



GALLEY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Friday 18th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a relaxing break with your families over Christmas and are feeling refreshed for 2019.

It's been a busy two weeks back at school and lots of new learning has taken place. As you know, the teachers began the new year with a PD day. The day proved very productive and we were able to discuss our vision for the school for the rest of the year. I have detailed some of the changes that are being put in place in this newsletter for your information.

New Approach to Reading

As I'm sure you have noticed, some of the books within school - particularly the banded reading books - are looking rather tired. The school has therefore purchased a new reading scheme, 'Oxford Reading Tree'. The scheme is used successfully within the majority of primary schools and is directly linked to 'Letters and Sounds'. This phonics scheme is used in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1; however, the books used currently do not link directly with the scheme.

Members of staff in Foundation Stage through to Year 3 have begun reading with the children individually to determine which colour band they need to be on in the new scheme. This is proving to be a rather time-consuming task so I kindly ask that you are understanding of this if your child has not yet been allocated a new book band. They can continue to read and choose books from the old scheme in the meantime. Some children in Years 4 to 6 may not be ready to come off the scheme just yet so an adult will read with them to determine the appropriate colour.

For Key Stage 1, the bands are as follows:

Lilac - Pink - Red - Yellow - Light Blue - Green - Orange - Turquoise - Purple - Gold - White - Lime - Lime Plus - Grey

For Key Stage 2, the bands are as follows:

Turquoise - Purple - Brown Level 9 - Brown Level 10 - Brown Level 11 - Grey Level 12 - Grey Level 13 - Free Reader

Once the children can read the Grey books confidently and understand the content, they will be able to choose books from the library that are of interest to them. Class teachers will oversee the books that children choose to ensure that they are appropriate for their age and ability as the books cater for Year 2 to Year 6. We do plan to have class libraries for the children to use in the future.

New books are now available in the school library for 'Free Readers' to choose from. New books for Key Stage 2 classes to keep in their classrooms have also been purchased; these books are from the 'Oxford Reading Scheme' but can be read by 'Free Readers' as they are more challenging than the Grey books.



The investment in books has been significant so we really hope the children enjoy reading them and sharing them with you.

Changes to the Timetable Years 1-6

To ensure consistency across the school and to maximise the time available for learning, teachers have made changes to their timetables. This will also help with transition as children move through school. Children will not need to learn new routines, will know the order of the day and what is expected of them in each lesson.

The time dedicated each week to French and RE has been reduced from 1 hour a week per subject to 30 minutes a week to ensure there is enough time for teachers to cover all curriculum subjects adequately.

The children will continue to receive 2 hours of PE each week. However, the days and times of sessions have been altered to fit in with the new timetables. P.E. Coaches will teach one session a week with each class and the other session will be taken by a teacher. Please ensure children bring their PE kit to school each Monday and bring it home on a Friday so they have the equipment on the correct day. The days each class is taught PE is below.

As a reminder, we have altered some school timings within the school day, again to maximise children's time to learn. In the morning, we hope children are seated, settled and ready to learn very soon after 8.55am when the school day begins. To this end, an earlier bell will ring at 8.50am at which time children can enter school. There will still be time for children to meet and chat from 8.45am when the gates will open. In Years 3 – 6, the afternoon break has been shortened and will now be indoors. Children will have a few minutes to have a drink, visit the toilet, stretch and chat between lessons. Although this has removed a few minutes of outside time, we know that the rigour of PE and the 2 other outside break times are currently sufficient given that children need as much learning time as possible.

PE Timetable

Monday:	Reception, Year 1 & Year 3
Tuesday:	Year 1, Year 6 & Year 4
Wednesday:	Reception, Year 6 & Year 5
Thursday:	Year 2, Year 3 & Year 5
Friday:	Year 2 & Year 4

Updated Policies

Three new policies are now available on the school website: the Teaching and Learning Policy; the English Feedback Policy; and the Mathematics Feedback Policy. These were shared and developed with members of staff during the PD Day and are gradually being implemented over the next term.

Mrs Jennings' New Office

Mrs Jennings has a new office! In her role as School Business Manager, it's important that Mrs Jennings has a quiet space to complete her finance tasks, away from ringing phones and visitors. Her new office is located just down the corridor so she will be readily available as needed. During busy periods, such as the beginning and end of the school day, Mrs Jennings will be in the main office to



support Mrs Williams. She will also be in the main office on a Friday as this is not one of Mrs Williams' contracted days.

School Dinners

Last week, a letter was sent out either via Parent Mail or via paper copy asking parents and children to select their meal choices. **If you have yet to return your form, we kindly request that you do this as soon as possible** so the system can be set up and implemented.

This system is being introduced in response to concerns raised by some parents, particularly in Key Stage 2. Classes who are sent into have their lunch last sometimes only have one option to choose. If meals are pre-selected, this will be avoided and every child can enjoy a meal that they like. The system will also decrease the amount of food that is put in the bin at the end of each day.

Clubs

The following clubs will be on next week and the forthcoming weeks unless parents are notified:

Tuesday:	Arts and Crafts (Year 1 & Year 2) Netball (Year 5 & Year 6)
Wednesday:	Groovy Moves (Year 1 & Year 2) Football (Year 3 & Year 4)
Thursday:	Drama (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) Football (Year 5 & Year 6)

The Cross-Country Club will not be running until Miss Jeffery returns. The Gardening Club will not run this half-term but will commence again next half-term when (hopefully) the weather improves.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 24 th January 2019:	Year 6 SATS Meeting in Year 6 at 5:45pm
Thursday 31 st January 2019:	Year 1 Badminton Skills at Prior Pursglove 1:15 – 3:00pm
Monday 4 th February 2019:	Cleveland Fire Brigade Road Safety Assemblies for KS1 and KS2
Friday 15 th February 2019:	Break Up for Half Term Holidays
Tuesday 26 th March 2019:	Easter Service for KS1 & KS2 at Saint Nicholas Church

More dates will be given next week for this term when they have been finalised (Y3 & Y4 production, Parental Consultation Evenings etc.)

Have a good weekend

Your Senior Leadership Team

