

Welcome back to the new school year...

- I would like to welcome everyone back to school at the start of another academic year. The children have quickly settled into their new classes and the teachers have been impressed with their super attitudes to learning. It has been wonderful to have whole school assemblies again and for the children to mix freely with each other at breaktimes and to be able to use the play equipment again. We are still maintaining extra cleaning regimes in school and we will be carefully monitoring Covid infection rates in the local area. If necessary, we will put in further measure to prevent the spread of Covid.
- The children all looked very smart in their uniforms and the new school ties look super. I would like to thank parents for their support in maintaining the high standards of school uniform here at Gretton School. Please make sure their uniform is named (especially jumpers and cardigans) so that any mislaid uniform can be returned to its rightful owner.



New Staff

- I would like to welcome Mrs McNamara to our teaching team, she is the new Maple class teacher. Miss Mason is the new teacher in Willow class and we are very pleased to welcome her as a full time member of the teaching staff after she completed her teacher training with us last year. We are also pleased to welcome two trainees who are with us on a 6 month placement as part of the Government's Kickstart scheme. Danni is supporting in Rowan class and Reegan is working as a reading mentor across the school.

Excellent Attendance is Crucial this Year

- The disruption to education over the last 18 months from Covid-19 means that good attendance is more important than ever this year. We need every child in school every day (unless they are ill) so that we can maximise their learning and ensure that they receive their entitlement to a full, broad and balanced curriculum. We are also working very hard to close any gaps in learning which occurred during the lockdowns. So, I say to you as parents **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK ANY HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME** as every day missed at school is a lost opportunity for learning. Holidays in term time will not be authorised and will be subject to fines. We celebrate good attendance in assembly every week and always aim for 100% in each class, which the children love to achieve. Thank you for your commitment to getting your children to school, on time, every day of the school year.

- Class attendance for w/c 2nd September goes to: Oak, Willow and Sycamore Class with 100%
 - Class attendance for w/c 6th September goes to: Oak Class with 100%
- Great attendance will be a big focus for 2021-22!



Diary Dates

- Sunday 12th September**
Gretton Fun Day
- Thursday 16th September**
Drum Lessons Start
- Thursday 23rd September**
EYFS Reading Information Evening
- Friday 24th September**
MacMillan Coffee Morning

Tuesday 19th October
9.30am Harvest Festival

Wednesday 20th October
Parents Evening

Thursday 21st October
Parents Evening

End of Term

Friday 22nd October
Staff Training Day

Monday 1st November
School Opens

Monday 13th December
Class Christmas Parties

Tuesday 14th December
2.00pm & 6.30pm Christmas Production

Thursday 16th December
Christmas Jumper Day

9.30am Christingle Service
at St James' Church

Friday 17th December
Pantomime

End of Term



Our value of the month is:

Responsibility

*Responsibility is taking care of yourself, others and belongings.
It is down to you.*

Latin lessons

- We will be introducing Latin to all our children in Key Stage 2 from this September. This will replace the teaching of French. With around 50% of the English language stemming from Latin roots, there are rich opportunities for exploring the origin of words (etymology) across many subjects. Research shows that Latin helps children with their grasp of basic grammar and syntax and also builds their vocabulary. The Brooke Weston Trust have bought into the Minimus scheme which will support us in delivering Latin lessons and we look forward to seeing how the children engage in this new initiative.



Sending Spellings Home

- As a school we have decided that we will no longer be sending spellings home each week for children to learn and be tested on back in school. We find that learning and testing spelling in this way does not have a significant impact on children's spelling ability. They may be able to spell a word correctly for a test but very often this does not transfer into their written work. We also find that some children become anxious about spelling tests. If any parents wish to do spelling work at home, the key spellings for each year group are on pages 35-41 of the new learning logs and you could give your child a set of words each week to practise. We will of course, be continuing to teach spelling each week in every class as part of our English curriculum.

Reading Evening

- On Thursday 23rd September from 6.00pm we will be holding a reading information session to explain how we teach early reading. This session is open to Rowan and Oak class parents.



Gretton Funday - this Sunday from 12.00-5.00pm

- The PSA will be holding a tombola stall at the funday to raise funds for the school so if you are there please visit the stall and have a go.

After School Clubs

- We are hoping to start a range of after school clubs during this term. We have arranged a "musical theatre" club for a Wednesday after school which will include singing, dancing and drama and an "MMA" martial arts club on a Friday. Look out for further details on how to sign up for these.

Curriculum Overviews and Homework Grids

- Your child should have brought home a curriculum overview which outlines what the children will be learning this term and a homework grid which explains how parents can support their learning at home. All of these documents will shortly be on the school website in the parent information section.

Piano Lessons

- If your child would like to learn to play the piano we will be offering 1:1 lessons here in school at £10 for a 20 minute lesson. Please contact the school office for more information.
office@grettonprimary.org



**Thank
You**

The staff would like to thank the parents for the lovely gifts which they received at the end of last term. The parents of Gretton are extremely kind and thoughtful and this is much appreciated by the staff in school.