



TRACTOR TIMES

Autumn Term
Friday 23rd November
2018

Grassington CE (VC) Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers

"I really enjoyed English and coming up with my story I hope I can write in the future. I have had a great day!"

"I really enjoyed today. It was great. Maths was really fun. I didn't think algebra was so easy! Mrs. Thompson explained it really clearly. I loved the Fat Bat game."

"I enjoyed working with other people from different schools."

"It would be better if we could do all of our lessons (art, DT, computing) together as Year 6 pupils once every fortnight."

These were some of the comments our Year 6 children said at the end of the Federation Maths and English day. The children spent the day working on specific areas of the Year 6 curriculum; it was an opportunity for them to work collaboratively and challenge one another within their learning. They definitely had fun too!

This week we had this message from the County Catering Team:-

We are pleased to inform you about what we believe are some positive changes to the school meals that will be introduced from January 2019.

Our catering team has always endeavoured to ensure that the school meals your child receives are nutritionally balanced and meet the government's national school meals standards. While school meals are meeting national standards, the sugar content and frequency of desserts on the menus have been highlighted as an area of improvement. As a result the catering team are implementing the following changes:

- Very high sugary desserts have been taken off the regular menus, but we recognise that these may be some of the favourite puddings that children love, so they will still feature as a treat on celebration days and promotions.
- Sugar content in desserts will be reduced by at least 10%.
- We will continue to offer a main course and a choice of dessert each day, 2 out of the 5 days the dessert option will be a variety of flavoured yoghurt and fresh fruit.

As you will no doubt be aware, the rates of overweight/obesity among children and young people nationally are very high, as are the rates of tooth decay. These small but significant changes to school meals are just part of a much broader approach in promoting healthy weight and good oral health amongst children and families.

We hope that you will agree that these changes are a positive initiative towards helping our children to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Over the summer we have spent lots of time creating, testing and trying out all the new 'reduced sugar' recipes to make sure they are still appealing to children, tasty and delicious.

We embrace the changes which will be made, and are confident that the children will continue to enjoy their school meal. Parents, who currently provide their child with a packed lunch, may wish to consider trying the new menus in January.

Thank you to all the hard work of children, staff, parents and governors in promoting the open mornings and afternoons in each of our schools; Grassington's open afternoon is on Wednesday 28th November. Please spread the word about how wonderful each of our schools are and remind parents that our doors are always open and we welcome any further visits they may wish to make. Please contact the school office for any further information.

Mrs C Boxall & Mr C Norris
Executive Co-Headteachers

Regular Activities and Events

Every Friday 3.00pm Praise Assembly – All welcome
Every Monday 3.30-4.30 pm Federation Choir, KS2 Children only

November Diary Dates

Monday 26 November **CANCELLED** - 4.00-5.00pm Y5/6 Basketball at UWS – **CANCELLED**
Wednesday 28 November 1.30-3.00pm School Open Afternoon
Friday 30 November Dickensian Character Day (in preparation for Grassington Dickensian Festival)

December Diary Dates

Saturday 1 December Grassington Dickensian (PTA Fundraiser)-rota sheet on main school door.
Monday 3 December 4.00-5.00pm KS2 Basketball at UWS – **TO BE CONFIRMED**
Wednesday 5 December Federation 'Christmas Big Sing' Rehearsal and Class 1 visit to Santa's Grotto at Devonshire Institute
Thursday 6 December Whole School Visit to *Jack & The Beanstalk Pantomime*-Harrogate Theatre
Saturday 8 December Grassington Dickensian (PTA Fundraiser)-rota sheet on main school door.
Monday 10 December Federation 'Christmas Big Sing'- 2.00pm & 5.45pm at Devonshire Institute
Wednesday 12 December Class 3 visiting Grassington Lunch Club to sing at Devonshire Institute
Friday 14 December Y5 Rewind to Christmas at Netherside Hall
Wednesday 19 December 2.00pm Whole School Christmas Service at St Michael & All Angels Church, Linton
Thursday 20 December 'Wear your Christmas Jumper Day' in aid of Save the Children
Christmas Dinner
Christmas Parties
Friday 21 December 9.00am Praise Assembly
3.30pm School Closes for Christmas

Children-in-Need

You all helped to raise a wonderful £185.94 for Pudsey's Piggy Bank to help other children.

Well done everyone!



Dickensian Character Day



Please start thinking about what your child / children will wear for the Dickensian Character Day on Friday 30 November, 2018, (in preparation for Grassington Dickensian Festival). The children can dress in Victorian dress, perhaps as chimney sweeps (but no soot please), in waistcoats and flat caps, white pinafores and long skirts, shawls, or other similar costumes.

PTA Children's Disco

It's here! The PTA are holding a children's disco this evening, Friday 23rd November at Grassington Town Hall from 18.30pm – 20.00pm. The cost is £3 per pupil or £5 for two children from the same family (pay on the door) and includes juice and crisps. DJ Aggie will be providing the entertainment and we hope the evening will be a fun social event for children and parents. There is a bar for grown-ups and we will also be drawing a raffle with some superb prizes. We are looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor!

Christmas Big Sing

All of the children across the four Federation schools are busy practising for the "Christmas Big Sing" which will be held on **Monday 10 December**. Please don't forget to order your tickets as soon as possible and by **Friday 30 November** at the latest. And please let us know which performance you would like tickets for!

Dickensian (PTA Fundraiser) – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The PTA will be serving refreshments from School on Saturday 1 December and Saturday 8 December as part of the village's Dickensian event. This is always a fantastic opportunity for our little school to earn substantial funds to be used to enhance our children's experiences in school. A rota for each Saturday for parents/grandparents to help is on display in school. We usually ask for just an hour of your time, please volunteer to help if you can. If you can't access the rota please contact the PTA via the Facebook page or e-mail: grassingtonschoolpta@gmail.com.

We would also welcome donations of tombola prizes, bought boxes of mince pies and any lovely home baking to sell on the day. We really appreciate parents' support with this event.

Open Afternoon

A reminder that it is school's Open Afternoon next Wednesday, 28 November, from 1.30pm - 3.00pm. There is no need to make an appointment; parents can just drop in to see the school in action. Parents can also join us in the school hall to enjoy a tea or coffee with some of the PTA Parents and Governors, talk to them about their own experiences and ask any questions they may have.

We are looking forward to welcoming a number of pre-school age siblings of existing pupils who are due to start school next September, but are keen to attract new children as well. If you know of anyone considering schools please do let them know about our wonderful school and invite them along! (The Open Afternoon is also listed as an event on the PTA's Facebook page – please feel free to like and share)

If people can't make this date they can just give school a call to arrange a time that's convenient for them.

Grassington Festival Dickensian Calendars for sale £5 proceeds shared

The Festival Christmas Calendar is still available at a cost of £5 and some of the proceeds will come to the school.

This Week's Award Winners

This week's award winners are:

Class 1

Forrest - Mathematician of the Week, for knowing his number bonds for 10.
Jacob - For his excellent independent writing.

Class 3

Rosa - Mathematician of the Week, for finding out that she really can do very accurate calculations.
Ben - For his super vocabulary choices in his character description.

Class 2

Tiler - For courage in standing up and reciting his poem.
Joe - For his excellent work in finding factors of numbers.

Class 1 News

In Maths we have continued to learn about our number bonds. Year 1 to 10 and Year 2 to 100. We have also been solving problems using our recall of the number bond facts.

In English we have focussed on our comprehension skills when reading. We have talked about our "wonderings", for example, *I wonder why ...?*, when reading the story and how we make pictures in our head. We are currently reading a class book "*The Owl Who is Afraid of the Dark*", reading a chapter a day.

In Science we have been learning about the basic needs of animals, such as food, water and shelter.

The spellings this week for Years 1 & 2 are to practise previous weeks' words.

Have a lovely weekend together.

Mrs Tulley, Mrs Buckley, Mrs Naisbitt and Mrs Middleton

Class 2 News

Hasn't it been cold this week?! Its lovely to see everyone in warm coats, but don't forget your hats and gloves; those play times can be chilly

We've been as busy as ever; in Maths we're looking at factors and times tables to start us off on our new multiplication and division unit. In English we've been turning prose into poetry and performing it, collecting lots of adjectives and powerful verbs along the way. It's been lovely to see how much everyone in Class 2 enjoys poetry, with all the rhymes and patterns.

We've moved on in our topic work and we're learning about European cities and their landmarks, starting with the Eiffel Tower. We've done sketches of it and examined how the design makes it stronger. By the time you read this, we will have made our own structures, inspired by the Eiffel Tower and tested them to see how much load they can support, linking this nicely with our Science work on forces.

Don't forget your child can now go on **Prodigy** (their log in details are with the spelling test fridge list in the homework book) and practise their Maths skills at home. Spelling test again on Monday, so revise them over the weekend, please.

Finally, we're still collecting cylindrical plastic water / coke / lemonade bottles (any size), but not milk containers, and any contributions would be great!

Have a lovely weekend together,

Mrs Pettavel

Class 3 News

This week in Maths we have been working on multiplying using the formal method of multiplication, making sure we understand what it is we are calculating and following the method. We made up some hand actions to help us remember how to do it. We have also started to solve some reasoning problems to enhance our learning.

In Literacy we have started writing character descriptions of Mr Tom and William from our book we are reading, "*Goodnight Mr Tom*". The children have used similes, metaphor, the power of three and

ambitious vocabulary. Today we looked at the story of *"The Miracle of Christmas"* and found out about Mr Toomey who 'seldom smiled and never laughed'. We found out that Charlotte Bronte and George Orwell used the technique of writing what the character didn't do to describe it in more detail.

In Topic we have researched the countries of Europe and their capital cities. We shall be finding out what Christmas is like in many of the European capitals.

In Art we have started on our nativity scene for in our hall and have made plant pot angels. Next week we will complete our scene with all the characters in the Christmas Story.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Harrison and Mr Willis