

10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed your half term break and are looking forward to what is to come between now and Christmas!

Facebook

We are pleased to announce that we have launched Facebook at Grendon.

Following discussions with parents and carers, we have listened to how you would like to stay more up to date with events at Grendon and decided to set up our own Grendon Primary School Facebook page.



Grendon Primary School

0 likes • 1 follower



We will be highlighting all the wonderful things that happen at Grendon, and sharing key dates and information with you. This will enable us to have another form of communication, adding to our regularly updated website, emails and Teams. We hope you will find Grendon Primary School on Facebook and follow our page.

Attendance

We have good news! Together, we have improved our overall attendance for the whole school and all groups of children compared with this time last year. We have also reduced the number of children who are persistently absent and missing 10% or more of their time in school. Thank you for working with us to do this.

This is not 'job done' though. Unfortunately, our attendance figures are still not good enough when compared with schools nationally...but because we are Grendon, we know that WE CAN close this gap quickly!



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You will know that this time last year, we began our new Attendance Policy. One part of this was children stamping their 'Heros', (Here Every day, Ready and On time) cards and earning rewards at the end of each week. We have taken feedback from staff, children and families during the year and while almost all say that children enjoy stamping cards and this is an effective strategy to use, that the cheap plastic toys given as rewards are not motivating. Some of our Junior Leaders have even raised the issue of plastic waste that this causes - and we agree with them!

As a result, we have decided to trial a new strategy. As part of our policy, children will still stamp their cards as long as they are in their classroom by 8.50am each day. At the end of the week, instead of a plastic toy, they will earn a raffle ticket if all 5 stamps have been achieved. The raffle ticket will be named and be put into the class pot. At the end of each half term, we will pick one ticket from the class pot and the lucky ticket will win a £10 Smyths toys voucher. Obviously, the more raffle tickets your child earns to go into the pot, the greater their chance of winning.

Additionally, we want to celebrate improvements in attendance for individual children from whatever their starting point was. There will be a second voucher given to the child in each class who has managed to improve their attendance the most during that half term.

We know that we cannot improve attendance without your support. As always, please let us know any feedback you have on these changes during the trial and of any ideas that you may have to improve attendance further.

Junior Leader Day - Children In Need

Our Junior Leaders have chosen to run a charity day to raise money for Children In Need this year. Please refer to the letter sent before half term for more information, but children should come to school next Friday (17th November) in sports clothing ready to complete the Joe Wicks Bearpee challenge and a lot more! Please help us to raise money for by making a £1 donation via SchoolMoney.

Road Safety

You may be aware that earlier in the week there was an incident on Grendon Road involving 2 vehicles as school was starting. While nobody was injured and this didn't directly involve families from Grendon this time, it was caused by congestion along the road. For the last 3 years, our Junior Leaders have worked really hard, alongside the Police and Birmingham City Council to try and spread the message about avoiding congestion, driving slowly and parking safely. We have been successful in implementing a number of initiatives such as the double yellow lines, speed warning sign and all of our walking to school and park and stride initiatives. We also know that whatever we have done is having little impact. I cannot change this without your support. If you simply have to drive to school, please park safely, further away, and walk the final part of your journey. We have to act now, before it is too late. I really appreciate your support with this.

Best Wishes, Mrs Ridley



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