

January 2021

NEWSLETTER

A HAPPY PLACE TO LEARN



MESSAGE FROM MRS YEOMAN

I cannot believe that we are almost at the end of January! The past three weeks have been really tough for us all and for those of you whom are balancing home-schooling alongside work, you absolutely deserve a medal! Although each Greatwood family has very different circumstances, challenges and battles that they are fighting the one thing that we all have in common is Greatwood.

The standard of remote learning that has been taking place is exceptional, but we all have those days/weeks where we struggle. I know that Gav (Mr Yeoman) is probably battling at this very moment to get Lennon to do his home schooling with Quinn running around, trying to run the household and also fit in his full-time job (being a firefighter) and trying to get out each day with the dog. I know that I would much rather be at work than having those daily battles that I know many of you are having!



NEW STAFF

We are delighted to be able to welcome three new members of staff to the Greatwood Team:

Mr Finch (Yes, you have read this correctly!) is back, his official post title is 'Catch-up Co-ordinator' he will be working with children throughout school to teach groups and individual children in order to close the gaps that have been created due to the pandemic.

Mrs Wright is our new member of staff in the office, you will most likely remember Mrs Wright from her days in the EMS. We are delighted that she has joined the team.

Miss Evans is our Nursery Apprentice, she has already started working in the HUB, we know that the nursery children will love her kind and caring nature.

If the last 12 months has taught us anything, it is that the Mental Health and Wellbeing of our staff, children and families will always be our number one priority. If you are having a 'bad day' please just let us know and then we are not chasing you for work. We can catch up with missed learning when we can return to school safely, but repairing the mental health and wellbeing of our community will not be a quick fix, so if it's one of those days, stay in your pyjamas, binge watch Netflix and be grateful for all of the good things that we all have.

Finally, I want to thank the incredible Greatwood team, they are working tirelessly to ensure that the standard of remote learning in place is Outstanding, that work is responded to and approved quickly.

They are also ensuring that the children of critical workers, children with EHCPs and vulnerable children are also receiving an Outstanding offer within school. The superb Admin team have worked tirelessly to set up rota's, contact parents and ensure that all families in receipt of FSM are receiving their food vouchers. Our catering and cleaning team are ensuring that children who are in school have hot meals every day and that the building is clean and safe to be in.

I cannot wait for the day when school is back to its 'normal self' with children coming in and taking part in Wake-up-shake-up first thing in the morning, whole school singing assemblies, celebration assemblies, extra-curricular activities and class performances.

In the meantime, I am in school every single day, so should you need anything (even a chat) please do not hesitate to contact us.



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PASTORAL SUPPORT

Mrs Smith (Greatwood's very own Fairy Godmother) has continued to work daily from home to support our Greatwood families. Please do not forget that she can help with arranging food parcels, 1:1 sessions with children and parents, supporting remote learning and has a wealth of links for family support. I know that many families were extremely grateful to have received Christmas parcels and 3 course meals that Mrs Smith arranged for them. If you do want to speak with Mrs Smith, please contact the school office and we will get her to give you a call.



ALDI VOUCHERS

We are proud that we have provided 25% of our Greatwood families with weekly Aldi vouchers (in place of providing a Free School Meal) these vouchers were provided from school funds, even when the Government did not have the system in place.

Many thanks to Joanne Busfield (our School Business Manager) and our amazing Greatwood Office staff for ensuring that our families had access to these vouchers (when nationally there was nothing in place). To eliminate the stresses involved with the scheme our office staff have printed off the vouchers for all families in receipt of FSM and they can be collected from the school office.



SNOW DAY FUN

Many thanks to all of our families who sent in their wonderful Snow Day photographs, it really did brighten what was a very tough week. Here are some of our favourite photographs that were sent in.



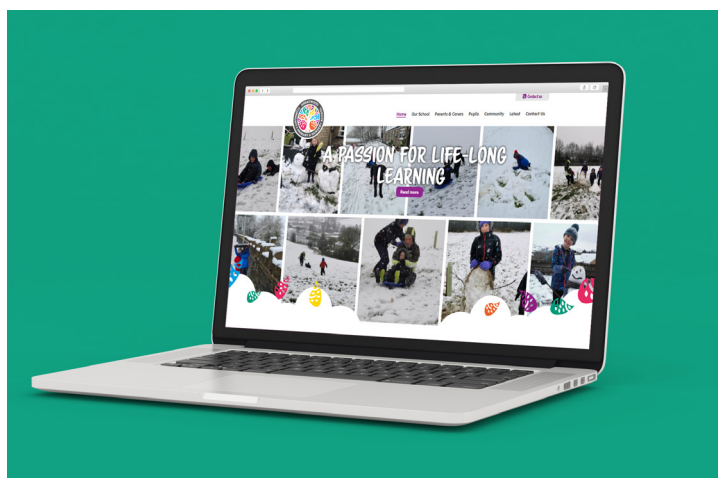
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LAPTOPS

Many thanks to Steve Gower for his support in sourcing, clearing and updating several laptops that are now being used by some of our Greatwood families. If any of you have an old laptop at home that could be donated to school and repaired by Steve then please let us know.



READING PLANET

Please do not forget that the children all have books allocated on Reading Planet, although an on-screen book isn't the same as a paper copy, this is as close as we can get at the moment. If you are having any problems or cannot see any books allocated then please contact the school office and Mrs Yeoman can allocate you some new books.



SKIPTON FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINT:

Over the past year Skipton Food Bank have supported over 40 Greatwood families on a weekly basis with food parcels. We would like to be able to give something back to the Food Bank, so will be collecting on their behalf (under the shelter at the front of school) if you would like to make a donation of food then please place it in the box under the shelter.

