

GOODRINGTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

19th December 2018

Issue 91

Dear Parents

Welcome to our latest newsletter with all the news and events of the past half-term.

Children in Need/Anti-Bullying Week

On Friday 16th November, pupils and staff embraced Children in Need by having a dress down day, with donations made for the charity amounting to £50. As Anti-Bullying Week was recognised the same week, special assemblies also acknowledged the two events.

Safeguarding at Christmas

Digital Safeguarding is an important part of our work to keep Goodrington pupils safe. As Christmas draws near, many children may be looking forward to receiving new electronic devices or games, so we as a staff feel that this is an appropriate time to highlight some simple online safety tips to help parents/carers make safer choices and support their children online:

- Talk to your children: Take an active interest in your child's online life and engage in the digital world with them.
- Let your children teach you about their online world and how they use technology; playing new games and exploring websites together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online.
- Make sure your children know that you are safe and approachable; remind them that they can tell you if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable, without being told off or punished.

You can find more advice about talking to you child about online safety from CEOP:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/having-a-conversation-with-your-child/

Setting boundaries:

Much like the 'real world', parents need to set boundaries for children online; this provides them with a clear understanding of the limits, expectations and consequences of their behaviour.

- Agree as a family, how the internet and technology will be used in your home; encourage children to use the online safety messages they learn in school and adapt these into your own family rules.
- Discuss online boundaries too; if your child loves to socialise online, talk to them about what is and isn't appropriate to share with their friends online.
- Remember to role-model positive behaviour online; consider asking your child's permission before posting photos of them on social media this Christmas and empower them to have control over their 'digital reputation'.

Take a look at the family agreement template available from Childnet International for some ideas:

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation

Make informed choices:

It is vital that we fully understand the capabilities and make informed decisions about new games, apps and devices, before giving them to children as a gift.

- Do your research; ask the shop about pre-installed apps or tools and check whether the device or game has an online component, which allows them to connect with others online.

- Always check the PEGI age rating and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for them.
- Familiarise yourself with the privacy, safety and security tools on new devices; ensure you are in a position to teach your child how to make their accounts private and how to block and report other people online.

Use the parent guides and shopper's checklists from UK Safer Internet Centre to help you ask the right questions and make informed choices when buying new technology this Christmas:

www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology

Filters and Parental Controls:

Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content online, but there are some simple steps you can take at home to help minimise this risk.

- Make sure you install anti-virus software, filters and parental controls on your child's device before giving it to them.
- Ensure that you are role-modelling good behaviour by using strong passwords yourself; make them difficult to guess and don't share them with your children.
- Remember that blocks and filters are not 100% effective and you can't rely on them alone to protect your children, so remind them to tell you if they see something upsetting online.

Take a look at the interactive guide to parental controls available from Internet Matters:

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/

Other useful websites for parents/carers:

- www.net-aware.org.uk

NSPCC guide to the most popular apps and websites available online.

- www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware

NSPCC advice for parents to teach children about online sharing.

- www.parentport.org.uk

Report inappropriate content online.

- www.getsafeonline.org

Free up-to-date security and technical advice.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers>

Here you can find e-safety tips; advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

Poppy Appeal

Remembrance Sunday was held on Sunday 11th November and the annual Poppy Appeal, with your very kind donations raised £50.60 for the charity. Thank you also to Terry Minshaw who works tirelessly for the charity and for organising the poppies and items to be brought into school for sale.

Pupil/Parent Sharing Assembly

The Pupil/Parent Sharing Assembly was held on Thursday 6th December. Thank you to all those parents who were able to take time out of their busy schedules to attend. It really does mean so much to each and every pupil who take such pride in their work, and who want to show off their achievements and progression through the term.

Explore Learning

The Explore Learning Team came into school on Thursday 11th October to speak to Years 5 and 6 about 'Dice Dilemma', on Tuesday 4th November to speak to Years 1 and 2 about 'Shapes Safari' and to also speak to Years 3-6 on Thursday 13th December about the Maths Challenge; Years 5 and 6 took part in this at the Hornchurch Explore Learning Centre on Wednesday 7th November. The school has forged an excellent relationship with the Explore Team and really enjoy welcoming them into school.

Washing hands

With many illnesses in the school prior to the end of term, it is vital that pupils continue to thoroughly wash their hands. Whilst the staff do their very best to instil good hygiene practice in the pupils, there are still a number who do not wash their hands after using the toilet. Please remind pupils during the holiday of this very important part of hygiene to help us all avoid the many infections/diseases that can be spread in this way.

Contagious Illnesses/Absence Notification

Please ensure that you do not send your child to school with a contagious illness, bad coughs, colds or sickness, as being in a small community, germs and viruses are easily spread to other pupils and staff. If you receive a call to say your child has been unwell at school, we would all appreciate your promptness in their collection to avoid further upset to your child and to minimise the risk of infection to others. Please note that it is important that 24 hours needs to lapse from the time when your child was last sick, before they return to school.

If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office by 9.30am, and then **send in an absence letter addressed to your child's teacher upon their return to school.**

Collecting Pupils

It is very important that the school are informed if your arrangements change for collecting your child at the end of the day. Ideally Mrs. Williams should be telephoned prior to 2.45pm, so that the relevant member of staff can be informed. Please ensure the person collecting has the correct password for your child as he/she cannot be released from the staff member until this is given. Please also note as you have previously been informed, that Mrs. Williams is not in school on each and every Wednesday and therefore, the office cannot take calls or emails. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Late Collection of Pupils

Parents have been made aware of the 'late charge' which is applied for pupils who are not collected 15 minutes after the end of school or at the conclusion of any of the Extra-Curricular Clubs. **Please note that £5 is added for EVERY additional 15 minutes and this is for each pupil.**

Parents are also reminded that pupils cannot be released to meet parents who have parked and are still in their cars. A polite request is extended to parents and carers to ensure that they come to the school to collect their child. Thank you for your support in this very important Safeguarding and Child Protection issue.

Policy and Procedure for Primary and Junior aged Children not collected from School at the end of the school day

I am informing parents that Havering have sent through a *Policy and Procedure for Primary and Junior aged Children not collected from School at the end of the school day* which is extremely comprehensive and

gives clear guidelines. Please ensure that you are aware of the exact time your child needs to be collected at the end of the day, whether after school or following the after school clubs. It is also helpful for your child to know **exactly** who is collecting them to avoid them being anxious.

Clearly there are circumstances where a parent/carer may be unavoidably delayed, but a courtesy call to the office in good time would be much appreciated, because staff often have appointments or courses they need to attend.

Parking

Once again there have been a number of issues lately with parking. Many days seem to have more problems than in the past and I am continuing to monitor the situation. I now have to deal with more and more complaints from the local residents and it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to diffuse the situation between the neighbours and the school. I would like to request again for you to be extremely mindful and courteous of your driving and parking in Walden Road.

ParentMail

Please don't forget to check your emails on a daily basis for any communications from the school. Please contact Mrs Williams if you are not receiving any ParentMails from us.

Facebook

The Goodrington School Facebook page is proving to be a great success and thank you to everyone for giving positive 'likes' and comments when items are posted.

School Uniform/Lost Property

Since the beginning of the autumn term, a number of items that are not named have been found and remain unclaimed. Whilst we do our best in school to return items to their rightful owners, the younger pupils often get confused as to what belongs to them. This task is made all the more difficult when uniform is not clearly named. Therefore, during the holiday, please check **all** items of your child's uniform to ensure that each piece is **clearly and securely labelled**. If you have items that have been passed on from other pupils, please ensure that **your** child's name is clearly marked on the item.

The holiday is also a good opportunity to have your child's blazer cleaned and the sizing of their plimsolls checked ready for the new term.

P.E. Kit

All pupils need the school's grey sweatshirt and jogging bottoms now the weather is colder. These items should be purchased from Havering Schoolwear in Hornchurch Road.

Carol Concert Cover Competition

Our annual competition was held on November 16th in preparation for the programmes to be printed. The winners were Ishy in Year 4 (front cover) and David in Year 2 (inside front cover). They both received a small prize which was presented to them at the Monday 3rd December evening concert. Congratulations to them both and thank you to all those pupils who entered.

St. Andrew's Carol Concert

Our annual Carol Concert was held on Monday 3rd December at 6pm. This event is one of the highlights of the year, with all pupils from the Pre-school to Year 6 participating. This year the theme was 'Cinderella' and included the ever delightful Pre-school and Reception ably supported by Year 1, acting the Nativity Scene which really helped to make a very special evening. Mr Andrew Linham's seventh Carol Concert with us at Goodrington has been voted as a great success. Thank you again Andrew for your dedicated hard work with the pupils.

As part of our concert a retiring collection of £60.36 was raised, which will go to St Andrew's. Once again, I would like to extend a big thank you to the church for letting us host our Carol Concert in such beautiful surroundings.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SERVICE BY HANNAH IN YEAR 4

I arrived home from school and ate my marvellous feast; noodles and vegetables. After that I practised my songs for the Carol Concert on my tablet. I received a treat, a caramel wafer. Hooray! Wow! Time was ticking. My mum came back from work. Guess what? It was 5:40pm. It was time to go to the Carol Concert. I greeted mum and we were off! When we got to the Carol Concert, I went to my place where I had to sit. I didn't have a favourite part in the Carol Concert, but I liked the idea of the Fair-E.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SERVICE BY SIENNA IN YEAR 3

At the Carol Concert, everyone was singing, laughing and enjoying themselves. Mr. Linham is so talented. Fair-E was so cool and the Ugly Step Sisters were so funny. My favourite song was 'Cinderella Shall go to the Ball Tonight'. Everyone was amazing in their own way. I loved it!

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

A Christmas Jumper Day was organised for Friday 14th December, in aid of Save the Children, with pupils and staff wearing their most favourite Christmas jumpers or Christmas clothing. The sum of £80 was raised for this fantastic cause. The pupils paraded their outfits in the hall during the afternoon and then had a mini disco before leaving school for the day. Our thanks go to Mrs. Lawrence who organised the informal Christmas Disco for the last part of the afternoon which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Pre-school/Reception Christmas Party

On Tuesday 11th December the Pre-school and Reception classes enjoyed an afternoon Christmas Party with Mel the Magician entertaining the children for an hour. The pupils had the opportunity to hold magic wands that painted a Santa picture. They also pulled different coloured scarves out of a magic bag with a variety of pictures on to complete Santa's face. Mel also incorporated numbers, colours and shapes into the show. This year Mel brought a beautiful rabbit called Bertie along which the pupils were able to gently stroke. Food and party games followed which they all enjoyed very much. Semilore exclaimed "Wow! That's amazing magic!"

Queen's Theatre Pantomime – review by Tolase, Year 6

Years 1-6 went into the auditorium at the Queen's Theatre to see the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Two and a half hours of fun, shouting and even more singing ensured we all had a wonderful time.

My last pantomime before I leave Goodrington for Senior school was one I will never forget. I've never really liked fairy stories but every year I look forward to walking to the Queen's Theatre and watching the actors perform.

When we arrived at the theatre Mrs Ellenby took many selfies of me and my friends which goes to show that Headteachers are not as strict as you think! The scenery was amazing and my favourite character was Pat who was Jack's best friend and cow. I thought it was really clever that the play was more 21st century. I really loved it when Pat said "Are you dissing my turnip?" to Jack!

As we had the 2nd and 3rd row seats we got to seeing everything that was happening up close. There were many live fails and I really enjoyed the actors' reactions to them. When we threw the paper beans at the villain he became "angry" and told us to stop...but we continued! I found it so funny when the villain got a face full of yoghurt from Frank Furter who was Jill's dad.

When Jack climbed the beanstalk he entered Boogieland and the cast sang some 70's songs – I didn't think I would actually know some of the songs but I did! All the characters played more than one instrument and they danced so well – in the middle of one song the fortune teller did the splits. The back up dancers were incredible and I wish I could dance like that!

I am so fortunate that we have been able to go to the pantomime every year. I am definitely making a return to Goodrington next Christmas so I can go again!

Extra-curricular Clubs

From January 2019, the extra-curricular clubs available will be as follows:

Club	Day and Time	Tutor	Year Groups
Homework Club	Monday 3.15pm to 4.15pm	Mrs Lawrence	3, 4, 5 and 6
Maths Club	Tuesday 3.15pm-4.15pm	Mrs Ellenby	2, 3 and 4
Arts and Crafts	Thurs+day 3.15pm-4.15pm	Mrs Ward	1 to 6
Sports Club	Fridays 3pm-4pm	Megacamps representative	1 to 6

Club letters will be sent out on Thursday 10th January and will need to be returned with full payment by **Monday 14th January**.

Head Teacher /Teacher Appointments

I would like to remind parents that I am always available if there is anything you wish to discuss. If it is something that is pressing, I will do my very best to meet with you straight away, but please be aware I currently teach every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and I would only have a few minutes with you if a prior arrangement has not been made.

Please also note that parents are more than welcome to pass on a very brief piece of information to any of the teaching staff in the mornings *via the office*, but for anything concerning your child's progress an appointment has to be made.

For all appointments please speak to Mrs Williams where she will be most happy to find a time to meet that is mutually agreeable and it can be entered in the school diary.

Pupil Achievements

Emmanuel, Year 6 – My visit to Lee Valley

On Saturday the 8th of December 2018, I went to the minithon competition which was being held at the Lee Valley athletics centre. I went with my little brother called Joel and we were very excited, so we packed our bags quickly and jumped into the car. We were excited because it was our first time going to Lee Valley and we thought if we came in the top three in one of our races our athletic coach, our family and I will be so happy.

When we got there I realized that we were racing on the indoor track which is smaller than the outdoor track . There was a warm up track upstairs on the first floor.

My athletics team is called Thurrock Harriers and I'm in the under 11's group. I have a coach who assists me in training so that I can improve on my performance.

As the 200m race begun I spotted that the starting official had a real pistol, which had gun powder. The pistol made a loud sound when it was fired. As they called over my group I felt nervous but I was eager to win. On your marks, Set... GO! Then the gun blasted, I started off in fourth but then I managed to get to second place when we passed the last bend and then I got beaten by four thousandths of a second! it was annoying but I came in the top three, 2nd was fantastic, can't wait for more competitions like this.



Past pupil Jimmy Fordham-Reed, achieved a first place scholarship to Abbs Cross Performing Arts School in Hornchurch, and successfully auditioned for the role of Tommy in Matilda. Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Williams and I travelled to the Cambridge Theatre in London earlier this term to see him perform. What a show and what a performance from Jimmy!

Passports

If you wish to review your passports, I am more than happy to complete the relevant documentation for you. Please drop the form and photograph into the school office and Mrs Williams will ensure that it is passed onto me to complete. Due to my teaching/office commitments, I would be grateful if your form could be brought into school in good time.

There is a nominal charge of **£25** per form which I am sure you will find this amount to be highly competitive as I have heard of some ‘professionals’ charging £100 and above. The monies raised will go towards resources within the school which will benefit your child.

Mrs Smith

Mrs Smith has been working at Goodrington since September 2014 and during that time has become a valuable member of our small team. However, after careful consideration, Mrs Smith has now made the decision to move onto pastures new and will be leaving Goodrington at the end of this term to take up a teaching post in another local school.

Therefore, with effect from January 2019, there will be some changes to the current staffing arrangements. Mrs Ward will teach the Year 1 and 2 class and Mrs R Patel will teach the Reception class. Both members of staff have significant experience within their respective year groups and are already known to the pupils, thus ensuring a smooth transition.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any of the above arrangements. In the meantime, I am sure that you will all join with me in thanking Mrs Smith for the wonderful contribution she has made to our school and in wishing her every success and happiness for the future.

TERM DATES 2018/19

Spring Term 2019

Half Term

Term Ends

Starts 9 a.m. Thursday 10th January
Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 15th February
Return 9 a.m. Monday 25th February
Break-up 12.15 p.m. Thursday 4th April

Summer Term 2019

May Bank Holiday

Half Term

Term Ends

Starts 9 a.m. Thursday 25th April
Closed all day Monday 6th May
Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 24th May
Return 9 a.m. Monday 3rd June
Break-up 12.15 p.m. Wednesday 10th July

TERM DATES 2019/20

Autumn Term 2019

Half Term

Term Ends

Starts 9 a.m. on Thursday 5th September
Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 18th October
Return 9 a.m. Monday 4th November
Break-up 12.15 p.m. Wednesday 18th December

Spring Term 2020

Half Term

Term Ends

Starts 9 a.m. Thursday 9th January
Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 14th February
Return 9 a.m. Monday 24th February
Break-up 12.15 p.m. Thursday 2nd April

Summer Term 2020

May Bank Holiday

Half Term

Term Ends

Starts 9 a.m. Thursday 23rd April
Closed all day Monday 4th May
Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 22nd May
Return 9 a.m. Monday 1st June
Break-up 12.15 p.m. Wednesday 8th July

Presents to Staff

Your generosity once again to the staff at this time of year is overwhelming. Where possible, the staff thanked you personally for the gifts they have received. Inevitably, at this busy time, some of you may have been missed. May I thank you all via this newsletter for being so kind.

This term has rushed by. No sooner have we started the academic year in September, when Christmas is suddenly upon us. It is a wonderful time of the year and is magical for the younger and older pupils alike.

Season's Greetings to each and every one of you and thank you all for your continued support.

I look forward to seeing you all when we return on **Thursday 10th January 2019 at 8.45am with prompt registration at 9.00am.**

Yours sincerely

Mrs J R Ellenby
Head Teacher