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Laura Todor	RSK
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Blue Hallissey	RAC	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Simi Ojuri	RSK
1 <sup>st</sup>	Naomi Gray	1GS	1 <sup>st</sup>	Harrison Cosentino	1KC
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lacie Whittle	1GS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jenson Rawson	1KC
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chidera Nwankwo	1GS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Leo Hunt	1KC
1 <sup>st</sup>	Arthur Lloyd	2KR	1 <sup>st</sup>	Henry Rose	2LP
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Leighton Nicholson	2KR	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Willow Barber	2LP
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Francesca Walker	2KR	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Emme Musgrove	2LP

## GOLD AWARDS

11.01.22	Naomi Gray	1GS	Great writing
10.01.22	Nancy Pennell	5ES	Superb long multiplication
06.01.22	Dolcie Rawles	3MW	Making brilliant predictions
06.01.22	Sarina Kaur	4SD	Always practising spellings and our current Maths focus at home.
06.01.22	Freddie Merrigan	4SD	Coordinate Maths and always working hard with Maths
06.01.22	Romeo Ennis	4SD	Frobscottle advertisement
06.01.22	Ella-Mae Coveney	4SD	Self portrait

### JOLLY JUMPER DAY

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December we took part in Jolly Jumper Day. We also collected donations at our Christmas performances. We raised almost £1000 which we split between our chosen charities which are Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and Kids Inspire who provide mental health and trauma recovery support for children, young people and their families.

### ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 07/01/22 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

**EYFS/KS1**

**Miss Kiely's Class RSK with 98%**

**KS2**

**Mr Mead's Class 6CM with 93.7%**

### BIKEABILITY

In November, our Year 4 and Year 6 children had the opportunity to participate in a free Bikeability course. Bikeability is funded by the Department for Transport and Transport for London, and is delivered by trained, professional Bikeability instructors. Bikeability trains riders to make independent decisions and practice safe and responsible cycling, through:

- Making good and frequent observations;
- Choosing and maintaining the most suitable riding positions;
- Communicating intentions clearly to others; and
- Understanding priorities on the road, particularly at junctions.





**TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS AWARDS**  
**Most coins from 25<sup>th</sup> November - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



Ashton Gorham	3OT	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dolcie Rawles	3MW	1 <sup>st</sup>
Kylan Whittaker	3OT	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Amelia Clark	3MW	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Savva Lapajev	3OT	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jesse Renew	3MW	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Mia Clark	4AS	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sarina Kaur	4SD	1 <sup>st</sup>
Hannah Ojuri	4AS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Charlie Lloyd	4SD	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Ruby Rose	4AS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alice Leonard	4SD	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Tyler Holmes	5ES	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jamie Newton	5RW	1 <sup>st</sup>
Jessie Flowers	5ES	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kaydn Jackson	5RW	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Mack Boxall	5ES	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Danny Brine	5RW	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Kayla-Brooke Brenchley	6CM	1 <sup>st</sup>	Leah Sargent	6JCA	1 <sup>st</sup>
Kenaya Idikayi	6CM	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thomas Pope	6JCA	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Cassie Peters-Clark	6CM	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Adam Wafik	6JCA	3 <sup>rd</sup>

**YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP**  
**MERSEA 18-22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

We had an amazing time at Mersea Island. Some of the activities were Rock Climbing, Archery, Ziplines, High and Low Ropes, Bushcraft, Orienteering and Pioneering. On our last night we performed our talents for the talent show. After the talent show we had a disco and then played Bingo. It was a late night. We all had fun and I would definitely recommend it. Some of the staff were really nice.  
 By Katie and Evie



Our class went to Mersea Island. We did so many amazing activities. Breakfast was at 8.00am, lunch was at 1.00pm and dinner was at 6.00pm. On our last night we had a disco and talent show. I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for some fun. Our cabins could fit 8 people (4 bunk beds). I loved hanging out, relaxing or reading in them and with two windows and heating you basically feel like you are on holiday!  
 By Scarlett-Rose

## PREFECTS

Our Year 6 students have been busy writing prefect application letters. Being awarded the status of a prefect is an honour and reflects consistent high standards and dedication to Graham James. Each application is carefully considered by the class teacher and the Senior Leadership Team.



19.11.21 Kayla-Brooke, Daisy, Bobbie, Evie, Ava, Mason, Brennan, Jacob, Leah, Maisie, Freya



25.11.21 Callum, Scarlett, Ruby, Amber, Emmelia, Callie, Daisie, Ronni, Jasmine, Amber, Isabelle, Katie, Max, Clayton, William, Emily, Ava, Rhea, Daisy



02.12.21 Jacob, Emmanuel, Lola, Hannah, Murray, George, Kaiden, Paige, Ava, Cameron, Harrison, Freddie, Jack, Riley, George, Joseph, Nathan, Thomas



09.12.21 Noah, Adam, Ollie, Kenaya, Harry Lucas, Arthur, Zachary, Freddy

<b>HOLIDAY DATES 2021-22</b>	
<b>Autumn</b>	<p><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</p>
	<p><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</p>
	<p><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                      Last day of school is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p>