

GOODRINGTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

24 May 2019

Issue 88

Dear Parents

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

E-Safety

A reminder to parents that Goodrington has an e-safety policy that ensures the very best internet safety that we can give for all the pupils in our care and thank you to you all for supporting the school in this very important matter.

Meanwhile, I receive the latest information from the UK Safer Internet Centre and urge parents to log onto their site and click on the parents section. Whilst it is often aimed at older children, it is always helpful to have as much information as possible in this ever growing world of technology.

Parents and carers play a key role in supporting children to learn about how to stay safe online, and they are one of the first people children turn to if things go wrong. We know it can be difficult to stay on top of the wide range of sites and devices that young people use, so I hope that the following advice helps.

The latest top tips for parents and carers can be found on the following link:

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

Fire Drill

The whole school had their termly fire drill during the morning of Thursday 2nd May. Everyone evacuated the building very quickly and safely in a record time. Well done to all the pupils who are now extremely familiar with the procedure.

Cycles and Scooters

Please do make use of our Cycle Storage System by encouraging your child to **cycle or scooter** into school, even if it is only for part of your journey. However, I would like remind you that only Year 6 pupils are permitted to cycle alone to school, once I am satisfied they have received the relevant training and I have also received a letter from their parents.

All other pupils must be accompanied by their parent/carer. Cycles must be legally roadworthy and high visibility clothing must be worn. A correctly fitted safety helmet is also a requirement. Within the facility are 10 lockers, which pupils may use to store their helmets, but they must provide their own padlocks. We hope to see more cycles and scooters coming into school.

Please remember that you can always park safely and considerately a few roads away and then walk the remainder of the journey to school with your child, or allow them to cycle or scoot alongside you.

Car Share

One of our objectives, within the School Travel Plan, is to continue to encourage the use of car sharing amongst the families attending Goodrington. We are delighted that a number of families, living too far away to walk, are already using this mode of transport to reach school. If you are interested in car sharing, please let Mrs Williams know and she can circulate your journey details via ParentMail.

Driving, Parking and Pupils Safety in Walden Road

May I again remind you to drive slowly and carefully down Walden Road when bringing your children to and from school? Please always park with consideration and ensure that you do not park across OR IN residents' driveways to avoid me having to mention cars/registration numbers on ParentMail.

As you know, I am always working to stay on good terms with the residents in Walden Road, and I would be grateful if you could all do your utmost to support me in ensuring that this objective is achieved.

At the end of the school day responsibility lies with parents, child-minders and au-pairs who are requested to HOLD ONTO their own children and not let them run around in the cul-de-sac, on the pavement, in the road OR in the staff car-park. Thank you for your support with this very important health and safety issue.

Change of Clothes

Some of the younger pupils occasionally have 'accidents' when they don't make it to the toilet in time. As a result, the pupils are changed into spare uniform, which they are then sent home in. Please ensure that you then wash and return this uniform to the school as soon possible, as our supply of spares are dwindling.

Portable Hearing Loop

I would like to remind you that we have a Portable Induction Loop System for use around the school. The induction loop is used to assist individuals with a hearing impairment by transmitting sound from a sound system, microphone, television or other source, directly to their hearing aid.

SAT's

The SAT's took place during the week beginning 13th May. Everyone will have tried their very best with the testing and some results have been passed on to pupils. This information is a useful aid to staff and will be evident in the end of term reports.

School Trip

Year 5 Taster Day at Brentwood School

The Year 5 class were lucky to be taken to Brentwood School for a taster day, and I had an amazing Brentwood School Experience! Firstly, we sat in the lecture theatre and were given a Brentwood School bag. Inside was: a Coco pops bar, orange juice, a ruler, pencil, a water bottle and two leaflets. We watched a film that showed us the blocks of the school and giving us some information.

After this, Mr Wilson took us to the Maths block. Our teacher was Mrs Burnley. We played a number game as a warm up, then we had to solve the handshake puzzle which was very challenging but we solved it in the end! After Maths, we had a break. On the way we saw old Goodrington pupils Nathan and Dilshan. We enjoyed our cereal bar and drink. We then went to the music block for a lesson with Mr Cooper. We learned a song called "Yonder Come Day". It made us feel happy and our task was to expand and change the song to show different emotions, such as going from major to minor.

When the lesson had finished, we had lunch which was delicious. There were so many options including jacket potatoes, pasta, barbeque chicken or stir fry. There was also salad, and lovely puddings such as pear and apple crumble. After lunch, we made our way back to Goodrington with happy memories of a lovely morning.

Dasia Year 5

On 20th May, the Year 5 class enjoyed an amazing experience. My peers and I went for a taster day at Brentwood School. We found out that the school has a varied amount of teachers and indeed, buildings. The lesson of the day was Maths. The work was quite challenging and perplexing, but after a rocky start we got into the swing of things. After that we had break to relax our brains, then we went to Music. Music was fun with an amazing teacher called Mr Cooper. He taught us a fun song with bouncy and bubbly lines, guaranteed to brighten up our day.

Last but not least we ate lunch; the food was splendid and mostly healthy. After lunch we refreshed ourselves before setting off to return to Goodrington. Our guide, Mrs Wilson, made this an unforgettable experience. The trip made me realise that so much goes on in the world rather than just my life, and I think this would make an incredible Secondary School.

Nathania Year 5

Lunchboxes

Please ensure that all lunchboxes are emptied and wiped clean on a daily basis and periodically, if appropriate, run through the washing machine. **At this time of year it is a good idea to include a small ice pack to keep food fresh until it is eaten at lunch-time. Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation in this matter.**

Reports

Reports will be finalised during next half-term and will be distributed on Monday 8th July. Please note that attendance, late marks and unauthorised absences are added onto each pupil's report.

ParentMail

ParentMail proves to be extremely efficient and environmentally friendly. Communications from the school are speedily sent to parents with little worry of them getting lost. Please continue to check your emails **daily** to see if there are any updates or information that has come in from the school. A number of parents have recently said that they didn't have certain information, but when asked, they had not checked their emails.

Contact Details and Pupil Collection

A request please, for all parents and carers to ensure Mrs Williams and Mrs Ruyten have your **latest contact and emergency details**. It is also vital that the office **MUST** be able to get in touch with someone on at least one of your contact details during the school day. To avoid distressing situations for pupils, do ensure your availability. Please note, should a serious accident happen, an ambulance would be called and if a parent could not be contacted, myself or an available member of staff would travel with the pupil. Mrs Williams and/or Mrs Ruyten would continue to try to make contact with the parent.

Please ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day or following the after school clubs. Staff do their very best to have personal appointments during the school holidays, but occasionally they have to attend some after school. *Consideration is appreciated with your child's collection, so that staff do not need to cancel appointments, which may incur a cost, as for example, in dental appointments that may have been booked for some time.*

Passports

Parents have found my offer of completing passport forms very useful. The charge for this is £25 per form. This nominal amount is highly competitive as I have heard of some 'professionals' now charging up to £100. The monies raised will go towards resources within the school which will benefit your child.

Pupil Achievements

Year 5

The following pupils have been awarded a certificate of merit for an original piece of creative writing that has been selected for publication in a Young Writers' Anthology: Dasia and Nathania.

Year 6

The following pupils have been awarded a certificate of merit for an original piece of creative writing that has been selected for publication in a Young Writers' Anthology: Tolase, Courtney, Sean, Tomiwa, Hannah, Emmanuel and Jadine.

Sports Day

The annual Sports Day went ahead for the KS1/2 pupils on Wednesday 22nd May. We were thrilled at having a dry day for the activities. To those parents/carers who were able to attend, many thanks for your continued support. It means so much to each and every pupil seeing you there cheering them on. Whether they win, lose or draw, it's the taking part and joining in to enjoy the team spirit of the day that really matters. A special thank you must be extended to Mrs Cast and the staff for all their help behind the scenes and, of course, on the day. Do please look on the school's Facebook page to see some wonderful photographs of the afternoon. The final results were as follows:

Ayloff	56
Wedlake	50
Appleton	32

Final Whole School Speech Day and Prize Giving: Pre-school to Year 6

I have previously mentioned via ParentMail, that our Final School Speech Day and Prize Giving will be held on the afternoon of Friday 28th June 2019. This has become an enjoyable annual event over a number of years, during which the hard work and talents of our pupils have been recognised and rewarded. As this will be the very last prize giving at the school, we will be holding a wonderful celebration of everything that Goodrington has held dear to its heart for 84 years.

Following the main formalities, which should conclude at approximately 3:15pm, refreshments and cold drinks will be available for you to enjoy from 3:30pm until 5pm. You will also have the opportunity to socialise with current and past pupils and parents at the very last big event Goodrington will hold. It will certainly be a very special afternoon indeed.

As it is a school day, all pupils from Pre-school to Year 6 are expected to attend this event from 1.45pm to 3:15pm. All pupils will be receiving prizes and the programme order needs to be finalised as soon as possible. It is, therefore, essential that pupils who are expected to attend do so, in order to ensure that the occasion runs smoothly. Please note that there will be more parents and pupils at the event than usual, so please understand that due to restricted seating, we can only allocate a maximum of 2 seats per pupil.

We are still awaiting replies from some parents and would be grateful for the return of the reply slip already given. You may also contact Mrs Williams on info@goodrington.org or 01708 448349, on receipt of this newsletter, to confirm how many of you will be attending as we also need to organise seating and refreshments. Please note that the dress code for this event will be smart and all pupils must wear their clean, full school uniform, including blazers.

End of School

At the end of the school day, the Lower School staff always accompany their pupils out via the side entrance. It would help them enormously if parents/carers could stand away from the end of the path, so they can clearly and safely make sure their pupils are collected by the correct person.

Stamps

Do please continue to send in your stamps to the office. On our return after half-term Mrs. Ruyten will send them off to the Royal Mail where they help the Barnados Charity.

I hope you all have a relaxing break, and look forward to seeing you all when we return **Monday 3rd June at 8.45am with prompt registration at 9.00am.**

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J.R. Ellenby
Head Teacher