The Linces
Buckland
Dover
CT16 2BN
01304 822663
headteacher@greenpark.kent.sch.uk
www.greenparkcps.co.uk

Thursday 22nd October 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope you have a fun-packed half-term break planned. Our Year 6 pupils, who are currently on their residential trip, will certainly need a rest, not to mention the staff who are with them!

I wanted to bring your attention to a few updates and key issues:

Governing Body:

At the end of the Summer, Nigel Collins, our long-standing Chair of Governors retired from the Governing Body. Nigel has been a Governor since the very beginning of Green Park in 2008 and has played a huge part in making it the wonderful place it is today. Nigel's work has often gone unseen by those not on the inside, but his support to our staff and children has been immense. Our heartfelt thanks go to Nigel for his service to the school.

Our new Chair of Governors is Chris Button, who was elected at our first Governors' meeting of the academic year. If you are interested in the work Governors do, or in becoming a governor, please let the school know.

Attendance:

It's fairly obvious that coming to school every day is directly linked with academic progress, but it can also play a major role in reducing school anxiety. By making coming to school a daily event, we avoid the build-up and help to establish a pattern of behaviour which will serve the children long into their adult lives. We are working really hard with families who struggle to get their children to school every day, as well as providing incentives for good attendance to our children.

We understand that children will get ill, as we all do, and we're not suggesting sending ill children to school. One of the biggest factors actually affecting attendance in our school is holidays during term time. We understand that the cost of holidays is a key factor. Currently, 17% of

children in the school are classed as Persistently Absent (this means they have attendance below 90%). The vast majority of this is due to family holidays during term time. Hopefully, these children will now come to school every day, allowing their attendance to grow.
In recognition of the cost of holiday struggle, we have tried our best to arrange our staff training days to create a week in June, where families could take their holiday, at a reduced rate. This week is the week beginning 7th June. Staff will be holding training on 7th, 8th and 9th June, meaning that if you needed to take a holiday outside school holiday dates, your child would only miss 2 days of school rather than 5. I hope families will consider this when booking any holidays and avoid taking holidays during term time at other times in the year. Our aim is to increase our yearly attendance figure so that it is in the line with the National Target of 94%+ (ours was 92.2% last year). We hope you will help us to achieve this.

Parking:

I am appreciative of those parents that are considerate to our community and avoid parking on the zig-zag lines, double yellow lines or inconsiderately. As the winter weather draws in, please can I ask that parents continue to consider our neighbours when driving to the school. It is always better to park a short distance away and walk up the hill.

Fidget toys:

Please can I remind parents not to send their children to school with fidget toys. They become a significant distraction and cause more problems than they solve. Our teachers work closely with Mrs Guy, our SENDCO and will identify if they feel your child would benefit from a fidget device. If they believe they will, an appropriate device will be provided for them by the school.

Charity fund raising:

Our most recent Tuck Shop event raised £270, which will be shared between Dover Food Bank and the Dover Community Supermarket.
Thank you for your support.

Sports:

Our Boys' football team competed in the McCarthy Cup qualifying tournament recently. It was their first time playing as a team and they performed really well, only losing 1 of their 5 games and winning 2. They finished in 3rd place of the 6-team event, narrowly missing out on a place in the finals.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half-term break. The school returns on Monday 2nd November.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Hawkins