



Greenvale School Newsletter–February 2024



HEADTEACHERS UPDATE

Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now halfway through the Spring term and half-term week is already here.

We have implemented an exciting development to our curriculum this term, we now have a 4th learning pathway for students called the Orchard pathway. As a school we decided to refine our offer further and make our learning approaches even more specialised and focused. We now have; Grove, Orchard, Forest and Woodland pathways. You will have received your child's curriculum offer from the Keystage lead letting you know what pathway they are on. If you would like more information or to discuss further you can arrange to meet with your child's teacher or Keystage lead. For more information on the curriculum pathways you can see them on the school website here - [Greenvale Pathways](#)

You will remember I met with many of you during the first half term of the school year. There was an opportunity for parents to make suggestions about how they would like to work in partnership with the school at the meeting and also through our online parent surveys for anyone unable to attend. As a result, we have formulated a parent partnership plan so that we have some shared goals and a set of actions we are taking to achieve them (see the plan attached below).

Mencap have produced a guide for keeping your child safe on the internet at home which you may find useful, you can access it here - [Mencap Internet Safety Guide](#)

It is with great sadness that I write to let you know that one of our very treasured and well-loved students, Anand from Cedar class, has died after a period of ill health. Anand was well known and loved by peers and staff for his great sense of humour. He will be very missed by all at Greenvale School.

Dates for your diary

Please note the final 2 INSET days for staff training this year are Monday 15th April, following the Easter holidays and Friday 28th June. The school is closed to students on these dates.

Kind regards

Katie Denton
Headteacher



Parent Partnership Plan 2023-24

Area of Engagement	Matter Arising	Actions (by who)	Timeline
Communication	Half-termly newsletter with significant volume of content	Shorter newsletter more often every 2/3 weeks (HT)	From September 2023 ongoing
	Returning face to face interactions between school and parents to pre-covid levels	Parent views gathered at coffee mornings and online surveys (SLT) Ensure opportunities for parents to come in to school (SLT/FLO) Enable communication between parents to support each other (FLO)	Regular coffee mornings every term for parents to meet and share views Short parent survey on a theme every half term
	Languages spoken at home can present a barrier for parents accessing school information	Family Liaison Officer gathered a bank of languages staff speak to support with translation (FLO)	September - ongoing
Transitions	Parents have identified that they would like a visual of students/staff in class to use as a communication support at home	Create class visuals to share with home to use as a communication aid with parent/student (SLT/LMs) Short survey with focused questions to gather views on transition (SLT)	Spring/Summer Term Autumn Term
	Gather parents views on what has worked well and what could be improved on transition back in to school		
Environments	Dedicated space at WR for parents to meet with FLO and space for coffee mornings	Create dedicated parents space at WR to match community room at MR (SLT/FLO)	Spring Term
	Redesign and upgrade outdoor spaces at WR (now 15 years old) with advice from OT	Gather parents views on development of playground space at WR (AC)	Autumn Term – Summer Term
Community	Class Learning Outside The Classroom (LOTC) opportunities to return to pre-covid levels	LOTC opportunity for each class each term (SLT)	Autumn Term ongoing
	Hydro pool available for families to use at weekends	Open the pool to families one Sunday a month (SLT)	December ongoing



SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN



Greenvale school has been re-accredited to Gold Level for the School Travel Plan. To obtain Gold accreditation, there are a lot of activities that students and staff take part in. They range from the Metropolitan Police visiting school to show groups of students how speed checks work, to Road Safety talks, students going to venues on public transport and using the static cycles in school.

Well done Greenvale.

Caption describing picture or

COMPUTING WORKSHOP



Some students from different Key Stages joined a computing workshop on the 1st of February about what robots are, including some main uses for robots. Then, they built moon lander robots and wrote block code, which they uploaded to the robots to do different tasks.

Students had a lot of fun and enjoyed the enrichment experience!

YOUNG MAYOR OF LEWISHAM ELECTIONS

The young mayor of Lewisham elections took place at Greenvale school Mayow road on Wednesday the 7th of Feb.

The young mayor is the voice of young people in the borough, students had the opportunity to have their say on who they would like to see elected

Leo and Aron our key stage 5 students volunteered to be the voting assistants making sure the polling station ran smoothly .



Summer and Kelsey were presented with their certificates and T-Shirts, They received these for helping out as polling clerks for The Young Mayor of Lewisham polling day at Waters Road



Bilvilyn Asamoah has been elected as Lewisham's Young Mator for 2024

Information from the community nursing team

Protect your child against Measles

A national incident has been declared by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) due to a surge in measles cases. There is a particular concern of an outbreak in London due to low vaccination rates in the Capital. The virus is preventable with two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. More information on the MMR vaccination can be found on the South East London Integrated Care System Website - www.selondonics.org/our-residents/your-health/living-well/childrenshealth/

Contact your GP to check if your child is up-to-date with the national vaccination programme, or to arrange an appointment for the MMR vaccine.

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth.

Common symptoms of measles include:

- High temperature
- Sore, red and watery eyes
- Coughing
- Sneezing

Small white spots may appear inside the mouth and blotchy red or brown rash usually appears after a few days, typically on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body. More information can be found on the NHS website - www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/

Medicines for Children Website

Medicines for Children is a fantastic website providing parents, carers, and professionals useful and easy to understand information on commonly used medications in Paediatric medicine. It's a great resource to refer to if your child is on medications. The leaflets include frequently asked questions, common side effects, and other useful information to help with medicines management. Check it out - www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk

Having a blood test

Attending for a blood test can be tricky for some children and young people, and particularly those with additional needs and disabilities. Preparing for a blood test can make all the difference in supporting you child or young people manage this procedure. There are many ways to help prepare, such as social stories, role play, and desensitisation activities.

Here are some resources to help explain and prepare for a blood test -

What?, Why?, Children in Hospital is a good website with videos explaining and demonstrating various tests and procedures. They have created a few videos on 'having a blood test'. I have included the weblinks below in case you think these might be helpful.

www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/blood-test.html

www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/anxious-blood-test.html

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust - Having a blood test at the hospital, information for patients. Easy read document - attached.

Children's Health Ireland - Blood test social story - attached.

Dental health

Good oral health is key to general health and quality of life. The impact of poor oral health can have significant physical, psychological, and social impacts on a person's life. For issues such as dental pain, difficulties communicating, and eating, as well as major chronic disease, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, serious respiratory infections, and stroke. If teeth become discoloured or are lost, this can make a person self-conscious, and less likely to smile, interact with others, or go out in public. Dental care can be challenging for children and young people with additional needs, especially teeth brushing if this poses sensory challenges. Attending dental appointment can also be difficult for some. To support you in this area, check out the useful information and resources below

www.gov.uk/government/publications/oral-care-and-people-with-learning-disabilities/oral-care-and-people-with-learning-disabilities

www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/dentists/dental-treatment-for-people-with-special-needs/

Mouth care for people with learning disabilities: brushing your teeth video -

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXwRxfPJlcw

Children, young people, and adults with learning disabilities who live in Lewisham can access the Kings College Hospital Community Special Care Dentistry Service. This also service facilitates an outreach clinic at Greenvale School, as well as other clinics in Lewisham. For more information check the webpage on the Kings College Hospital website -

www.kch.nhs.uk/services/services-a-to-z/community-special-care-dentistry/

Useful guide on oral health & dental care

Contact, for families with disabled children have created a guide for parents and carers to support oral health and dental care for children with learning disabilities and Autism.

www.contact.org.uk/help-for-families/information-advice-services/resources/resource/parent-guide-guide-to-oral-health-and-