



NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2012.

# Gleadless Primary School

‘The best for every child; the best from every child’

## SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: 0114 2396130/0114 2399705

Email: enquiries@gleadless.sheffield.sch.uk

Happy New Year! From the stories the children have been telling me it would seem they have all had an enjoyable Christmas.

## WELCOME!

Since our last newsletter a number of new staff have joined us: Mrs Lazenby as the new school cook (the dinners are delicious!) and Mrs Little and Mrs Cryer as lunchtime supervisors on the Frith Road site. Mrs Westerby has returned from maternity leave. We also have a new Chair of Governors, Mrs Whitehouse, many thanks to her for taking over this new and challenging role. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to express many thanks to Mrs Garner for all her assistance over the last four years. Mrs Garner has become our Vice Chair of Governors so is still a part of the governor’s team and will be on hand to advise Mrs Whitehouse.

I would also like to thank all parents for their help, patience and comments in respect of the new arrangements for the beginning and end of the school day. The new arrangements now seem to be working smoothly.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Y2 Geography (Centertainment) trip	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 – 12.30
Y2 Mini Olympics Tournament (English Institute of Sport)	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 – 2.30
Y5 Victorian Classroom trip	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February – Y5H Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February – Y5MW	9.00 – 3.00
Gymnastics Competition	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	3.00 – 6.00
Y3 Mosque trip	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00 – 12.00
Half Term Holiday	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	
Children return to school	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	
Y4 Castleton Residential Parents’ Meeting	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	3.30 – 4.00
Y3 ‘Minister of Chocolate’ visit	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	9.00 – 3.00
Parent’s E-safety sessions	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Times to follow at a later date

Book Fair	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30 – 4.00
Y6 Netball Tournament ( King Ecgbert's School)	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30 – 6.00
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March & Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30 – 6.00
Y3 Maxwell Ayamba Fairtrade visit	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 – 3.00
Y4 Castleton Residential	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March – Y4C Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March - Y4H	
Y1 Cresswell Crags trip	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 – 3.00
Last Day of Term	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	
Easter Holidays	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	
Children return to school	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	

## **QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

Due to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee taking place this year the Spring Bank holiday will take place from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June falls within this week's holiday and that day has been declared a public holiday. This means that schools have an additional day closed to compensate for the public holiday. The additional day will be taken on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June which will mean the children will not return to school after the Spring Bank Holiday until **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

## **IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN OR QUERY**

Most issues can be dealt with quite easily by your child's class teacher or a member of the office staff. If you have an issue or complaint that you would like to speak to someone about I would appreciate it if you could follow the correct procedure. We do try to deal with all issues as quickly and fairly as possible but it is easier to deal with them if you follow the steps below.

1. Contact the school office (contact details above) and give a brief outline of your query, they may be able to answer it immediately. If not, or if it is confidential, they can arrange an appointment to speak to the appropriate person eg. Class teacher, Learning Mentor (Mrs Green), Special Needs Co-ordinator (Mrs Whitlock), School Business manager (Miss Udall), Early Years Assistant Headteacher (Mrs Wright).  
**Please note the school offices do not open until 8.30 am in the morning.**
2. If after speaking to the appropriate person you feel that further action is needed please arrange an appointment to see the Head or Deputy Headteacher.
3. If after this you are still not happy with the outcome you should follow the Local Authority complaints policy available on the school website or from the school office.

## **INDOOR SHOES**

We have noticed that plimsolls are not the most robust shoes to be used as indoor shoes. Quite a number of children are walking around school in plimsolls that are becoming tatty causing them to trip and fall. If you would prefer your child to have a pair of trainers, or

similar, that they can use as indoor shoes that would be fine. I would appreciate it if these trainers are plain and either black or white, there is no need to buy expensive multicoloured designer trainers. Please remember if you do decide to use the option of trainers, your child will still need a pair of plimsolls to use for PE and a pair of shoes for outdoors.

## **SCHOOL BUILDING**

As you are aware we have been liaising with the Local Authority and The Department for Education (DFE) about the prospect of Gleadless having a new school building. A bid has been placed under the Priority Schools Building programme. The last details we reported were that decisions would be made by the end of December. The DFE has extended this time scale and their website says that a decision will be made during the Spring Term. i.e. before Easter. We wait with anticipation and can assure you that the Governing body will inform parents at the earliest opportunity. We are all eager to improve your child's learning environment as soon as possible.

## **CHARITY COLLECTIONS**

I would once again like to thank you for your generosity and support with our fund raising events and charity collections. Listed below are the amounts collected for the events that took place in school last term.

Children in Need	£423.52
Angelman's Foundation (Christmas concert collections)	£654.38

Sponsored Bounce £1508.69 collected by the children plus £500 from HSBC making a grand total of £2008.69. This is being used to enable the school to participate in the School Sports Partnership, giving children access to sporting events across the city. We will also be purchasing some school team wear.

Some of you will remember that last year the children were involved in a 'Speedmark' event to raise funds. The children have now decided what they would like this money to be spent on. On the Ridgehill Avenue site the money will be used to purchase some new play equipment for the children to use at break and lunchtimes. On the Frith Road site the money will be spent on new playground markings, so that children will have clearly allocated marked areas to play their different games.

## **READING AT HOME**

We are eager to improve children's reading skills. Being a good reader is really important in order for children to succeed. Reading skills are taught in school on a daily basis and children regularly read with teachers, other staff and volunteers. We have noticed that those children who read regularly at home usually make the fastest progress and seem to enjoy reading. We would like you as parents to support your children and encourage them to read a book with you or talk to you about a book they are reading themselves. This does not have to be every night and for a long period of time but we would expect all children to read at home for approximately 10 minutes, at least 3 times a week. Sharing a book not only develops your child's reading ability but can assist your child in a number of different areas such as communication, developing imagination, and broadening their general knowledge and understanding of the world.

## **PARENT E-SAFETY SESSIONS**

Mrs Green has been successful in her application for a grant from the 'Awards for All' programme, which is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The money has been used to fit the hall on the Frith Road site with a new audio-visual interactive sound system. This will be a huge bonus in assemblies, concerts, and when having whole school training sessions. Another bonus is that we will be able to hold special sessions for parents.

One of the sessions we are planning to run for parents is E-safety. Children have already been learning in school about how to use computers safely, how to report any cyber-bullying incidents and which sites they are allowed to use legally. Mrs Green will be holding a parent information session in school with information from a project called 'Think You Know.' The training will explore the same issues that have been covered with the children but also advise parents on how to be aware of and monitor your child's on line usage. The date of these sessions will be Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. We will send you further details of the times at a later date.

## **PARENT HELPERS**

Thank you to all the parents/grandparents and volunteers that help in school. There are a wide variety of activities that take place in school where parents can come in to help. This could be for school trips, to listen to the children read, art & craft sessions and special activity sessions. If you might be interested in coming into school to help please speak to the staff in either of the school offices and they can organise the relevant checks. Parent/grandparent helpers are so helpful, please do consider if you can offer some time.

Later in the year we will also be looking for parents to volunteer to help with the school's PTA, FROGS – Friends of Gleadless School. The number of parents involved in the current group has greatly reduced as their children have left Gleadless and they are now ready to "hand over the reins" to a new committee. Becoming a part of this group involves parents and staff working together to organise school fund-raising activities. Events which have taken place in the past are Christmas and Summer Fairs, discos, musical evenings, fashion shows, etc. These meetings would take place during the evening probably on a termly basis or more often if an event is due to take place.

Please fill in the attached form if you can help in any way.

## **PARKING**

I am sorry to keep mentioning parking but I have again received a number of complaints about the way people are parking their cars when dropping off and picking up their children.

Can I please ask you to be more considerate when you are parking your car. Please make sure you do not park across yellow lines and zigzags, across the main gates to the buildings, on the pavement in front of the Ridgehill Avenue building or obstruct or block any private driveways. It is only a matter of time before someone is injured.

**Please don't let this happen. Please park in a safe place. We will give registration details of any cars parked illegally to the police.**

## PIANO SALE

We are planning to sell one of the school pianos. It is a piano that used to be kept in one of the classrooms and was used for music lessons. As the class numbers have increased the piano had to be moved for more space and has been kept at the bottom of the dining room on the Frith Road site. The piano is in reasonable condition and has been professionally tuned on a regular basis. The piano is a traditional upright in light oak and would be ideal for any child who is interested in or already learning to play the piano. If you would be interested in looking at or buying the piano please contact Mrs Rhodes on 01142399705.

## DRINKS BOTTLES

Please can you make sure you send your child to school with a re-fillable drinks bottle. We have a number of children in school who on a regular basis are not bringing a bottle into school. We have water coolers scattered around the school where children can get a drink of water at anytime but they do need a drinks bottle to hold the water!

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Please fill in and return to the school office indicating in what capacity you would be interested in helping. Please feel free to tick more than one box!

# VOLUNTEER HELPERS

I would be interested in helping in school for the following activities.

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| School trips              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reading volunteer         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Helping in class sessions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FROGS                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Name.....

Contact number/s.....

### Children in school

Child's name..... Class .....

Child's name..... Class .....

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