



22/04/22
Issue 8

FAREWELL TO MRS WARD



On Friday 1st April we said goodbye to the wonderful Mrs Ward. Mrs Ward worked at Graham James Primary for 22 years and we were very lucky to have her. She will be missed by all the staff and families at GJPA. We had a special assembly for her on Thursday 31st March where each year group performed something special for her. It was an emotional but lovely send off. Thank you to all who contributed to Mrs Ward's leaving collection.

We wish Mrs Ward a long and happy retirement and look forward to welcoming her back to visit us soon.

Photo: Freya, Brody and Anicet presenting gifts from the children and families of GJPA.

GOOD LUCK TO MISS ALLAN

Miss Allan left us at the end of the term. We wish her luck in her new role as a teacher at a school in the Osborne Trust.

ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 01/04/22 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

- EYFS/KS1**
- Class 1GS with 95.4%**
- KS2**
- Class 4SD with 97.7%**

DIARY DATES



Tuesday 26th April
Year 1 Trip - Layer Marney Tower
Children to be in at 8.30am

Wednesday 4th May
1KC Class Assembly

Friday 6th May
4AS Class Assembly

Wednesday 11th May
3MW Class Assembly

Wednesday 18th May
1GS Class Assembly

Wednesday 18th May
Class Photos

Friday 20th May
Reception Trip - Barleylands

Friday 20th May
4SD Class Assembly

Wednesday 25th May
3OT Class Assembly

Friday 27th May
Break up for half term

Monday 6th June
Return to school

Monday 13th June
Year 2 Trip - Barleylands

Wednesday 22nd June
Year 6 Trip - Matilda

Wednesday 13th July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly - 2PM
Break up for Summer holidays

IMPORTANT NOTICE -

DINNER MONEY

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

Our only 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.

We no longer accept cash.

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 11.30am, 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. During school holidays we make weekly payments to those entitled to free school meals and you could be missing out if you do not apply.

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.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES ARE BACK!

We are pleased to announce that class assemblies are back. Please check front page 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

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 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	
Tuesday	Netball	Years 3-4
Wednesday	Tennis	Years 4
Thursday	Cricket Study Club	Year 2 Year 6
Friday	Athletics	Year 3-6

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.

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) |

WIN FOR THE GIRLS



On Monday 14th March we played against Tilbury Pioneer School and won 6-2. It was a great game and everyone enjoyed playing.
- Kenya

Tilbury Pioneer got kick off and they scored straight away. They then scored again so the score was then 2-0. Kenya scored for us followed by Ava M. Then Emily handballed it just after half time. The other team shot and Evie saved it with her face. Then Kenya scored again. The final score was 6-2 to Graham James. Kenya scored 5 goals and Ava M scored 1 goal.

Emily and Scarlett did a lot of great defending but everyone did amazing. Evie was great in goal. She saved a lot of goals. Emily was captain so she did three cheers for Tilbury Pioneer at the end. - Emily

WELL DONE JAMES



James B (5ES) got Man of the Match on 20th March at football. He played really well.

The team won 3-0.

AMAZING EFFORT PIXIE

Pixie has been fundraising for Great Ormond Street.

She swam 10k throughout the month of March. She has raised £905 so far and her family are so proud of her. She has been doing the challenge with a friend at her swim school.



Well done Pixie!



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS AWARDS
Improvement in Accuracy - 4th - 17th March 2022



Cooper Johnson	3OT	1 st	Daniel Dellar	3MW	1 st
Freddy Challis	3OT	2 nd	Amelia Monksfield	3MW	2 nd
Alexia Gibson	3OT	3 rd	Hollie Bates	3MW	3 rd
Casey Campbell	4AS	1 st	Senayan Hazoume	4SD	1 st
Jimmy Ellison	4AS	2 nd	Leland Wilson	4SD	2 nd
Isla Webster	4AS	3 rd	Amelia Ashdown	4SD	3 rd
James Baalham	5ES	1 st	Harry Johnson	5RW	1 st
Lenny Brown	5ES	2 nd	Vydah Alexis	5RW	2 nd
Pixie Wells	5ES	3 rd	Harry Baalham	5RW	3 rd
Lily Beres	6CM	1 st	Max Strong	6JCA	1 st
Brennan Smith	6CM	2 nd	Jasmine Roff	6JCA	2 nd
Ronni Johnson	6CM	3 rd	Jacob Smith	6JCA	3 rd



NUMBOTS WINNERS

IMPROVEMENT IN ACCURACY
From 4th -17th March 2022



1 st	Lillie-Jean Cooke	RAC	1 st	Roman Prior	RSK
2 nd	Madeleine Harris	RAC	2 nd	Polly Noble	RSK
3 rd	Maisie Groombridge	RAC	3 rd	Eve Rawles	RSK
1 st	Victoria Gorobcic	1GS	1 st	Holly Rook	1KC
2 nd	Lily-May Ellis	1GS	2 nd	Jenson Rawson	1KC
3 rd	Lacie Whittle	1GS	3 rd	Harrison Cosentino	1KC
1 st	Leo Baker	2KR	1 st	Grace Darrah	2LP
2 nd	Lila Martin	2KR	2 nd	Cooper Pogmore	2LP
3 rd	Chloe Nason	2KR	3 rd	Teddy Wilkinson-Smith	2LP

SCIENCE WEEK 14-18th MARCH 2022

During Science Week, two Science ambassadors came to our school. They came from Open University on Wednesday 16th March to teach us about Science. A huge thank you to Miss Knight and Mrs Akehurst for arranging this day. The two Scientists that came in were Maddie and Rachael. Maddie is a Computer Scientist from Australia and Rachael is a Physicist from Dagenham. We learnt about gravity and forces. They told us every time you jump you move the Earth ever so slightly. One of the experiments we did was to make parachutes and we dropped them from the same height. They told us that they were making a rocket for Nasa and they had to send it up just over 1KM.

Jessie Flowers 5ES

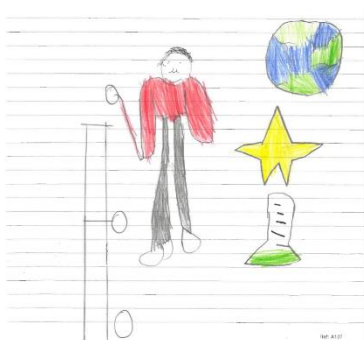
Dear Newsletter Readers,

On the 16th March we were visited by two Scientists from the Open University called Maddie and Rachael. Maddie was a Computer Scientist from Australia and Rachael was a Physicist from Dagenham. They were trying to build a rocket and send it into space and bring it back down again.

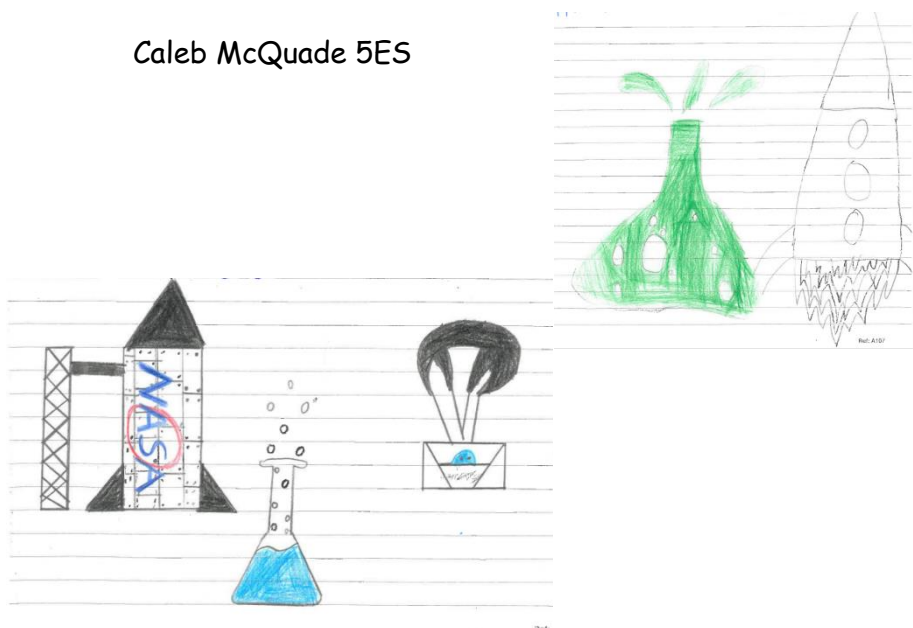
They explained to us about gravity and air resistance. We learnt how rockets slow down in the atmosphere. To see how air resistance affected the speed of how things fall we made parachutes for a toy.

Jacob Fox 5ES

During Science Week we looked at all the different types of Scientists such as Physicists, Astronomers and Chemists. We also looked up facts about Marie Curie. We had two visitors come in. We did four experiments. We did a ball experiment where we looked at what ball would bounce the highest. We also did a popcorn experiment to see if kernels popped when they would be heavier or lighter.



Caleb McQuade 5ES



YEAR 3 TRIP - COLCHESTER CASTLE MUSEUM - 22nd MARCH 2022

On Tuesday, morning we had to go to school early because we were going on an amazing trip to colossal Colchester Castle Museum.

First, we chose our partners and got on a colossal bus and chose our uncomfortable but colourful seats then we sat down and tried to get comfy. Then, we had to wait for crazy 3MW in the colossal bus but then they finally came then we started to go to Colchester Castle.

Next, we had to drive in the noisy bus for an hour and 10 minutes. Then we got to the amazing Colchester Museum so we went inside and we had to put our lunches on a big squeaky trolley.

After, we went in a room and there was a deep black scary hole. Then a man called Wayne came in and told us some important rules which were no running because there was a lot of glass and we couldn't make too much noise because there were other people.

Next we went to an underground place and Wayne was telling us all about the Romans and telling us about the interesting weapons. He also called Lilly Roman Dave and then she had to pretend to chop off Mr Thurbon's head! Wayne also asked Autumn to be Boudicca. Then, we had some time to see the amazing and interesting Roman artefacts and we had to fill in some sheets.

Then it was our lunch time and I was very happy because I was eating my yummy, delicious lunch. I ate it very quickly because we only had half hour and I had a lot of food.

After that, we had another look around and we saw shields and we held them and they were a bit heavy. We had our photographs taken when we were holding them.

Next, we had to watch a video and it showed us how to make a round house and a villa. I made a big round house it was very hard but we did it. It did take us a long time to build though.

Finally, it was the end of the fun day and we had to go home so we went on the colossal bus again. On the way back I was playing a fun game on the way back with Lilly.

I loved the school trip it was very fun I would definitely go again.



By Eila Hallissey



READER AND WRITER OF THE MONTH - MARCH 2022



Class	Reader of the Month	Writer of the Month
RAC	Isla Cooke	Madeleine Harris
RSK	Darius Coroban	Aiyilah Aldridge
1GS	Malachi Jackson-Layne	Cameron Dickins
1KC	Maddox Newman	Gabriel Gibson
2KR	Gracie Fountain	Kyran Conlon
2LP	Christopher Davies	Esme Scicluna
3MW	Dolcie Rawles	Jenson Rotheron
3OT	Teddie Rawles	Oliver Creighton
4AS	Eloise Harris	Nathan Zukas
4SD	Charlie Lloyd	Sarina Kaur
5ES	VyDAH Alexis	Harry-James Sadler
5RW	Georgia Flint	Tyler Holmes
6CM	Kaiden Collier	Scarlett-Rose Baffour-Asare
6JCA	Evie Bean	Isabelle Bates

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
Spring	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
Summer	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 13 th July 2022