

GREENFYLDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

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Newsletter No: 1 Wednesday 9th September 2019

Welcome Back!

It is lovely to have a full school of children again and whilst we are in different times, having everyone back together after so long apart has made the start of this school year extra special. Huge thanks to everyone in our school community for helping us make such a successful return to school and we know we can all work together to help this continue through the term.

As usual, our first newsletter is a reminder to families of lots of key messages that will be important throughout the school year so please take the time to look through this information.

This term our focus in teaching and learning is underpinned by ensuring we support the children's emotional and social wellbeing as they come back to school. Whilst we are still offering our full curriculum we are aware throughout of needing to support our children's wellbeing and help them adjust to their new classes and new school arrangements. Many things are actually not that different for the children and we have tried to explain, at a level they will understand why these things are happening.

We are trying to be very creative so that we find alternatives for some of our usual activities so celebration assemblies, Harvest etc will be via Zoom and we will have a drawing competition to design a carnival umbrella rather than actually making these this year. We have received a lot of support from the community and will be using these links, for example the Ilminster Emporium letting us have displays for Carnival and Christmas Lights lanterns and being able to still do question time by the School Council to Ilminster's Mayor virtually. We've even come up with new ways to show someone we would give them a hug whilst still socially distancing. As a school we want to be very positive with the children about this return and ensure they are still getting the full Greenfylde experience albeit in slightly different, creative ways sometimes.

Please remember we always try to make ourselves available to talk to families and during these ongoing Covid 19 times are happy to talk to families via email and telephone.

I hope everyone in our school community has a successful year and I look forward to working with you all.



Starting School September 2021

Do you know families with children ready to start school in September 2021? If so please encourage them to contact us to find out more about coming to Greenfylde. Obviously tours etc will not be happening straightaway but we are working on a virtual tour and are very happy to talk to prospective families about the school.



Work in school

This Summer has seen work take place on the drainage on the playground and we have been fortunate to secure County funding for this and it will include a full recovering of the playground at half term and new playground marking. We have also had two outside trough sinks installed that will not only be useful in these current Covid times but also into the future with one located on the playground and the other outside Year 4 in the gardening classroom of forest school.

Staffing

This academic year we welcome Mrs Claire Dutson to our teaching team in Year 1 and Rachael Bowditch to our lunchtime supervisors team. We also welcome new staff to our pre-schools with Sarah Masterman, Naomi Wills and Kelly Reeves joining the teams there. I'm sure you will join with me in wishing them a happy and successful time at Greenfylde.



Newsletters

Newsletters will continue to go out weekly this year and after this first newsletter will come out **every Friday**. During the ongoing Covid regulations these will only come out as an email so please check you are receiving this. A lot of key information comes out only through the newsletter so please ensure you read this weekly. We realise everyone is very busy but having this system ensures we have one key place to send dates etc to parents.

Child Protection

Everyone at Greenfylde takes their roles of educating and looking after your children very seriously. With regard to Child Protection, please read the following extract from our school prospectus carefully:-

Greenfylde Church of England First School strives to educate all its pupils within an environment where the Christian traditions of learning, truth, justice, respect and community are promoted. Consequently the overall aim of the Child Protection Policy is to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in our care. In situations where child abuse is suspected, our paramount responsibility is to the child.

The school is committed to promoting the health and welfare of all pupils and if staff see signs that suggest that one of the pupils may have been the victim of abuse (or is at risk of abuse) they will follow the procedures laid down by the Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board. NB: Such action in no way infers that any parent/carer or other individual is being accused of wrongdoing.

The school's designated Child Protection Officer is Kerry Lewis and in her absence Claire Oaten.

A full version of the School's Child Protection Policy is available on request or on the website.

School Website

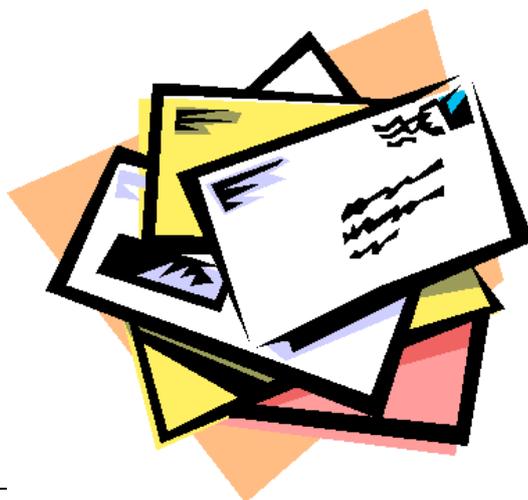
Please remember that the school has a very full website: www.greenfylde.somerset.sch.uk

You will find newsletters, lists of dates, recent photographs, notices and much more. Please refer to the website regularly for information you may need.

We are currently checking a new look website which we hope to be able to share with you soon.

Letters home / information to families

During Covid 19 regulations all letters will be emailed to families so please check your emails regularly including in junk/clutter folders. Due to this, please ensure we have the up to date email addresses for your family and any changes should be notified to the school office.



Extended Provision

We continue to offer wrap around care from 8.00am (normally 7.45am when we are out of Covid regulations) at Breakfast Club to 5.30pm with After School Club. Please contact the

office for further details as these are available on both a regular booking and as ad hoc bookings where space is available.

Packed lunches

Please help us to promote healthy eating by encouraging your children to bring healthy lunches and snacks to school. Children are welcome to have choice but please can you avoid nuts and nut based products as we have children with allergies on the premises and want to ensure their safety.

Water Bottle

Your child must bring a named water bottle to school to keep in their classroom. This should be taken home each night to be refilled however children will have the opportunity to refill these during the day. **Please note these should only contain water and not juice.**



FrOGS

Our FrOGS (Friends of Greenfyld School) association do a wonderful job of providing a range of enjoyable social events throughout the year as well as providing valuable additional funds that are spent on resources for your children. Please continue to support the FrOGS this year and it would be lovely to have a large turnout at our AGM which will be held virtually on Zoom, date to be announced. If you have never been to a meeting please consider coming along this term.

Head lice

Unfortunately head lice are always unwanted visitors in school and as they are easily passed by head to head contact children's hair should be checked at least three times a week. The sooner they are spotted the easier they are to deal with and this prevents a wide scale spread to other children in school. There is no shame in getting head lice and if you require any information in the prevention and removal of head lice I would suggest contacting your local pharmacist.

Naming Uniform

At the start of the year our pupils look very smart in their school uniforms and I know many parents will have bought new uniforms to fit growing children! Given the expense of these items I'm sure parents do not want them lost so please can you help us by naming all of your children's clothing including shoes. If an item is named and found we always ensure it comes back to the pupil. Unfortunately every year we have lots of lost property so it would be good to try and reduce this by helping the children identify their belongings. If required, lost property is located in the covered way by the School Hall and staff do check this regularly to return named items.

Star of the Week

Star of the week will start again w/c 21st September where we are going to try a virtual assembly via Zoom and this will mean some slightly different times for each key stage.

Children are welcome to bring recent awards from home to share at these assemblies as they can do this from their classrooms.

Safeguarding

Somerset is placing a higher emphasis on Safeguarding in School including all pupils from Reception upwards being able to explain how they 'safeguard' themselves. As in previous years you will see a lot of the word safeguarding and with school I hope you will also encourage your child to use this word. Safeguarding can involve site safety for example the gates being locked during the school day; playground safety with children told to walk bikes and scooters in school; PE safety of knowing how to follow adult instructions in using equipment; cyber safety where we teach them specifically about safety online and safeguarding themselves in the community e.g. knowing how to stay safe by roads. Safeguarding sections will continue to appear regularly on newsletters and the following are all key safeguarding messages for the year.

Safeguarding - Parking

Unfortunately parking around Greenfylde is very difficult, especially at the beginning and end of the school day. If you are parking around school please park considerately for our neighbours, children walking along the pavement and the local community and remember we have an agreement with Orchard Vale Car Park, where there is a 30 minute period (15 minutes before, 15 after) around 9.00am and 3.30pm, when you are allowed to park without purchasing a ticket. Please be aware that going beyond this may lead you to incur a fine. We are still providing free passes to display in your car so that the parking attendants are aware of your visit and these must be displayed. Permits are available from the School Office Reception Desk.

During these Covid regulations and use of staggered entry/exit times SSSC have extended this to cover all the different class times and we thank them for agreeing to do this. South Somerset District Council have also asked us to remind you that anyone not parking in marked spaces or using disabled spaces without permission may be fined by them.

Safeguarding - Attendance

Please remember to inform us as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent. When children are absent please contact the school office by telephone (answer machine available) or by email by 9.30am, if we do not have contact then the office will contact you to ensure your child is safe.

To bring us in line with the Crewkerne and Ilminster cluster of schools and Local Authority expectations we will continue implementing penalty fines and warning penalty notices for unauthorised attendance which includes unauthorised holidays. Expected attendance at Greenfylde is 96%.

Within the local cluster of schools we have agreed the following:

The Local Authority will issue families with a penalty fine of £60 per pupil, per parent where any child is absent from school for 10 consecutive unauthorised sessions (5 days). This means that in the future, families can expect a fine of £60 per pupil, per parent for taking a holiday of a week or more. Please note these fines go to the Local Authority and not to the school. Children who are absent from school with illness for a week or more will not be fined and whilst in the majority of cases we will take a parent's word re illness, where there are concerns regarding the length of absence, legitimacy or frequency is questioned then medical evidence will be sought to support the need for absence e.g. prescription, medicine

label, appointment card, screen print from the surgery – please note we are not asking for a Doctor's certificate.

Children who have 10 or more unauthorised absences in any 12 week period may receive a warning penalty notice from the Local Authority. Children who receive a notice will be expected to attend school for a given number of weeks without any further absences – otherwise a penalty fine will be incurred. Where a penalty warning notice is issued any illness absence must be accompanied by some form of medical proof.

There may be exceptional circumstances where leave is granted and these can be put in writing to the school. Where a family's children attend more than one school then these circumstances will be discussed with the other school and if required, advice sought from the Local Authority. Where leave is requested please try to request this at least four weeks prior to the dates requested to allow for advice to be taken or any additional evidence found.

Please note:- a copy of the full attendance policy for the school is available at the school office or on the website.

From September 2015 the Department for Education is now classing persistent absenteeism as missing 10% of school sessions. This includes authorised and unauthorised absence and is reported to the Local Authority. Expected attendance is 96% or above and all children are monitored for attendance by the Local Authority half termly and you will also receive your child's attendance information every term. If you feel school can help at any point with your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Safeguarding - Medicines in School

If your child has got prescribed medicine please can you consider if your child is well enough to be in school and if they are, can the medicine be taken outside of school hours. If in extreme cases this is not possible then nominated staff can administer medicines in school. To do this parents must complete a form available via email from the office before any medicine can be administered and please leave the smallest practical dose with the staff there. If the above procedure is not followed, the medicine will not be able to be given in the interest of the child.

Please note we can only give prescribed medicines with a pharmacy sticker on with the child's name. **Over the counter Nurofen or Calpol cannot be given nor any over the counter cold/cough products.**

If your child requires an inhaler in school then this should be discussed directly with your child's class teacher and the appropriate form completed.

Safeguarding - Pupil contact information

Please can parents ensure that they keep us up to date with contact details sending any new addresses, telephone numbers etc to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.



Holiday Dates 2021/22

Our term dates for the academic year 2020/21 will be released to parents as soon as they are agreed with Governors later this term. The dates for all schools, excluding the specific INSET days are available from the Somerset County Council website www.somerset.gov.uk.

**Somerset School Terms and Holidays
2020/2021 Academic Year
Greenfyld C of E First School**

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



September 2020		October 2020		November 2020	
M	7 14 21 28	M	5 12 19 26	M	2 9 16 23 30
Tu	1 8 15 22 29	Tu	6 13 20 27	Tu	3 10 17 24
W	2 9 16 23 30	W	7 14 21 28	W	4 11 18 25
Th	3 10 17 24	Th	1 8 15 22 29	Th	5 12 19 26
F	4 11 18 25	F	2 9 16 23 30	F	6 13 20 27
Sa	5 12 19 26	Sa	3 10 17 24 31	Sa	7 14 21 28
Su	6 13 20 27	Su	4 11 18 25	Su	1 8 15 22 29
December 2020		January 2021		February 2021	
M	7 14 21 28	M	4 11 18 25	M	1 8 15 22
Tu	1 8 15 22 29	Tu	5 12 19 26	Tu	2 9 16 23
W	2 9 16 23 30	W	6 13 20 27	W	3 10 17 24
Th	3 10 17 24 31	Th	7 14 21 28	Th	4 11 18 25
F	4 11 18 25	F	1 8 15 22 29	F	5 12 19 26
Sa	5 12 19 26	Sa	2 9 16 23 30	Sa	6 13 20 27
Su	6 13 20 27	Su	3 10 17 24 31	Su	7 14 21 28
March 2021		April 2021		May 2021	
M	1 8 15 22 29	M	5 12 19 26	M	3 10 17 24 31
Tu	2 9 16 23 30	Tu	6 13 20 27	Tu	4 11 18 25
W	3 10 17 24 31	W	7 14 21 28	W	5 12 19 26
Th	4 11 18 25	Th	1 8 15 22 29	Th	6 13 20 27
F	5 12 19 26	F	2 9 16 23 30	F	7 14 21 28
Sa	6 13 20 27	Sa	3 10 17 24	Sa	1 8 15 22 29
Su	7 14 21 28	Su	4 11 18 25	Su	2 9 16 23 30
June 2021		July 2021		August 2021	
M	7 14 21 28	M	5 12 19 26	M	2 9 16 23 30
Tu	1 8 15 22 29	Tu	6 13 20 27	Tu	3 10 17 24 31
W	2 9 16 23 30	W	7 14 21 28	W	4 11 18 25
Th	3 10 17 24	Th	1 8 15 22 29	Th	5 12 19 26
F	4 11 18 25	F	2 9 16 23 30	F	6 13 20 27
Sa	5 12 19 26	Sa	3 10 17 24 31	Sa	7 14 21 28
Su	6 13 20 27	Su	4 11 18 25	Su	1 8 15 22 29

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 03 September – 23 October 2020 (37 days)
 Term 2: 02 November – 18 December 2020 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 12 February 2021 (30 days)
 Term 4: 22 February – 01 April 2021 (29 days)
 Term 5: 19 April – 28 May 2021 (29 days)
 Term 6: 07 June – 23 July 2021 (35 days)

TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2020/21

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2020	Easter Monday	05 April 2021
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2020*	May Day Bank Holiday	03 May 2021
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2021	Spring Bank Holiday	31 May 2021
Good Friday	02 April 2021	Summer Bank Holiday	30 August 2021

*Replacement bank holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend

Academv. Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with individual schools for their term dates

Dates for your diary

Dates for the diary have obviously been impacted by Covid 19 regulations. Wherever possible we are looking at creative ways to keep events going for our pupils and will try to make special times like Harvest virtual so families can still join us.