



Greenvale School Newsletter– March 2024



HEADTEACHERS UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I am excited to share with you this bumper edition of the newsletter. It has been a packed Spring Term with lots of important learning and fun events happening at Greenvale. I am very proud of all the students and how they embrace every opportunity and give it their all, even when new things feel unknown, they are an inspiration to us all.

Our additional curriculum pathway we introduced in January is up and running. This is helping us to personalise learning even more at Greenvale. We have a staff training day on 15th April where staff will be training in specific strategies and learning styles for each of the pathways. The new library on Waters Road is now officially open, this was a lovely event we tied in with World Book Day. Our focus for 2024 was on the famous poet and writer Benjamin Zephaniah, students had great fun engaging in storytelling, workshops and even a protest March to represent his work as an activist!

It has been wonderful to see so many of you in school over the last term attending the workshops organised by our Family Liaison Officer, Carol. The Summer Term offer is also packed with workshops and events we hope you will find useful. The flower-arranging workshop for parent's well-being will be running again, back by popular demand, book your space if you are available.

There is an item in the newsletter sharing the important work of our Student Forum. They are the representatives of students across the school. They bring their views on topics in and around the school affecting them and their classmates and we listen and take action. They are a powerful force for good and we are so glad to have their input, facilitated by Annette and Christine from our Learning Mentors Team. Governors were keen for parents to hear about the great work of the Student Forum.

As mentioned in my last update letter we have a couple of parent governor vacancies. Please consider if you would like to apply for this important role, the closing date is Monday 15th April.

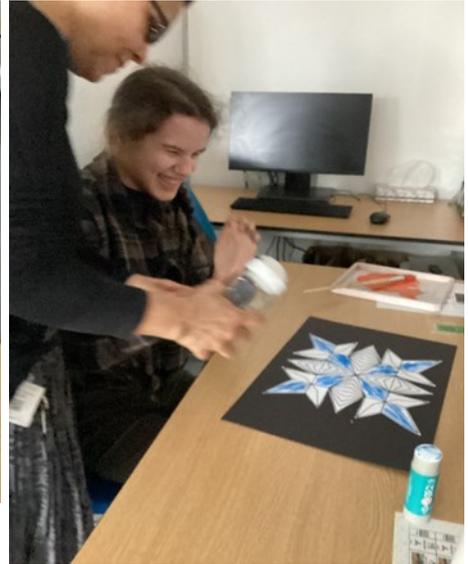
I am wishing you all a relaxing Spring break and look forward to what the Summer term ahead brings. Remember we are closed to students on 15th April for staff INSET, student's first day back is Tuesday 16th April.

Warm wishes

Katie Denton
Headteacher



**GREENVALE
SCHOOL**



This term we have been celebrating many religious festivals. For Holi celebration, we designed a rangoli pattern by using colourful sands. We have shown great interest in choosing colours and created our art work with lots of colours

This term we have also been participating in science experiments for science week. We learnt how to make fizzy colours by using bicarbonate soda, food colouring and vinegar.



As a 'Healthy School' we are trying to encourage as much physical activity as possible from our students. Once a week a number of students from the Grove pathway have joined in a lunchtime club that provides a variety of fun and motivating physical activities adapted to each person's individual ability. It has been a wonderful opportunity for all the students to engage in not just the activities provided, but also have time to enjoy the social interaction with their peers.



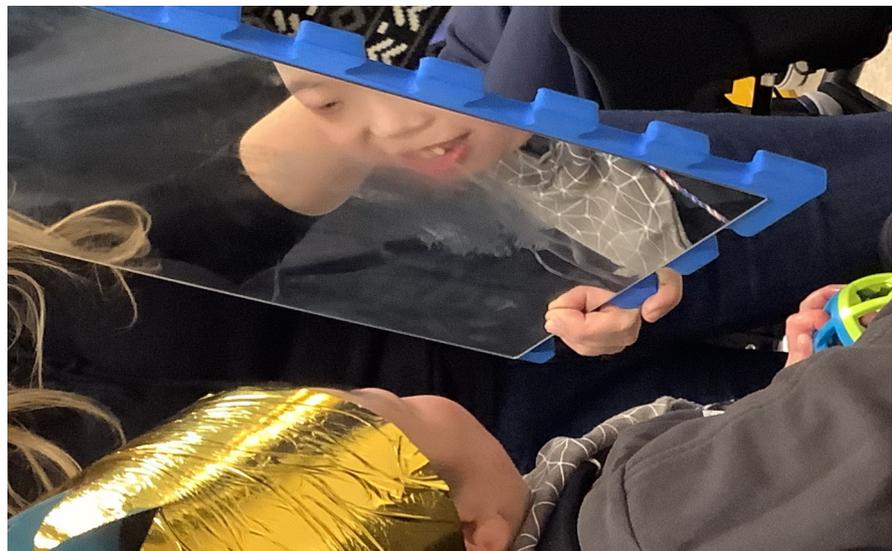
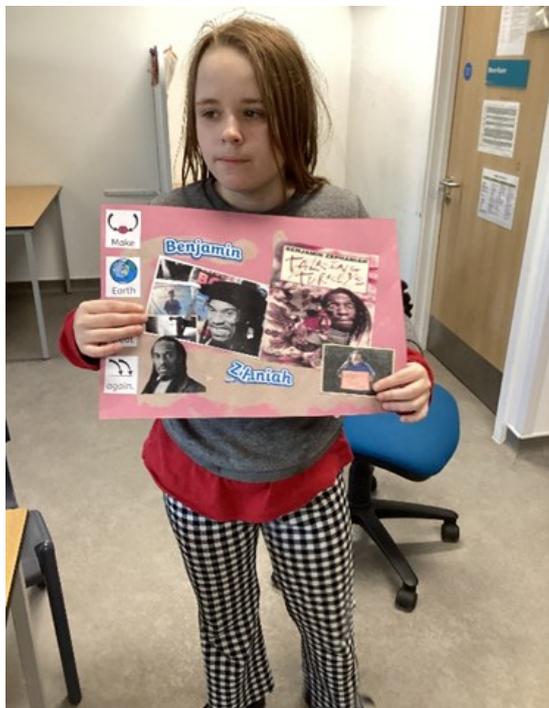
**GREENVALE
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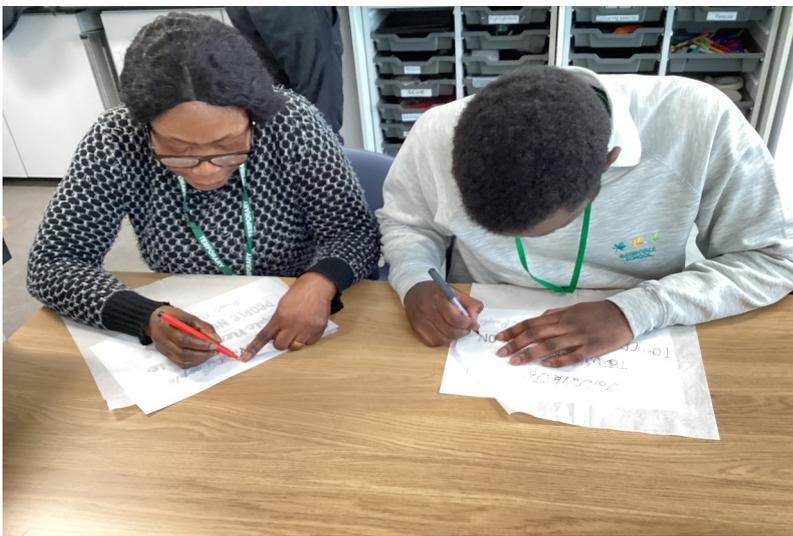
We have been very fortunate this half term to have a visitor from The Horniman Museum who provided an engaging workshop for the students. Those who attended were fascinated by all the lovely sensory props she brought from the museum. We are all very much looking forward to the next workshop in the summer term and a potential visit to The Horniman Museum.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Greenvale School celebrated World Book Day by exploring the works of the famous poet Benjamin Zephaniah. We explored his many poems in unique ways. On the day, students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops including; vegan cooking session, sensory poetry session, immersive dub poetry writing, reggae music, screen printing and collage. Students delved into Zephaniah's themes of social justice and activism. On the Mayow Rd site the day culminated with Key Stage Five students leading a powerful group protest. Overall, our World Book Day celebration inspired students to explore the power of words, the importance of social justice, and the boundless possibilities for positive change. We're immensely proud of their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to celebrating the



We listened to Benjamin Zephaniah's amazing poem and demonstrated our poster in the classroom.

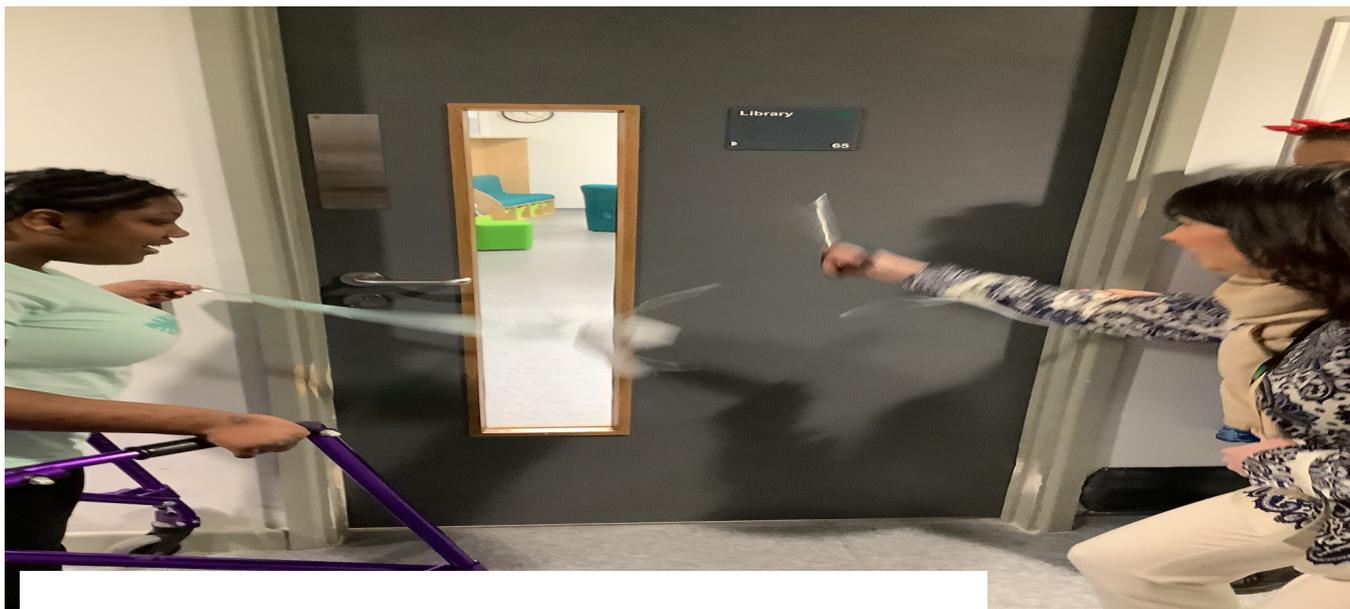


This year students have formed an Enterprise company called The Greenvale Growers in association with Young Enterprise. Students have been working hard designing Lino prints based on the theme of nature to raise money for the Greenvale Garden. In March, we set up a stall on Greenwich Market and Max, Josh, Abdoul and Joshua sold our prints to the general public. They did amazingly well and sold 15 prints raising £48. The Greenvale Growers will be selling more prints next term and using the profits to buy items for the school garden, so keep an eye out for updates.



LIBRARY OPENING

On World Book Day on the 15th of March students on the Waters Road Site took part in the grand opening of our new school library. Together Katie and the students cut the ribbon and declared the library opened. The students have been thoroughly enjoying the new space in the school. They are getting very proficient at finding books of interest to them and returning books to their correct spot when they are finished with them. The new space is a lovely area to read, share stories and discover information. It's wonderful to see the students enjoying their new school library.



Students from Waters Road and Mayow Road sites participated in National Careers Week whose theme was **Your FUTURE starts here**. Students in all pathways learned in the assembly that career education helps them to focus on the skills they need to learn presently. Therefore, students engaged in lessons, workshops and activities throughout the week. Greenvale School had the opportunity to have the Lewisham Foodbank delivering workshops for students in Glade provision as well as Creative Careers from Lewisham Education Arts Network delivering drama, film and animation, ceramics and collage and drawing workshops for students in Key Stages 3, 4 & 5. Students had an exciting week as it enabled them to develop their skills and promote autonomy to prepare for adult life.





This year Greenvale School took part in the annual Big Walk and Wheel competition across both sites. Students were able to complete extra "journeys" for the competition, by using the static cycles, orienteering around school with maps and by using our playgrounds which had activities in them. Students could scoot, cycle and walk to school where possible.

Adding the total number of journeys completed, we are pleased to let you know that we came 34th across the whole country.

Well done Greenvale!

Some students from across both sites have been preparing for the Shakespeare Schools Festival with a performance of The Tempest. Students from Waters Road are acting in it and an options group from Key Stage 5 have made props and costumes. They are performing alongside two mainstream schools at The Albany Theatre in Deptford this Thursday. We wish them luck!

For anyone on universal credit, jobseekers, child and working tax credits you can get Tower of London tickets for £1

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/visit/tickets-and-prices/one-pound-tickets/#gs.6ybsnu>

and London Zoo for £6 per adult and £3 per child.

<https://zsl.londonzoo.seetickets.com/zsl/prices/2966639/>

Don't forget to follow us on
social media to see our
achievements and
successes!

Twitter / X: @Greenvale_Sch



Safeguarding Update

Firstly, thank you to all the parents that contributed to the parent survey. This time, it focused on Safeguarding. We were very pleased to find that the responses were very positive in all aspects. However, we always have work to do when it comes to safeguarding our young people. An extremely important component is ensuring good levels of communication with our families. In the survey, it was communicated to us that some families felt that more could be done to help them have greater knowledge around how they might keep their children/young people safe online.

We have a page dedicated to this on our website and the link is below. In addition to this, we had a coffee morning last week around online safety and this was very well attended. We will also be holding more in the future, so please keep an eye out. Also, we have signed up to a service that provides excellent information and practical advice around all aspects of E-safety. They keep up to date with current and emerging trends within the fast-moving online world. You should have received one just last week. They will be distributed via email each term but are also available on our website. Please keep an eye out and if you would like a paper copy, please contact the school.

[Greenvale School - Keeping Safe Online](#) - Our web page with general information and links to other organisations.

[Greenvale School - Home](#) - At the bottom of this page you will find links to past E-safety newsletters.

As you know, the Easter Holidays are almost here, and the school will be closed over the holidays. If you need urgent support, then please contact Children with Disabilities Lewisham. The link to their web page is below.

[Lewisham Council - Children with disabilities and complex needs](#)

Kind Regards,
Aaron and Ashleigh

SCHOOL DINNERS – PRICE INCREASE

Due to inflation the cost of school dinners will be increasing to £3 per day (£15 per week) from 1st April.

If you are struggling please contact the school.

If you feel you may be entitled to Free School Meals you can complete an application on the Lewisham website or by following the link below.

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>

Information from the community nursing team

Vaccination Programme

The Complex Needs Nursing Team will be offering the HPV/DTP and MenACWY vaccines to eligible children and young people. The programme is due to be delivered over April and May. You will receive a consent letter if your child is eligible. A digital platform which allows e-consent, called Thompson School Screener is used.

Information about the vaccinations is available on the NHS website. Links below.

www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/hpv-vaccine/

www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/td-ipv-vaccine-3-in-1-teenage-booster/

www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/menacwy-vaccine/

If you have any questions regarding the vaccination programme or providing consent via the digital School Screener platform, please contact the Complex Needs Nursing Team

- Tel: 0203 049 3780

Email: LH.snnt2@nhs.net

Fledglings Website

Fledglings is a non-profit shop providing a variety of products for children, young people, and adults with additional needs. These include adaptive clothing, toys, disability & sensory aids. This is a fantastic website, with so many useful products, from communication aids, adapted swimwear, toileting aids, bedtime and sleep products, oral care products, continence products, and much, much more.

Website: www.fledglings.org.uk

Eye Care

Contact a Family, For Families with disabled children have coproduced a *Parents' Guide to eye Care for Children with a learning disability, Autism or both*. With SeeABILITY. Check out the weblink to the guide to learn more.

www.contact.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/a_parents_guide_to_eye_care_web_single.pdf

Down Syndrome

Thursday 21st March 2024 marked World Down Syndrome Day, a global awareness day (the 21st day of the third month, see what they did there, a reference to Trisomy 21)! A day to celebrate all the incredible children, young people, and adults with Down Syndrome.

On the theme of raising awareness, check out the fantastic resources available for people with Down Syndrome and their families. They include lots of useful health information and support.

Down Syndrome specific Websites and organisations

National

Down Syndrome UK - www.downsyndromeuk.co.uk

Down Syndrome Association - www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

Local

Lewisham Downs Friendship & Creativity Group – (website is under construction) www.dfcp.org.uk More information found on Lewisham Local website - www.lewishamlocal.com/places/downs-friendship-and-creativity-group/

Down's South London - www.downssouthlondon.org

Waters Rd Student Forum Summary Feb 2024

Themes students have brought to forum:

The need for more age-appropriate lunch clubs such as boxing, rugby and Cheerleading students would like to see more art projects. Students wanted to go out of school more often trips to seaside and the zoo have been mentioned. More charity fun events as in the past we have had pyjama day and wear a hat day. Students have spoken about having more fun days.

Actions as a result of forum:

Students looked at the proposed plans for new playground equipment in detail and discussed how the equipment could be used. Students have been involved in discussions regarding school uniform. Students were given a choice of two menus and looked at these in detail, they chose the current menu on offer to the school. Students have had an input in renaming rooms around the school that have been changed to meet their wellbeing needs.

Impact on the students as a result of action taken:

Students have felt they are informed and involved in decisions. Students have gained confidence in being able to put across their views. There has been some increase in lunchtime activities which students around the school have hugely benefited from participating in. Students recognise that their views matter and will be discussed in weekly meetings and if necessary can be acted upon.

References to students views on safeguarding that have arisen:

Students have taken part in looking at a map of the school and highlighting areas they felt safe and areas not so safe and the reasoning behind their decision, mainly students did not like busy areas such as corridors and the lunch hall. Every week the agenda contains a section on student safety, in school, in the community and Online safety.

Notes: Students at Waters Rd Forum take turns to do the Forum register, they choose a member to chair the meeting with staff support and a student is nominated each week to write the minutes. All Forum correspondence and displays is done on CIP and a chosen student is responsible for updating the display board with the forum agenda and then following the meeting a student will update the display with the minutes.

Mayow Road Student Forum Summary February 2024

Themes students have brought to Forum.

All students said they would like to have the option of different flavoured yogurt, Mousse, and more custard at school lunch.

Students requested they would like to have internal passes when transitioning around the school as they find it frustrating that they must wait for staff swipe to them through the doors. They said this will give them more independence.

Students suggested that they would like more equipment in the playground, e.g. Giant Connect four, soft frisbees soft balls & balls and soft footballs.

2 students suggested that they would like to have access to the group room opposite their class as they have reading and some work time in there.

Some students asked for lessons in sex education. Boys- Girls group

Transport to school students have showed concern that they find the bus noisy at times and music/radio on the bus can be loud.

Students requested that they would like a Wii console, as not all students like to go to the playground at break times. there are lots of active games they can play on them E.g., bowling, golf, baseball etc. we discussed the ideal place for this to be kept, which would be the community room.

Kind room - we discussed the option of a kind room at Greenvale, students seemed very keen on this idea.

Common room safe space

Actions as a result of Forum

Two students typed a letter to School Cook asking for the changes in lunches.

Passes have been given to selected students they are very happy with their new independence.

A rota was put into place all classes have a time slot to use the Muga so noise and over crowding will be reduced.

New equipment to be ordered from Kim for lunchtime activities.

Premises team to allow access with student passes to the group room.

I explained to students that they have a choice and can eat lunch where they feel most comfortable.

I spoke to Aaron, he will organise the sex education lessons for the summer term.

We decided to call the common room/ safe space the kind room. Students would really like to see bean bags and strip LED lighting, books, pictures, blankets, cushions magazines, Bluetooth speaker and an iPad to stream music. Magazine's subscriptions to include; Superhero, Hair and beauty, Football, Comics - spider man, Gaming - Minecraft

I have offered ear defenders to students that find the noise overwhelming on the bus some students have phones and listen to their own music.

I will speak to bus staff so they aware of the student's sensitivity to the volume of the radio and to lower it.

Game Wii club to be set up in the community room and a rota to be put into place, Wii to be purchased.

Students were reminded, of movement breaks and finding a quiet place to work... Group room, library, and mentor's room.

Impact on the students as a result of action taken.

Students are happy that there was going to be options for pudding at lunch time, School cook has taken this on board.

Students enjoy the Muga with the new time slots as it is less busy.

Some students don't like to play basketball or football so they were excited there will be more choice of activities over break times.

Students have more independence when wanting to move to quiet space to read or work independently.

Students said they feel safe around the school and are happy that the time has changed for options groups to 5minutes later so the corridors are not so busy.

The waiting area and the locker area seems less busy which they are more comfortable with.

The kind room is now up and running, the students really like this new room and the independence it gives them creating a space for them to socialise, relax as well as helping them regulate emotions and stress. Students are enjoying building relationships with others in this safe space.

Safeguarding Themes

Students expressed concern that the MUGA gets busy at break times, and they feel unsafe due to being overcrowded - new time slots actioned.

A few students asked if they could eat their packed lunch, school lunch in class as they find the hall too busy/noisy - actioned with class teachers.

One student explained that sometimes he gets a bit anxious when a student in his class gets upset and finds it difficult to deal with - actioned with class teacher.

Feeling safe in school - students indicated on the school map the places they felt unsafe these include the area by the lockers and the corridors when transitioning to option groups - actioned change of group timings to address this.

Students raised that options groups are great but can be noisy - actioned by offering sensory breaks to those students needing it.