

Greyfriars Academy

Newsletter February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are, at the end of another busy and productive half term! Read on to see some of the great things we have been up to! There's even more to see on the school website: www.greyfriars.academy
Thank you to all the children and staff who have continued to work hard, and to you for your ongoing support.

Active Kids

12 children from Thornham Class attended Active Kids Festival at Lynn Sport on the 7th January. The children had a fantastic time and enjoyed taking part in Boot Camp activities.

Zoo Lab Visit

As part of the Year 3/4 topic focus '10° North and South of the Equator' on the morning of 8th January the children spent some time meeting an array of animals found in various Rainforests from around the world including a Madagascan Hissing Cockroach, one of the largest species of Gecko and even a Brazilian White-Kneed Tarantula.



Personal Development Week

13th – 17th January

During this week we had a special whole school assembly on Thursday, 16th January with Paul Sturgess - he's not only the tallest ever professional basketball player ever but was also recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest man in the UK. He

has played professional basketball for the Harlem Globetrotters and turned his hand to acting in some amazing productions such as, Doctor Who and the new Avatar film. After spending time with each class teaching basic basketball skills, he left us with a very important message.

"Be happy with who you are and be happy in your skin. If you work hard you can achieve your dreams and don't let anyone tell you, you can't!"



Cross Country

On Tuesday, 21st January some of our children who had previously qualified for this event took part in the cluster schools cross country event. The next stage is at Holkham and 3 of our children are competing.
A very big WELL DONE to them!

Swimming Gala

West Norfolk Schools Gala took place on the 22nd January and Mr. Holmes was really pleased with the number of children who wanted to compete, our school performed brilliantly competing against other top swimming clubs from the local area. Daniel in Year 6 qualified for the next round and came a fantastic 2nd place! Well done to all!



A Scroll through Time

On Friday 24th January, Blakeney and Wells classes witnessed the history of King's Lynn evolving before their very eyes when they visited King's Lynn Town Hall for a performance called, 'A Scroll Through Time'. It was a wonderful, fun and engaging way to take the children on a journey through our local history. It is hoped that this will inspire them to find out more about what is on their doorstep!

King's Lynn Museum Visit

The Year 5/6 classes went back in time to solve a World War 2 mystery on Friday, 31st January. We had to work out who was the spy amongst all the leaders that worked with us. Was it the land girl, the 'make do and mend' girl, the billeting lady, the lady who collected things from the bomb sites to pass onto other families, or the Royal Navy Morse code man? Ask your child – they should be able to tell you. Thanks to everyone at King's Lynn Museum and people at Stories of Lynn for a wonderful day. Also thank you to all the parents who managed to find costumes for the day.



SWIMMING POOL

A huge 'Thank You' to the Frogs for their loan/donation to help us replace the swimming pool boiler. The works were completed on the 11th February and the children will be back to their swimming lessons after the half term break!

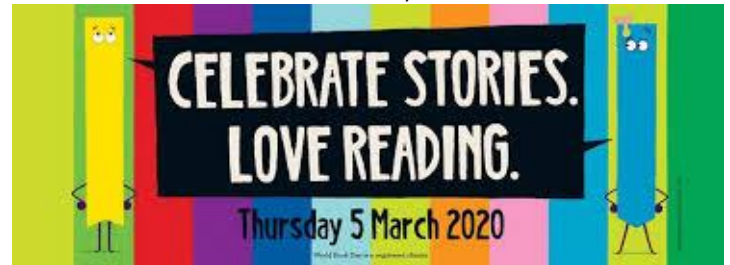


Please make sure that your child has the appropriate swimming kit, hat and towel (all named) on their swimming day. We do provide spare kit on occasions to ensure that children do not miss out on this important (and statutory) part of their curriculum, however it is important that children do bring their own kit.

COMING UP NEXT TERM.....

WORLD BOOK DAY – Thursday 5th March

Children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. There will be a prize for the best costume in KS1 and the best in KS2. We also have a special Lunch Menu on this day, please see our email sent on the 13th February.



PARENTS EVENINGS

Our parents' evenings will be held on Monday, March 23rd and Tuesday, March 24th. Appointments will be available to book at the beginning of March. We will email you details closer to the time.

Mini GEAR – Sunday 3rd May 2020

For the seventh year running, we will be entering the school's Mini GEAR competition, a 1.8 km fun run starting at the Tuesday Market Place in King's Lynn. **The school with the most entries will have a chance to win £1000 for their school!** Please send back the completed registration form and appropriate entry fee to the school office ASAP! We look forward to seeing lots of Greyfriars children taking part again this year.

Golden Mile

Congratulations to all the children who have received Golden Mile awards this half term, we are now celebrating the children who reach **100 miles!** on our new display in the corridor.



HEAD LICE REMINDER

During half term could you take this opportunity to check your child's hair for head lice. If anything is found, please treat the whole family. We have been advised that conditioner and a combing through with a fine-toothed comb regularly is the best way of preventing this becoming a problem. If your child has long hair, please keep it tied back as this does help.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance is currently 94.5% which is below our target of 96%. We need your support in helping us to reach this important target, and most importantly to ensure that our children can make the most of their education at school! Missing days of education has a tremendous impact on a child's learning and future life opportunities. If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, it is important to contact the school office with a reason for absence because if no reason is given it will become an unauthorised absence which can lead to a fine. Poor attendance will trigger involvement of the County Attendance team and could even result in a court case! Please make sure that your child receives the best possible opportunities through good attendance.

Congratulations to all those whose children attend school regularly and on time, we thank you for your support!

SMART PUPILS

At Greyfriars we are proud of our uniform and believe that smart pupils make smart learners! Just a few reminders: black school trousers should be worn, not black jeans; royal blue school sweatshirts or cardigans; jewellery should be kept at home, watches and plain ear studs only; make sure nail varnish is removed; no extreme hairstyles or headwear, including large bows, please. We also ask that hair dye be kept for holiday times, please. We thank you for your support in keeping Greyfriars smart!



MORNING ARRANGEMENTS

Please could I remind you that all children in KS2 (year 3, 4, 5 and 6) should line up outside with their class at 8:40am. If you have KS1 & KS2 children, please ensure that your KS2 children line up at 8:40am before you take your KS1 children to their line or round to their classroom.

If you wish to see a teacher, please talk to them outside or go to the school office to make an appointment. Please do not walk KS2 children up the corridor after 8:40am as teachers are not able to see parents once the bell has gone.

Before & After School Club

We know that parents find this so useful, but we have a lot of outstanding payments at the moment. Please pop into the school office to pay any outstanding money as soon as possible. We would prefer it if you could pay for club daily to avoid these debts building up.

Costs are £2.50 from 3.15 – 4.30pm and £4 until 5.15pm. Breakfast club is £2.

This is a very valuable resource and we would like it to continue if possible, at the current price.

Dates for your diary

Monday 24 th February	Back to school
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day with Special Lunch Menu
Friday 27 th March	FrOGS Easter Disco
Monday, 23 rd March	Parents Evening
Tuesday, 24 th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday, 25 th March	Reception Children NHS Height & Weight Check
Tuesday, 31 st March	FrOGS Easter Bingo
Wednesday, 1 st April	Last Day of Spring Term