



Green Park Community Primary School

February Newsletter

Message from Mr. Hawkins

Time is a relative thing when you work in education. We're already halfway through the academic year. The hustle and bustle of school life means that days and weeks pass in the blink of an eye. The days are getting longer, and we live in the hope that it will finally stop raining, and we can start to think of Spring!

I was speaking to a parent the other day and I commented that schools and moreover, teachers are probably the most critiqued entities in the public sector. Everyone seems to know what we ought to be doing better (especially those politicians who haven't lived in the real world for some time). We're also the most reflective group of people. We constantly think about our children, our classes, our lessons and how we can do better with them. That's what makes a good school- knowing what we need to improve on, but also recognising when we're doing a really good job.

I'm extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated staff- who go above and beyond on a daily basis. I hope you agree and more importantly, that you trust us with your children.

To that end, I am asking that parents stop sending their children to school with devices that are advertised as 'attention toys' or 'sensory toys'. There is no doubt that some children benefit from such devices, but not every child needs one. We work closely with parents, whose children we feel would benefit from such a device and we provide one or advise the parent on the best device to give their child. There are clear rules about the device, such as when it can be used and when it must be put away.

Many parents believe that their child needs such a device, when, actually, their child is demonstrating expected behaviour when being asked to concentrate for a period of time. The device then actually becomes a distraction and reduces that child's ability to develop their concentration skills. Our children have become a generation that struggle to be bored and we, as adults, want to help them with this, by providing constant stimulation. This can be in the form of sensory devices, but more than often is a screen for them to look at.

The benefits of boredom are vastly under-rated. A bored child will find ways, given time, to stop being bored, by being creative and imaginative. By providing a screen every time a child feels bored, we're limiting this development.

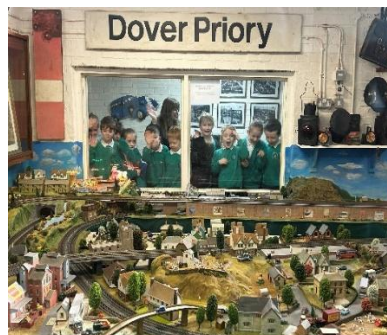
Try it during the half-term break. Rather than a device, provide your child with some other resources- cardboard boxes, traditional toys, art materials- and let them solve their boredom for themselves.

Back at school, we are happy to work with parents who would like to discuss whether their child needs a sensory device, but please have that conversation with us and do not send your child to school with one.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 2 Blog

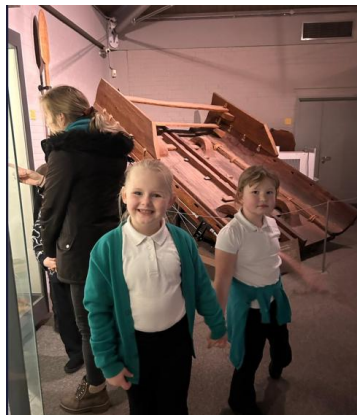
This term, the children visited Dover Transport Museum. After a brisk hike up the steps we arrived to explore the fascinating collection of classic and vintage vehicles they have on site. From trains and busses to cars and planes, the children were amazed to learn about the changes in transport even in recent years.



From tiny footsteps to giant leaps laughing and learning all the way

Year 3 Blog

The children visited Dover museum at the end of term to see the famous Bronze Age boat discovered just down the road. They took part in two engaging workshops, where the children got to handle real prehistoric objects from the collection and discover what they helped us to learn about life thousands of years ago.



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Dates for your diaries:

13TH February – Last Day of Term

23rd February – INSET DAY – NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

24th February – Start of Term 4

24th February – Years 4 & 5 Immersion Day

25th February – Year 6 Trip – Ramsgate Tunnels – Royal Class

26th February – Year 6 Trip – Ramsgate Tunnels – Brompton Class

5th March – World Book Day

8th March – Science Week

10th March – Year 6 – Dance Workshops

12th March – Tuck Shop

13th March – Science Day

16th March – Year 1 – Fossil Hunting – Richmond Class – Letter to follow

17th March – Year 1 – Fossil Hunting - Hyde Class – Letter to follow

19th March – Year 2 – Florence Nightingale Workshop

19th March – Year 3 – Samphire Hoe Trip

20th March – Red Nose Day – Tuck Shop

24th March – Years 2 & 3 - Class Assembly – 9.15am

25th March – EYFS – Dover Castle Trip

25th March – Paddington – Assembly – 2.30pm

25th March – Year 6 – Assembly – 2.30pm

27th March – IRock Concert

30th March – Year 1 – Dino Man Experience – Letter to follow

31st March – Years 4 & 5 – Assembly -9am

1st April – Easter Hat Parade – 2pm

2nd April – Prize Assembly – 9am

Parents Consultations will be taking place this term – dates to be confirmed

2nd April – Last Day of Term

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PE Kits

Years R, 1, 2 & 3

Polite reminder, please ensure that PE Kits are in school at all times 😊



ATTENDANCE

Term



Brompton Class – 95.39%



Royal Class – 94.36%



Olympic Class – 94.09%

HAVE A LOVELY HALF TERM

CHILDREN ARE BACK IN
SCHOOL ON
TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

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