



GREAT MASSINGHAM C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER



A few New Year changes to tell you about.

Mr Watling will now be working 2 days a week and will be in school on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Frere-Smith will also be in school on Thursday mornings and will be running Y6 booster groups.

Mrs Griffin (YR Teaching Assistant) will be having an op on 20th January and will be absent until at least half term. She will be replaced by Mrs Belton on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings and by Mrs Davison on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Jack Southgate from Gill Sports will continue to provide PE for Class 1 on Wednesday afternoons. Class 2 will have netball with the Cluster PE coach, Andrea, on Friday mornings for 5 weeks. After that Mr Watling will teach KS2 PE on Fridays. My timetable has also changed. I will generally be at Great Massingham on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. If you have any concerns or issues and I am not on site please speak to Mrs Heley or call Harpley 520274 or my school mobile number 07825104854. If I am unable to answer leave a message and I will always try to get back to you.

We are looking forward to a busy term, as ever. This will include another Partnership Day with Harpley with a focus on maths. We also have a Book Week planned later in March - details and confirmation on both of these to follow.

Hoping 2014 is a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year for all of us.

Ann B

PHOTOS

We know parents enjoy having photographic reminders of children's school days and will always try and ensure you have photo opportunities at special events. If you wish to put photos taken at school on social media sites, such as Facebook, we must insist, in the interest of safeguarding, that only photos of your own children are used in this way.

BOOK BAGS AND READING BOOKS

Please make sure book bags and reading books are brought to school everyday so we can listen to the children read regularly to ensure good progress in reading.



COATS, HATS AND GLOVES

Coats, hats and gloves should be brought to school everyday now that the weather is colder and please remember to put names in them!

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!



GYMNASTICS

Our gymnastics sessions at Lynnsport will be on Thursday mornings during the Spring Term. The coach will leave school at 10.00am and will return to school before lunchtime. Children can come to school in their PE kit on this day.

SAMARITANS PURSE

12 boxes plus donations were sent to the Samaritans Purse from Great Massingham and Harpley Schools. Thank you for supporting Operation Christmas Child.

ATTENDANCE



Our attendance was 97.1% for the Autumn Term. Very well done everyone we are well within our target of 95% so this is fantastic. We know parents understand how closely attendance is linked to children's learning and progress. The Autumn Term's attendance figure is evidence of this. To further encourage good attendance we plan to start an attendance award for children*. This will be a wristband that can be worn in school. We know that when children are ill they need to be at home but when they are a 'bit under the weather' it could be that they are encouraged to 'brave it' at school. We will always call if we think they need to come home.

*A Good Attendance wristband will be awarded for over 96% attendance in the term. Where there are exceptional circumstances, such as a prolonged medical condition, a wristband will be awarded for an attendance percentage calculated in relation to the condition.



MORRISONS VOUCHERS

Thank you to everyone for sending Morrisons vouchers into school. We have ordered a Herb Wheel Planter and a four draw storage unit.

THIS TERM'S TOPICS

CLASS 1 - Toys and Games

CLASS 2 - The Victorians



Mrs Heley would welcome any old toys for her toy museum.

YEAR 6 VISITS TO LITCHAM SCHOOL

Our Year 6 children have been invited to work on a short project based at Litcham School on 17th, 24th and 31st January and 7th February. The project will be a forensic science experiment and will be carried out in the science laboratory. The children will travel to and from Litcham School by coach. A member of staff from Harpley will be accompanying the children on the journeys and during the science sessions.

BUGS AND NASTIES



D & V OUTBREAKS

Tummy bugs, sickness and flu can spread very easily at this time of year but there is much we can all do to stay well.

The Director of Public Health for Norfolk and Waveney says:

"We urge parents of children who fall ill with sickness and diarrhoea to ensure their children do not return to school until 48 hours after they were last sick or had diarrhoea. We understand entirely how difficult this can be for families, with the pressures of work and issues of childcare to juggle. However, it is probably right to say a child who is sick might well have caught the illness from someone who was sent back to school before the infectious period had passed. Our aim, with this advice, is to prevent illness spreading within schools and causing more families distress." There is a very useful "germbusting toolkit" available online at www.norfolk.nhs.uk/germbusters. It is full of information about how to prevent the spread of those germs which cause tummy bugs and flu and what to do if you fall ill. There are videos, fact files, downloadable leaflets and other helpful information.

Things to remember

Hand washing, particularly after using the toilet, is crucial. You just need hot, soapy water.

At home, keep surfaces clean to destroy germs.

Sharing towels and linen spreads germs - keep them clean.



HEAD LICE

We are no longer required (or allowed!) to send notes home informing parents we have been notified that a child has head lice. Therefore we will put this advice in newsletters as and when necessary.

Head lice love clean and dirty hair! They cannot jump, but walk from one head to another. Children with long hair would probably benefit from having it tied back.

Early detection is easiest to cope with - when your child is washing their hair, while it is still wet, comb through conditioner with a head lice comb. This should show if there are any adult lice on their head.

Nits are actually the empty hatched egg cases. Sometimes the only way to completely remove these is to, painstakingly, remove each one between your finger nails.

One female head louse can lay anywhere between 3-10 eggs a day. Also look for eggs glued to the roots of the hair very close to the scalp.

The treatments you can buy do seem to be very effective, but instructions must be followed carefully.

It is recommended that you check everyone in the household because not everyone itches when head lice are present.

Head lice only live on humans and cannot transfer to pets.

Do remember...

Head lice are annoying, but they are not dangerous. Don't ever let them make you or your children unhappy.

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



We will do our best to keep the school open in the event of snow!



HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Thinking of booking a holiday to get away from the winter weather? Please remember we cannot authorise **ANY** holidays in term time and any holiday absence will be recorded as **UNAUTHORISED**.

FUTURE DATES

Book Week — Week Commencing Monday 10th March 2014

Partnership Maths Day with Harpley Primary School — Tuesday 4th March 2014 — to be confirmed.



FEEDBACK

Please let us have your feedback on **COMMUNICATION**. How are we doing? What would you like to see improved? Have you got any great ideas to share?

Please email your views to the office or fill in the feedback sheet attached. If you prefer your views to be anonymous drop a note into the school letter box.

Please feedback to us on any other school issues. Your opinions and ideas matter to us so do have your say!

TERM DATES



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.



2014 AUTUMN TERM

Thursday 4th September - Friday 19th December
(Half term - Thursday 23rd October - Friday 31st October)

FEEDBACK

Focus topic: **COMMUNICATION**

Please use this slip to pass on your views - or e-mail to
office@greatmassingham.norfolk.sch.uk

Signed _____

Print _____

Date _____

OR LEAVE BLANK IF YOU PREFER YOUR VIEWS TO BE ANONYMOUS