

# Goodrich Church of England Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Achieve ∞ Believe ∞ Care

20th Edition – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Parents and Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

I wanted to write a little about the new National Curriculum, Assessment without levels and new tests for Year Two and Six. I realise that there is an awful lot on social media at the moment and I wanted to let you know my thoughts. I believe in a state education system and try to work with it even when I don't necessarily agree with it. I realise that standards and testing in some way is important in tracking children as they make their way through schools, and holding schools to account. I have high aspirations for all children to make good or better progress and believe in working in partnership with families to that end.

As I have said previously, the curriculum expectations have increased significantly, as has the testing regime. I fundamentally disagree with many of the expected standards as being unobtainable for some children at age six or seven in terms of physical development. We have received information in dribs and drabs and sometimes information has been brought out, and when obvious issues have been pointed out, withdrawn. The tests are very difficult (Mrs Taylor, Mrs Jones and Miss Lillie would be happy to share examples) and children who have been coping well with the previous curriculum, will in **many** cases, not meet the new standard. We have to accept this whilst also doing our best to teach the new curriculum and fill curriculum gaps for the four years that they weren't doing this curriculum. Some schools are abandoning the majority of the rest of the curriculum in order to increase their 'chances'. At Goodrich (and as the National Curriculum requires) we believe in a broad and balanced curriculum; we know that we need to maintain the children's interest in learning and enjoyment through a range of subjects and other curricular opportunities.

We have been working closely with our WVLN schools and I appreciate so much the support and moderation opportunities that this affords us. It is easy to feel that no one is listening and a little angry or powerless, but over the last couple of days I have been reminded of two things. First, my staff, who work tirelessly to take on the new information, targets, curriculum areas, clubs, trips, marking, planning and at the same time somehow manage to find the time and energy to present this as well thought out learning opportunities that engage the children. They are a fabulous group of professionals and I know how difficult this time is and thank them for sticking with it because they believe and want the absolute best for our children. Secondly, the wonderful children that you entrust to us. They are buzzing today with World Book Day energy, excited, enthusiastic and eager to do their best. Yesterday, some governors had the opportunity to chat to a number of children and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive about their attitudes to learning and infectious wit and humour.

Therefore, I hope that you will support me in my thinking. As always, we will push every child to confidently reach their potential in a supportive, nurturing way and be ambitious in delivering a new challenging range of standards. However, and most importantly, we will continue to work as a team to develop your children's curiosity and passion for learning in a broad and balanced way, recognising and taking time to celebrate what is unique and special about each of them.

Kind regards

*Miles*

Head teacher



## News from the classes

News from the classes		Attendance	This Week
<b>Wrens</b>	This week, Reception have been making different patterns out of shapes and counting objects and Year 1's have been using their number bonds to make numbers up to ten with money. In English, Year 1's have been looking at the different features in the text such as punctuation, rhyming words and repetition and Reception have been sequencing the pictures to retell the story. In our topic, we have been looking at everyday heroes and even got a visit from the police!	<b>Reception</b>	<b>97.2%</b>
<b>Robins</b>	This week in Maths, the Year 1's have started working with money and the Year 2's have been working very hard to learn some fractions. In English, we have been exploring the story language of Stick Man and started to write some of our own rhyming sentences.	<b>Year One</b>	<b>93.9%</b>
<b>Wood-peckers</b>	This week we have created movement sequences in P.E. inspired by our fossil pattern artwork. In English, we have started to research fascinating facts about our new 'Space' topic so that we can create non-chronological reports. In Maths, we have been applying our division skills when finding fractions of numbers.	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>96.4%</b>
<b>Owls</b>	This week, in Maths we have been adding and subtracting fractions. In science, we have been using our maths skills to sort and classify rocks, finding different ways to present our data. In English, we have been retelling the story of Beowulf using actions and writing story settings.	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>95.8%</b>
<b>Peregrines</b>	This week we have been learning and unpicking the story of Beowulf, and writing story settings which could be used in different genres, e.g. mystery, adventure. In Science we each completed a quiz to establish what we already knew about our new topic 'Earth and Space' and then we identified which areas we would like to further extend our learning in. In Maths, we have been finding percentages of numbers.	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>98.2%</b>
		<b>Year Five</b>	<b>95.8%</b>
		<b>Year Six</b>	<b>96.0%</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>96.2%</b>

# 🌸 Class Superstars 🌸

<b>Wrens</b>	<b>Robins</b>	
All of the class – for brilliant costumes and amazing story telling!	All of the class- what fantastic costumes!	
<b>Woodpeckers</b>	<b>Owls</b>	
Menna Sam S	Connor Violet Flo	Molly Ffyon Rose
<b>Peregrines</b>		
Rory Islay Max Tom		

## School Prayer



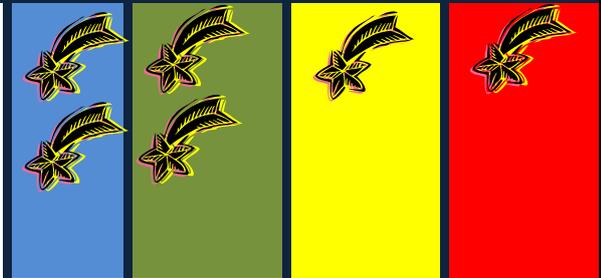
Dear God,  
 Bless our school,  
 Bless our teachers,  
 Bless our pupils,  
 Bless our families

Please help us to be kind and help us to  
 always try our best.  
 Let us remember, as many hands make a  
 house,  
 So many hearts make a school.  
 Amen

## Notices

- Many items of school uniform go missing and plenty have this term. Please can you check that you haven't accidentally got someone else's?? A blue TOG fleece coat has gone missing.
- As mentioned before, chasing payments for school meals, clubs etc is very time consuming. Please ensure payments for clubs, trips etc are paid on time and remember that school meals payments are due and payable in advance. If you have any queries re payment please see Tracy in the school office.

## Housepoints



## Tolerance and Mutual Respect

### Diary Dates



Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	TBC PM	Parents' Evening River Festival - OWLS
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	TBC	Parents' Evening
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	p.m.	Wren's Forest School
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	p.m. 19:00	Peregrine's Forest School PTFA Meeting
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	14:30	Celebration Worship
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	p.m.	Robin's Forest School
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	p.m.	Woodpecker's Forest School
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	18:00 – 20:00	Bunny Drive
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	<b>NO CLUBS THIS WEEK</b>	
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	AM	River Festival - OWLS
Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	09:30	Easter Service <b>**Last swimming lesson of this half term**</b>
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Last day of Spring Term Treasure Hunt	