

Newsbites

November 2021

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The Head's Update

Dear All,

What have we been up to?

Now that we are in the start of Term 2, it is fantastic to see the children really focusing upon the week's ahead.

In school, in EYFS and KS1, we have been focusing upon phonics and Early Reading. More information is included later.

EYFS have settled in well and we have been really proud to see them having a go at the exciting activities Miss Piercy sets out each day. By now, you should have had an opportunity to see some of this on Tapestry and to add what you have been doing at home. For more information, please see Miss Piercy.

Across the school, in English we are focusing upon showing what we know each time we write – we call these our non-negotiables. This includes, for example, using our best handwriting and remembering to edit for punctuation or spellings we know before we think we have 'finished' a piece of work. Editing is an important step in the writing process.

In maths, we continue to develop our use of jottings – listing, number lines, calculations, part-whole models to support our work. Times tables and division recall continue to be a focus as we know how this knowledge really supports accuracy in calculation. This year we are also focusing upon reasoning and explaining how we know something is true – sometimes, always or never.

This term we hope to have more opportunities when we will be able to invite you into school – for workshops, activities or information. This is dependant on Covid advice and we will keep you updated.

Mrs Mackinnon – Headteacher

Enjoy our latest Newsbites and have a great month

Greenmeadow Keeping Healthy

Here are some of the ways in which we keep healthy across the day as suggested when talking to our children☺

1. Feel ready when you get up – it can help if you get what you need ready the night before.
2. Do something you like – this could be a club, hobby or just spending time with a friend.
3. Make sure you drink enough water.
4. Talk to someone if you are feeling sad or angry. Talking can help us understand or just make you feel better.
5. Do some sport – this could be walking to school, PE, running at playtime, a club or activity at home.
6. Have some fruit and vegetables.
7. Make sure you find something to laugh about – or tell someone a joke so you can share a smile or make them laugh.

Healthy Lifestyles

Clubs and Activities

Competitions and Opportunities to Represent the School

Last term, Mrs Balan took a group of children from across KS2 to represent the school in the Swindon Cross Country competition at Lydiard Academy. Mrs Balan said that the children were great ambassadors for the school and showed a great drive to do their best. This term, we have a group who are going to represent the school in the Football competition. Good luck to them all!

Over half term, we had a group who attended Football activities at Swindon Town. Feedback from the club was that the children really improved their skills and worked well with others. Brilliant!

Celebrating Effort and Achievement Outside School

We know that many of our children join in sports beyond the school day. Una in Y5 represents Wiltshire in Tennis, Anthony in Y3 is a strong football player and Harry M in Y6 plays hockey for a club. Well done! If your child has a talent or represents a club, please let us know as we would love to celebrate this with them.

Clubs

Clubs have started well last term and have a real buzz. There are still a few spaces, so please contact the office if you would like to book a space.

DAY	CLUB	YEAR GROUP	TIME	TEACHER
Monday	Forest School	Yr1, Yr2, Yr3 & Yr4	3.30-4.30pm	Wild Inspired
Monday	Football	Yr1 & Yr2	3.30-4.15pm	Miss Willis
Tuesday	Ball Skills	Yr3 & Yr4	3.30-4.15pm	Miss Willis
Tuesday	Dance	Yr3 & Yr4	3.30-4.30pm	Miss Bluck
Wednesday	Football	Yr5 & Yr6	3.30-4.30pm	Soccer Excellence
Wednesday	Netball	Yr4, Yr5 & Yr6	3.30-4.15pm	Miss Willis
Thursday	Multisports	Yr4, Yr5 & Yr6	3.30-4.15pm	Miss Willis



Ways in which we can support development in reading

Here are some of the ways in which we can support progress and development in reading



1. Try to do your 5 reads each week – regular practice helps us remember phonemes / words and builds our fluency and knowledge.
2. Make it fun – find a time of day when you can sit down and enjoy the books together – this might be when you get up, when you get home or at bedtime.
3. Encourage your child to also read or hear stories that they love. This could be a favourite bedtime story or you could agree to share read a book together.
4. Read familiar stories or nursery rhymes – knowing these gives ideas when it comes to writing!
5. Talk about the stories and information that they read – what can they remember / tell you? Did anything surprise them? What do they think will happen next?





Phonics and Early Reading

How do we teach phonics and early reading?

Phonics and early reading starts on the first day of EYFS. We follow a progressive scheme which builds up children's knowledge of phonemes (the smallest unit of sound e.g. a, ai, th, or ee) and graphemes (the way we represent this in writing). Each day in EYFS, Y1 and Y2, we teach new phonemes and graphemes whilst also providing opportunities to reinforce previous knowledge. To help the children retain these we use catchphrases as shown below:

Catchphrase	Grapheme
 tail in the rain	ai
 a light in the night	igh

Building from this we show how to form each of the letters. An example is shown below:

Grapheme and mnemonic	Picture card	Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase
 S	 snake	Show your teeth and and let the s hiss out ssssss ssssss	Under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail.

Further information is shown on our website in the tab – learning and phonics.

A key part of phonics is ensuring that we pronounce the phonemes accurately. Examples and further information is included with the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/i2Q2Hat2CZg?rel=0>
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Pz1btyNd5sM?rel=0>
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/9Y9KM4Jwer8?rel=0>
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/shISQrleibs?rel=0>
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/tKUEQFXXfYY?rel=0>
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/wxRMoHynvy0?rel=0>

Safeguarding Updates

Online safety

We continue to work on E-Safety in school - teaching the children to not share personal information and how to report any concerns that they have. In school, we have filtering system which restricts access when the children are online. These are one of the key ways in which we keep our children safe. At home, the following are some of the ways in which you can work with your child to keep them safe online:

- Look at using a filtering system, such as Norton, so that your child can not access inappropriate or age inappropriate content
- Talk to your child so they know what to do if they see something or have a worry when they are online at home
- Set agreed rules re internet / phone usage e.g. computers are used in the front room or let them know that you will be regularly checking their messaging and deleted / history

We keep updating the safety page on our website with useful guides for parents – we have recently added information on Squid game, Omegle and tiktok. These are all set with age guidance above the age of the children in our school and so should not be accessed. Please see these guides for further information

<https://www.greenmeadow-pri.swindon.sch.uk/learning/internet-safety>

Who to go to for guidance or help:

If you want any further guidance you can speak to our Safeguarding Team:

- Mrs Mackinnon, Mrs McDonald, Mrs Sainsbury and Mrs Vaughan

For e-safety concerns you can also speak to Mrs Wiles or your child's class teacher.

Family Contact Point- 01793 466903

NSPCC safeguarding helpline- 0808 800 5000





Is your child starting school in September 2022?

Come and have a look around our school, visits are available for you and your child.
You can see the school in action, meet our friendly staff and have your questions answered.

We strive for excellence for all!

www.greenmeadow-pri.swindon.sch.uk



Primary school applications need to be made by 15th January 2022



Topic work in Mrs Sainsbury and Mrs Balan's Classes – Learning About Ancient Egypt

The children in Mrs Sainsbury's and Mrs Balan's classes have been learning about Ancient Egypt. To support this work, in the last week of term, they had a fun, fact-filled theme day with many activities to consolidate their learning. The children painted sunset silhouette paintings (linking science and the topic of light); they designed and made Egyptian honey bread (using plaiting and sculpting techniques learnt in DT); in English they followed instructions, learning how to play an old Egyptian board game; and in maths in Mrs Sainsbury's class, they cracked Ancient codes using hieroglyphics and in Mrs Balan's, they made pyramids using cubes. It was a great day and they can't wait for their theme day part two this term.



Key Dates

What's happening this month?



Thursday 11th November Remembrance Day

If your child is in beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows, brownies or guides, they can come in in their uniform on this day. Thanks to all who have bought poppies and the items for this cause.

Friday 19th November Children in Need Day

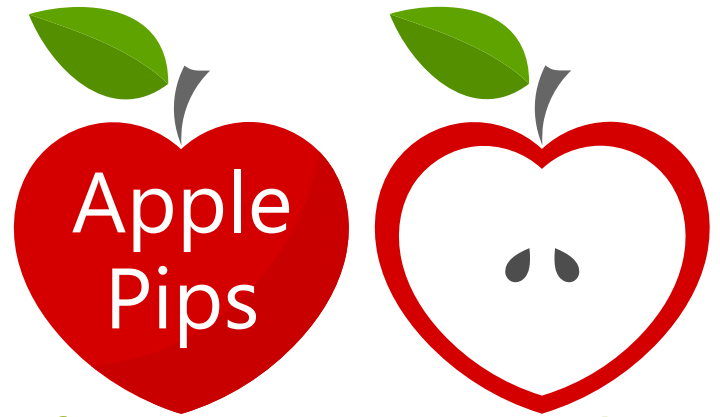


On this day everyone can come in wearing fancy dress – your choice but remember it is cold at the moment!

Further information will be sent out soon!

Beat the Street

Thanks to everyone who took part – for the second year running we came top in our group! Let's keep walking, riding and scooting.



Information we would like to share

We are wanting to make sure we share with you contacts for key staff. Class emails can be used for communicating with teachers.

If you have an SEND question which you would like support with, please contact our SENDco Mrs Lanigan (congratulations Ms Thompson) on

sendco@greenmeadow-pri.swindon.sch.uk

SEND coffee morning

Thanks to all who came last term – we will be holding another later in the term, watch out for more information.

Parent Support Advice (PSA)

Jacqui Cook our PSA is available to meet for drop in sessions on Friday 26th November. Jacqui can offer help and guidance on a range of topics – sleeping, eating, behaviour or other areas.

These slots are first come. Please call on the office to book one of these on 01793 521141 or email admin@Greenmeadow-pri.swindon.sch.uk



Email: admin@greenmeadow-pri.Swindon.sch.uk