



GREENWAY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

Site Manager

We would like to welcome our new Site Manager Mr John Rapson to the Greenway team. He has settled in quickly to his role and the staff and children are already delighted with the jobs he has done in and around the school including new shelving and new coat pegs in the corridor towards the library to hang their coats up at lunchtime.

Sue Hampton 'Author in Residence'

We are delighted that Sue Hampton, our local author, has been back to Greenway. She has been working with groups of children in the morning and whole classes in the afternoon inspiring the children to write as part of our school focus this year on improving children's writing skills. The children have thoroughly enjoyed working with her and produced some excellent pieces of writing.

New Marking system

This term we have been reviewing our school marking policy to further develop the effective marking and feedback we give to the children as research shows that this is one of the key ways of improving children's progress. As part of this process we have looked at examples of good practice from other schools. The system we have chosen to use from this week clearly identifies to the children some of the aspects of their work which they have achieved well in by highlighting these elements of their work in pink (tickled pink!) and aspects of their work which they can improve on in green (green for growth!) An element of their work which is identified as green will form a next step comment for your child to respond to at the beginning of their next piece of work. This could be to practise a misconception or to be further challenged. Children will continue to be awarded house points, stars and Special awards for their hard work, effort and achievement. I am sure over the next two weeks your child will be talking about this new system and they will get the opportunity to share this in their books with you at the next Child Shows Parent on Thursday 13th February. Or, if you are not able to attend this, you will be able to see their books on Parents evening after half term where you can ask the teachers any questions regarding the new system.

Musical Star of the Week

As part of the Key stage 2 singing and music session on a Friday, Mrs O'Brien has introduced a Star of the Week performance award where children have the opportunity to sign up in advance to musically perform to the rest of the key stage. They may choose to sing a solo or to play an instrument which they are learning to play in or out of school and they will be awarded with a certificate.

Sports Leader Update

Last month we introduced you to our Year 4 Sports leaders. Over the past two weeks they have received training from Year 11 Sports Leaders from Ashlyns. The students have worked with Year 4 to plan and design activities and games with the new play time equipment purchased in consultation with the children and School council using Cake sale money. The Sports leaders are looking forward to organising and supporting the children with these activities at play times and lunchtimes from next week.

Sports Assemblies

As part of keeping the legacy of the Olympics alive, this term one of our weekly assemblies focuses on promoting a healthy lifestyle and inspiring the children to engage in sporting activities. We have arranged for a number of local visitors to come in to talk to the children about a variety of different sports over the coming weeks.

Silver Birch Cake Sale

Congratulations to Silver Birch who raised a fantastic amount of £185 at last Friday's cake sale! Thank you to all our Silver Birch bakers and for the rest of the school for supporting this event. The new separate table arrangements for each key stage seemed to be successful and so we will continue to adopt this system in the future.

New entrance gates.

Greenway and St.Thomas More schools are currently working with the Local Authority to improve our main entrance and side gates. The new fence will be dark green and slightly higher at 1.8m. It will give a much improved look to the front of the school and will also increase security at the site, making 'unofficial' weekend use less likely.

The works will be undertaken during a school holiday and the intention, at this moment, is that it is fitted into the half term week commencing 17th February. During the works there will be some disruption but it will be kept to a minimum and when the works are complete, the frontages of the schools will be much improved. The additional security will allow consideration of scooter and cycle storage to encourage sustainable transport in preference to the motor car.

Camping

After the success of last year's camping we would like to organise another camping event in the summer. However last year's camping organisers are stepping down for a rest this year and so we need to organise a new team in order for this to go ahead. Please e-mail the gsa@greenway.herts.sch.uk if you are interested in joining this team.

Dates: Spring Term

Thurs 13 Feb.....	Silver Birch Class assembly at 9am
Thurs 13 Feb	Child Shows Parent
Fri 14 Feb.....	Cedar cake sale after school
Mon 17-Fri 21 Feb.....	Half-term
Mon 24 Feb.....	INSET school closed
Tues 25 Feb	Return to school
Wed 26 Feb.....	Parents Evening
Thurs 27 Feb.....	Parents Evening
Mon 3 – Fri 7 March	Scholastic Book Fair
Thurs 6 March.....	World Book Day
Wed 12 March.....	Willow Class assembly at 9am
Wed 12 March.....	Child shows Parent
Fri 4 April.....	Last day of term, Reception - Yr 4 school finishes at 1.30pm
Tues 22 April	Return to School