



GREENWAY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

Parent Consultations

Many thanks to all of you who came along this week to discuss your children's progress. It is always a pleasure to open up the school to all our parents, catch up with those of you we don't see very often and celebrate the many achievements of your children.

Philosophy for Children (P4C) Curriculum Evening – Save the date!

The new date for this is **Thursday 18th May from 7.30-9pm**. We are hoping to see as many of you there as possible. Discussions around the low number of returned slips for the original date for this event revealed that many of you planned to come but did not realise the importance of the slips. We need to know numbers in advance, not only so that we can put out the right number of tables and chairs, but also because there are resources to prepare. So please look out for the letter and return your slip to the office as soon as you get it!

Staffing update

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Janine Bennett has now completed her teaching qualification and has been appointed to cover Mrs Harris's maternity leave. The exact date of her take-over of Beech class has yet to be decided, for obvious reasons, although Mrs Harris's baby is due in early July.

Parents' Questionnaire

The Governing Body has decided not to run the full Parent Questionnaire this year as last year's results did not reveal any major issues for us to address. We hope that our various communication channels mean you feel you are able to let us know your views at any time. However, you can give us these in a more formal way by using Ofsted's Parent View service. Go to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> to complete the short survey.

Spellings

Parent Forum asked us to share information about the way in which spellings are taught and assessed at Greenway and some of the background to the changes that were made to this in September 2015.

Prior to September 2015 we noticed, through our regular Pupil Progress meetings, that spelling was an issue in many pupils' writing. It was clear that while children were able to learn a list of words by rote and reproduce them in a weekly test, this was not translating into accurate spelling in their written work. We took advice from the English team at Herts for Learning, had a training session with one of their advisors and introduced a new programme for the teaching of spelling:

Children in all classes are given 'Spelling homework' on a Friday. This is to be completed over a two week period. It consists of a list of words to be written into sentences, showing that the children can both spell the words correctly and understand their meaning. During the two week period, the children are taught the particular spelling pattern or rule that the words exemplify, through short focused spelling lessons and also through incidental opportunities in other lessons. The words are

chosen from a suggested list that appears in the National Curriculum Programme of Study for English. They may sometimes appear to be old-fashioned or unusual, but children need to be able to write in a variety of formal and informal registers, often using words that they may not use in their everyday speech. At the end of the two week period, the children's learning of the spelling pattern or rule is assessed through a short dictation in which there will be up to 8 words that follow the rule (not necessarily the ones that were set in the spelling homework book).

If you have any questions about the spelling homework, please talk directly to your child's class teacher.

Recent events at Greenway:

There has been a lot going on at school over the past month. Here is a brief over-view:

- World Book Day was a huge success, with your children's 'Extreme Reading' photographs a particular highlight. If you haven't seen the display of these in the hall, do pop in to have a look.
- Egyptian Day in Year 4 filled the hall with a variety of interesting and unusual activities, not to mention smells! The children had a wonderful day and further extended their historical learning.
- Year 5 visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford on 9th March. They saw a range of historical artefacts and took part in a fascinating session on Ancient Greece.
- In the week of 13th March, many of our Year 6 pupils brought their bikes to school and did a 'Level 2 Cycle Skills' course with three trainers from the Hertfordshire road safety team. They had a great week and learned a lot about staying safe on the roads when cycling.
- The Key Stage 1 show was a fantastic showcase of the acting, singing and dancing talents of our Year 1 and 2 children.
- During Art and Design Technology Week the children produced some amazing creative work, learned about our focus artist, Vassily Kandinsky and got messy with clay! Look out for the results of this in the coming weeks.
- The sun came out for Year 1's trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum on 21st March and the children had lots of fun in the Victorian Schoolroom.
- Children from Reception to Year 3 visited the Baptist Church in Northchurch to take part in an 'Easter Story Trail', consolidating their learning in RE.

Don't forget to have a look at our website for photographs of many of these exciting events.

Have a very happy and relaxing Easter break. We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Wednesday 19th April.

Dates: Summer Term

Tues 18 th April	School Closed INSET DAY
Weds 19 th April	Start of Summer Term
Weds 3 rd May 7pm	Lincolnsfield Meeting Parents & Children Year 4
Mon 8 th – Fri 12 th May	Key Stage 2 SATS week
Mon 8 th – Weds 10 th May	Willow & Silver Birch Lincolnsfield
Weds 10 th – Fri 12 th May	Chestnut Lincolnsfield
Mon 15 th May	Class Photos
Tues 16 th May	Whole School Science Day
Thurs 18 th May 7.30pm	P4C evening
Mon 22 nd May	Year 5 visit to Wimbledon
Weds 24 th May 9am	Silver Birch & Chestnut Sharing Assembly
Weds 24 th May 3.15-3.45pm	Child Shows Parent
Thurs 25 th May 9am	Willow Sharing Assembly
Fri 26 th May	Last day of half term