

# Greenfields Federation Newsletter

Littlehaven Infant and Northolmes Junior Schools

Newsletter Date 18 February 2022



## Headteacher's Update



It has been lovely to see so many of you, in person or online this week having a chance to have a conversation about your child's learning with their class teacher. We never under-estimate how critical the communication between home and school is for a child to really flourish and succeed.

support this term would have certainly been a lot more tricky!

Thank you also to the staff who have provided the extra-curricular opportunities through clubs and visits. We have a few more ideas planned, especially at Northolmes where clubs have been a little depleted since Christmas – please keep an eye out on Parentmail.



This term has definitely been a busy one! I have been able to see some amazing learning opportunities in all the classes. There has been: Egyptian mummification ceremonies; outdoor learning which has included fire lighting; learning about the Romans, going on our travels with Beegu and exploring the world of fairytales.

As we move into the second half of this academic year we will look to further build on the successful start we have made and look to embed every child's learning to ensure they finish the year as strongly as possible.

You may not think it makes much of a difference but every time you hear your child read, practice their phonic sounds, count with them or help them learn the timestables it really makes a difference to their learning in school. We may sound like a broken record but the more fluent they become in these key skills the easier they will find accessing the whole school curriculum.

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I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff who have yet again proved what a resilient and adaptable group of people they are. I don't think we have had a week this term where we haven't had at least one member of staff off sick or unable to come into school. Without their

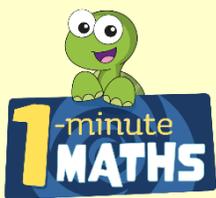
## 1-Minute Maths

The White Rose Maths Hub, whose resources and planning we use in school, have developed a free app to help support children with their number fluency. At the moment the app is only aimed at KS1 children but we will let you know if they release as KS2 version.

The app focuses on adding, subtracting and substitising. There is no specific route or starting point to the learning. You just choose a

topic and answer a series of randomly generated questions for 1 minute. When the minute is up, the questions are automatically marked and instant feedback is given. If your child is struggling on a question there is a 'hint' button to help.

The App is free to download from your usual app store.



## Curriculum News - Years 1/2

This term started dramatically for Year 1/2 when they discovered that there had been a crash on the field at Littlehaven which had made the BBC news! A small hole was discovered with broken and burnt Lego. We later found out that our friend Beegu the alien had sent some friends to meet us but their spaceship had malfunctioned and they'd hit a tree and crashed. Their names were Ogel, Olega and Oliga. We came in one morning and found one of them in each of our classrooms.



We wrote them letters telling them about ourselves and they told us that they were explorers. Unfortunately, their spaceship couldn't be fixed so they had decided to use an alternative method of transport- a balloon. They wanted to use a parachute so they could make a safe landing so we had to find out which material and shape of parachute would be the best. At the end of the week we put them in the basket and waved them off on their travels.



We soon heard that they had landed in Kenya in Africa and they had met some animals that lived there. We found out about lions and elephants and made fact pages about them. We also read a story set in Africa, Handa's Surprise, and this inspired us to prepare and make our own fruit salads. We have also looked

at the work of an African artist, Gakonga, and made our own artwork based on this style.

After Africa our friends went to a completely different climate; Antarctica. We learnt about the rockhopper penguins that live there before something strange happened- the Lego friends found a door on the middle of the ice and they went through it. They found that they had travelled in time! They were still in Antarctica but had joined Shackleton on his expedition and his boat had got stuck in the ice. This led to us becoming History detectives to find out what had happened.

Last week they sent us the challenge of proving we could be brave explorers so we spent an exciting morning completing explorer challenges. Luckily, they managed to come back through the door and are now thinking about going to visit some pandas so we are currently finding out facts about them.

They also said that if we completed the challenge they would send us something after half term so we are waiting to see what that might be!



## Positive Mental Health and Emotional Well-being at Greenfields Federation

At Greenfields Federation, we want to support every child's mental health and emotional well-being so that they feel happy, safe and ready to learn. We believe this should be fundamental to all that we do in our schools. We also recognise the impact that the last two years and the Pandemic has had on many of our children and our families and that this need is ever-growing.

This year, both schools will be aiming to achieve the Positive Mental Health and Well-being Award run by the National Children's Bureau. This will include promoting positive mental health and well-being for pupils, parents and staff. You will receive more details about this over the course of the year.

Initially, there will be a questionnaire sent out for all parents after the half term so that we can involve the whole school community in this process. Please look out for this questionnaire in your inbox and we would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete this.

Please do also sign up to our free parent webinar run by Mental Health charity Eikon on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm-8pm. This can either be accessed from online at home or if you are unable to access this at home we will also be streaming this at Northolmes Junior School. You will receive an email telling you how to sign up to take part in this and please do come and ask us if you have any questions

### School Safeguarding Team

If you are worried about something that your own, or another child has told you, or you think that they may be at risk of harm, please contact our Designated Safeguarding team:

Mrs Anderson  
(Lead)

Mrs Saunderson  
(Deputy)

Miss Woodland  
(Deputy)

Mrs Geoghegan  
(Deputy)

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthwe ek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>



**Webinar for Parents**  
**Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing**

Eikon are providing a free online session for parents. With the aim of helping parents to understand the factors affecting their child's wellbeing, we will provide simple but effective strategies that can help to improve wellbeing and mental health.

Topics covered:

- How the childhood brain develops and the brain-body connection
- 5 ways to wellbeing
- The importance of play
- Positive communication and connection
- Promoting good sleep

**Date:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
**Time:** 7:00pm – 8:00pm



## COVID-19 - Current Advice

To keep disruption to a minimum, please ensure that adults take LFT tests on a regular basis. School staff continue to test themselves twice a week.

If your child is unwell and particularly if they are displaying any symptoms related to COVID then please ensure that they take a LFT before they come to school.

If they have a positive result then they should not come to school and instead they should isolate at home. The first day of isolation

begins on the first full day after the test is taken. If your child then receives two negative LFT tests on consecutive days after day 5 of isolation then they can return to school. If they continue to test positive then they must complete the full 10 days of isolation. They should return to school at this point even if they haven't received a negative test.

If a member of your family tests positive for COVID then other family members should take daily LFT tests for 7 days but can continue daily life as long as results are negative.

## Safeguarding

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

### 10 Top Tips for Respect Online: A DIGITAL WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Even before lockdowns inflamed the situation, one in every five 10- to 15-year-olds was experiencing bullying online: abusive messages, having rumours spread about them or being excluded from group chats, for example. Through smartphones and tablets, we're used to being able to communicate from anywhere, at any time – but digital devices became commonplace so quickly that it caused a problem: as a society, we haven't properly adjusted to how different they've made life. Our tips can help you to build positive relationships online and avoid some of the potential issues.

**WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?**  
Etiquette is a set of rules to help us interact with others: like a code of respect. People follow this code every day (mostly without even thinking about it) and it can help us decide how to act in certain situations. 'Netiquette' (etiquette on the net – we see what they did there!) is the same, except it's designed to help us interact with others online, which is sometimes a whole different ball game.

- SEE THE OTHER SIDE**  
Usually when we're online, we can't see the other person's body language or tone of voice to give us clues about what we can say to them, or how to say it. Try to think what the situation might be like for them, how they're feeling and whether we'd say the same thing if they were actually there with us.
- HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON**  
Without a person physically there in front of us, it's easy to send something quickly – before we've really thought about whether it's helpful or kind. Just because we can do things quickly doesn't mean we should; it's better to pause for a second and think it through, instead of simply reacting.
- MIND YOUR LANGUAGE**  
People have invented loads of different ways to communicate online (emojis, abbreviations like LOL, TBH and so on). Some of these can be irritating to other people (such as USING CAPS SO IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING!), so it's important to stay aware of the style of language you're using.
- BE SURE BEFORE YOU POST**  
On social networks like Instagram or Facebook, vast numbers of people might see what you've posted, so if that's something negative about a person, it can feel hugely painful for them. If you're ever tempted to post something like that, ask yourself "do I really need to go public with this?"
- PROTECT YOURSELF**  
Always think very carefully before sharing any personal information with someone else or in a group. Once something's been put online, the sender loses any control over where it goes and who might see it. If you've got any uncertainty at all, it's a good idea to talk to a trusted adult about this first.
- KINDNESS IS CATCHING**  
Negative communication can spread rapidly online, but so can being kind and helpful (this happened quite a lot during lockdowns, for instance). A friendly, positive message can make a big difference to someone as well as helping us feel good about ourselves – so share the love!
- WAITING CAN BE HARD**  
When we've sent a message or posted something online, waiting for a reply or for someone to respond can make us anxious. It could be helpful to think whether you really have to message or post right now – or if you could wait until a better time when it will cause you less anxiety.
- THE NET LOVES ATTENTION**  
Most apps, games and sites use sophisticated technology that's designed to keep us coming back for more. It's important to keep this in mind when you feel the need to reach for your phone, tablet or console – once we understand this fact, it becomes easier to control how we use our digital devices.
- REPLY WISELY**  
Sometimes it's tempting to fire back an instant response to a post or message we don't like. How we respond is important, however – whether we reply privately to the person or on a platform where lots of people will see it. For example, makes a big difference to how whoever is receiving the message will deal with it.
- FORGIVE AND FORGET**  
Even though we try to avoid them, mistakes can – and do – happen online. They can sometimes feel like a bigger deal than they actually are. It's important to remember that we're all only human, and sometimes we mess up. Learn to forgive others and – just as importantly – to forgive yourself.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the medium.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.02.2022

## Reminders

### Please be on time every day

School starts at 8.50am at Northolmes and at 9.00am at Littlehaven. Please ensure that you arrive during the 10 minute drop-off period as being late disrupts the learning for your child. Being just 5 minutes late each day adds up to the equivalent of a missed school day every term.

### Uniform

Please work with us to ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform. Hoodies, trainers and boots are not part of our uniform at either school.

### Contact Details

If you have recently changed your phone number or have moved house please let the school office know so that we can keep our records up to date in case we need them in an emergency.

### Holidays / Time Off in Term Time

I am not able to authorise holidays or days off during school time except in very exceptional circumstances. Children have had significant disruption to their education over the past two years and it is therefore even more vital than ever that they attend school every day. Please remember that if a child has 10 or more unauthorised sessions of absence in a 10 week period then there will be a referral for a Fixed Penalty Notice. Further information about absences from school can be found at: [School absences - West Sussex County Council](#)



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## Key Dates

21 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
28 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET day
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Term for Easter holidays
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Term Starts
30 <sup>th</sup> May – 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Half Term
6 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET day
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Term ends



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