

GREAT MASSINGHAM C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Weasenham Road, Great Massingham, King's Lynn. PE32 2EY

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



The Autumn Term is flying by and we are already on the run up to December and all the festive fun (and hard work!) that brings!

The children enjoyed our first partnership day with Harpley on Friday 8th November. It was a tremendous amount of work for staff in both schools. There were a few minor hiccups, like letters to parents going missing - sorry and thanks for being so understanding! The day was a great success and the children enjoyed a day of varied PE activities and experienced working with different people. This did not happen without the hard work of lots of people and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. I particularly want to thank Ali Fisher the Litcham Cluster Extended Schools co-ordinator who helped with so many arrangements. I also want to thank Mrs Heley for driving all day - what a star! I must also say a huge thank you to the staff who ran activities and supported groups of children.

Also a big well done to all the children who worked hard, behaved beautifully and participated with such enthusiasm.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance was 97.5% for the first half of the Autumn Term. Very well done everyone - we are well within our target of 95%. KEEP IT UP!



MORRISON'S VOUCHERS

Please send all your Morrison's vouchers to school before 22nd November. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

In the event of severe bad weather please listen to KLFM or Radio Norfolk for school closure details. Alternatively you can log on to www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk



FAMILY VOICE

Are you the parent of a child with Special or Additional Needs?

Do you know about the changes to the law that will affect families?

Would you like to hear about the Children and Families Bill? Education, Health and Care Plans? Local Offer? The new SEN Code of Practice? Personal Budgets? What does it all mean?

If you would like to know more please please join other parents at one of the Family Voice meetings across Norfolk. Details of dates and venues available from the school office or contact events@familyvoice.org.uk



SALT ON PLAYGROUND

On icy days a pathway from the school gate to the pupil's entrance will be treated with salt. Treating the whole playground is not possible or cost effective so we ask that everyone keeps to the treated areas to ensure safety.



MARKING POLICY

One of the areas OFSTED asked the school to improve is marking children's work. To make sure this is happening in the way the inspectors recommended we have reviewed the school's marking policy and are now giving children 'Next Steps' on some of their work. This means that the children get a little note telling them how to improve in small manageable steps. We talk to the children about what the notes say and what they need to do, and we are very pleased with the way children are responding. So when you come along to Parents' Evening and see lots of writing in your child/children's books do not be alarmed! Work is marked with positive comments and may also have a Next Step. A simple Marking Guide will be displayed in each room to help staff, children and parents understand what each symbol or mark means.

If you would like to see a copy of the full revised Marking Policy please ask at the school office.

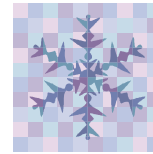


DECORATING DAY

On Monday 2nd December Mrs Frere-Smith is co-ordinating a 'Decorating Day'. All the children at Great Massingham will take part and will have the opportunity to make Christmas decorations and make the school festive. Please let Mrs F-S know if you are able to help on this date by Tuesday 19th November.

SWIMMING

Our last swimming session this academic year will be on Thursday 19th December. On Thursday January 9th 2014 we begin our gymnastic sessions at Lynnsport. The children will travel to and from Lynnsport by coach, leaving school at 10.00am and returning to school in time for lunch. It would be extremely helpful if we could have parent helpers for these sessions - please contact Mrs Heley as soon as possible if you are able to help.



OUDOOR WINTER CLOTHING

During the winter months we intend to continue PE outside as much as possible. Please ensure children have warm tracksuits and fleeces in their PE kit. We are not worried about the colours as long as they are warm! PE kits need to be in school ALL WEEK as we often have to adapt the timetable to fit around the weather.

Please also make sure coats, hats and gloves are brought to school everyday now that the weather is getting colder and please remember to put names in them!



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Key Stage 1

Mrs Heley's class party will be on Tuesday 17th December in the afternoon. Please look out for the PFA party food list which will be displayed on the classroom door.

Key Stage 2

Mrs Frere-Smith's class party will be on Monday 16th December in the afternoon. Please look out for the PFA party food list which will be displayed on the classroom door.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

School Christmas Lunch will be on Friday 13th December. As ever it will be a very festive affair with crackers and all the trimmings. We hope that **ALL** pupils will have a hot meal on this date so they can join in the festivities. Obviously we will not refuse anyone the chance to bring a packed lunch but we ask that you encourage your child to take part in this important school event. There will not be a sprout in sight and no-one will be made to eat anything they don't like!

The menu is as follows:-

Roast Turkey with chipolata, stuffing and gravy
Roast potatoes
Carrots
Chocolate Ice Cream Sponge Roll

£2.10 per meal, payable on Monday 9th December. Thank you.



VISIT TO THE PANTOMIME IN KING'S LYNN

Our whole school Christmas treat is on the morning of Monday 9th December to see the Pantomime Beauty and The Beast in King's Lynn. We will travel to and from the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn by coach. We will not be back at school in time for hot lunches so can the children bring a packed lunch to eat on our return to school. The PTA have generously agreed to fund the ticket costs. We would welcome a voluntary contribution of £2.00 per child towards the cost of transport. Please sign and return the permission slip attached to this newsletter to school to allow your child to take part in this school trip.

PARENTS' EVENING

Parents' evenings this term will be held on Wednesday 27th November and Tuesday 3rd December. Letters were sent home on Friday 15th November, giving you the opportunity to select a preferred time. We will do our best to fit as many parents into their choice of 'time slot' but we would appreciate your flexibility if necessary. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE



Our Christmas Service will be held at St Mary's Church on Thursday 19th December at 9.30am. All the children will be taking part in the service and Foundation Stage and Key Stage One will be taking part in the Nativity Scene as usual. Everyone is welcome to attend the service and come back to school afterwards for refreshments.



CLASS 2 CINEMA VISIT

To support work in KS2 Literacy a visit to Cinema City in Norwich has been arranged for Class 2 from Great Massingham and Harpley. The children will see the film Rapunzel - a film in the genre of 'Myths and Legends' after a storytelling workshop. Please sign and return the attached permission slip to allow your child/children to take part in this school trip. We would welcome a voluntary contribution of £1.50 per child for this visit. **The bus will leave school at 8.30am so please make sure children arrive at school at 8.20am.** The children will need to bring a packed lunch and a drink to school as we will not return to school until after lunch.

DIARY DATES - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2013

Tuesday 26th November

GENR8 - Christmas Puppet Assembly



Wednesday 27th November

Parents' Evening - 3.30pm-6.00pm

Friday 29th November

Year R Forest Schools
Key Stage 2 - Cinema Visit - **children to arrive at school at 8.20am.**



Monday 2nd December

Decorating Day



Tuesday 3rd December

Parents' Evening - 3.30pm-6.00pm

Friday 6th December

Year R Forest Schools

Monday 9th December

Whole school visit to the Pantomime -
Beauty and The Beast at King's Lynn Corn
Exchange



Tuesday 10th December

Year R and Year 6 Height and Weight check
as part of the National Child Measurement
Programme

Friday 13th December

Christmas Dinner



Monday 16th December

Key Stage 2 Christmas Party



Tuesday 17th December

Key Stage 1 Christmas Party

Thursday 19th December

Carol Service at St Mary's Church



Friday 20th December

The last day of the Autumn Term. School
will finish at 3.00pm.

Tuesday 7th January 2014

School reopens - start of the Spring Term.

TERM DATES



2013 AUTUMN TERM

Thursday 5th September - Friday 20th December
(Half term - Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November)



2014 SPRING TERM

Tuesday 7th January - Friday 4th April
(Half term - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February)



2014 SUMMER TERM

Wednesday 23rd April - Wednesday 23rd July
(Half term - Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May)

May Day Bank Holiday - school will be closed on Monday 5th May 2013.
Thursday 26th June is a pupil holiday. School will be closed for staff training on this day.

Permission slip - Please return to school before Friday 22nd November 2013



Visit to the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn to see Beauty and The Beast on Monday 9th December 2013

I give permission for to travel to the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn by coach on Monday 9th December 2013 to see the Pantomime Beauty and The Beast.

*I confirm the details on the Education Visits Consent form previously completed remains correct.

*Please update the details on the Educational Visits Consent form previously completed as follows:-

I enclose a voluntary contribution of £..... per child towards the cost of transport.

Signed Date
Parent/Carer



Key Stage 2 Only - Visit to Cinema City to see the film Rapunzel on Friday 29th November 2013

*I give permission for to travel to Cinema City in Norwich to watch the film Rapunzel on Friday 29th November 2013.

*I confirm the details on the Education Visits Consent form previously completed remains correct.

Please update the details on the Educational Visits Consent form previously completed as follows:-

I enclose a voluntary contribution of £..... per child towards the cost of transport.

Signed Date
Parent/Carer

*Delete as applicable