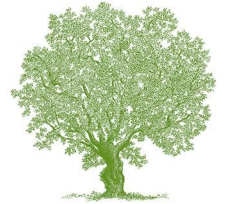


Learning together and having fun



GREENWOOD TREE  
ACADEMY TRUST

20th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone, and a big welcome to those who have recently joined us in Reception and throughout the school.

It is lovely to see all the children looking fit and healthy. They have clearly been outdoors enjoying the lovely weather. I hope you have managed to enjoy some of the weather and got to spend time together as a family especially as Autumn, it would appear, has now arrived.

Over the Summer staff have been very busy. **Mrs Greening** got married and is now **Mrs Peppin**. **Mr Dailey** also got married. We wish each of them every happiness in their respective futures.

I would like to welcome **Miss Charlotte Grimshaw** as Puffins class teacher. Some of you, I know, met her in July. The children seem to have already settled in very well with her and have been working hard.

Thank you so much for your continued support with ensuring your children come to school looking smart and equipped to learn, as it really does make a difference to how the children behave and to their sense of belonging and pride in their school. I believe it also sends a clear message to the children and visitors that we respect ourselves and are serious about our learning. I have seen lots of lovely new, smart school shoes too which is important as we are being increasingly active in all of our lessons. Please also ensure your child has wellies that fit him/her in school.

I know it can be expensive and often frustrating when items then get mislaid or lost. Please ensure ALL items are clearly labelled and we will do our very best to make sure items are returned.

Every year we spend a lot of time reflecting on the year and looking at how we can make improvements for the following year.

We are especially proud of our results last academic year:

In **Reception** (EYFS) 70% of the children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD). In Reading and Maths 80% of the class achieved age related expectations. In writing 70% of the class achieved age related expectations with a quarter of those children also receiving greater depth in all areas.

The **Year 1** Phonics check show that 77% of those children met the expected standard.

**Year 2** results were especially good this year with 91% of the children achieving age related expectations in Reading and Writing and 100% achieving this level in Maths. In Reading and Maths 45% also achieved greater depth, whilst 9% achieved greater depth in Writing.

We have been reviewing our **School Development Plan** from last year and the 2018-19 version will shortly be available to view in the school hall outside main Reception and also on the website. We continue to strive towards even better outcomes for your children and the plan will reflect this. Looking at these results and reflecting on the year, the key areas will be:

- improving children's spelling (poor spelling meant some children didn't achieve age related expectations)

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- increasing the number of children who achieve age related and greater depth in Writing,
- making lessons ever more active and engaging
- focus on Growth mindsets and helping children to understand how their brain works and how they learn.

We are also following our old Year 4 children and working closely with the Middle School to ensure they are supported and challenged. This is, I believe, a real strength of the trust.

Our greatest area of concern continues to be around **funding**, which in turn affects staffing. I mentioned in previous correspondence the pressures on schools. Our biggest challenge is maintaining excellent teaching and learning while managing extra costs and a diminishing budget. Our funding is based on the number of the children in school the previous year and that is what we need to focus on. In short, we need to have more children in school on our register to maintain existing staffing structures, and to boost our funding.

The **Maths No Problem** workbooks your children use (two a year) cost the school a lot of money each year and haven't yet been ordered because of this. I am, therefore, asking for your help by way of a **voluntary contribution** of £10 per book. This would be £20 per child per year and would greatly help towards the cost of using this scheme in school, which has proven to be so effective. We know Ofsted were impressed by the children's confidence in Maths. If you can send your contribution to the school office we would greatly appreciate it.

I will also be writing to our MP and am working with other organisations to share our concerns with a wider audience. It may be that I am able to join colleagues in London on 28th September to share our concerns at Westminster.

Dorset Council have sold the buses which have provided reduced cost travel for us in the past. Initial investigations suggest that other coaches will be more expensive. Typically transport cost is the most expensive part of any trip I would suggest that trips will typically cost between £10 and £15 per trip per child and there is likely to be two per class. Hopefully, this will help you to budget for them. I appreciate that these costs add up, especially if there are siblings but hopefully advance notice will help, and we always endeavour to keep the cost to a minimum.

You will shortly be receiving a list of dates for the upcoming year. I hope you will find this helpful. You will also be receiving a **Newsletter** from each class. Each class takes it in turn to produce one newsletter each half term, so keep an eye out for that.

Autumn 1	Year 2
Autumn 2	Year 4
Spring 1	Year 1
Spring 2	Year 3
Summer 1	Year R

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As I mentioned in my newsletter in July **Mrs Philippa Austin** will be going on Maternity leave at the end of October. Mrs Gough is due to return to school in January from her maternity leave. Mrs Austin teaches in Turtles on a Tuesday and Wednesday. We are currently looking the best option to cover this, and I will let you know as soon as a firm decision has been made.

I will soon be arranging **Parent Forum** dates. Each class has two representatives. If you are a parent in **Reception** class and would be interested in joining us, please let me know. I will accept parents on a first come, first served basis.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you of the **Drop off zone**. This has worked well to ensure the smooth running of the car park. Please ensure that it is **ONLY** used for Drop offs in the mornings. Some trees have been damaged from children swinging and playing on them after pick up. Please ensure that your child is behaving appropriately and is properly supervised, after pick up and on the way home.

**Tapestry** -which you may remember from Reception, has been really appreciated by you as parents and we have decided to use it throughout the whole school as a tool to improve communication about your child's learning specifically and to be able to share aspects of the children's learning as and when it takes place. You will be receiving more information about this shortly but I hope that this is something that will enhance you and your child's school experience.

I look forward to a full, busy and exciting Autumn term and thank you again for your on going support.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hunt  
Headteacher