

Newsletter

Spring Term 2024



a member of
Learning Partners
academy trust

Friday 26th January

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a busy first half of the spring term and it has been such a privilege to see our pupils settle so quickly back into their routines and learning this term.

We recently had a visit from several colleagues from our Trust who spent two days meeting with pupils, staff and leaders and observing teaching and learning across the school. They were so impressed with our pupils' behaviour for learning and could see how hard they were working particularly in their phonics, reading and maths lessons which have been a big focus for development in our school over the last year and a half.

At the start of the term, we have also implemented some changes in the way we teach reading from Year 2 upwards. Pupils who have graduated from the phonics programme, are now taking part in daily 'Master Readers' lessons. All teachers and teaching assistants in these year groups have recently been training in this approach to teaching reading and we have been delighted to see our pupils engaging so well in their new lessons. They have certainly been enjoying reading the high quality texts that we have purchased to support the teaching of these lessons. I hope they have been telling you all about these texts at home. If not, ask them what they have been reading in their reading lessons.

As you are all aware, reading is at the very heart of our curriculum and we work hard to support pupils across the school, from the earliest stages of reading to developing their fluency and comprehension as they move into the older years. We want all pupils to leave us as confident and competent readers when they move to secondary school so that they can access the full secondary curriculum. Reading success at primary school is an important indicator for future success in education and life.

As parents/carers, we ask that you continue to support your child's reading journey at home. Please continue to share books together at home. Reading to your child is just as important as hearing them read. Please can all parents/carers ensure some time is put aside for your children to read their Little Wandle, Rapid Catch up or class library book each week. It really does help to ensure they make good progress.



**MASTER
READERS**
excellence after phonics

Important dates for the term

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February	Half Term – School closed
Monday 19th February	Trust Inset Day – School closed
Friday 23rd February	School disco
Tuesday 27th and 28th February	Jim the drummer in to work with pupils across the school
Tuesday 5th March	Parents' Consultations 4pm – 7pm
Wednesday 6th March	Parents' Consultations 1pm – 4pm Early Closure – 1pm
Thursday 7th March	Book Character Day
Friday 22nd March	Guildford Grove's Got Talent (Years 5/6)
Thursday 28th March	Easter performance to parents in the morning (Year 3/4)
Thursday 28th March	Early Closure 1pm
Friday 29th March	Easter holidays – School closed
Monday 15th April	Start of the summer term

Changes to lunchtimes

We talked to pupils today about changes we will be making to lunchtimes after half term.

These changes will be made in order to ensure that children are able to play safely with age-appropriate peers.

A letter detailing the changes will be sent out next week.



Every day counts!

We recently held our termly pupil progress meetings with teachers to discuss the progress of pupils in their class. It was wonderful to hear about the progress made by so many pupils in all areas of the curriculum.

One common discussion point in all the meetings focused on pupil attendance. It is clear that pupils who have frequent periods of absence or who regularly miss a day of school most weeks, are falling behind their peers. It was also clear that they struggle to understand the week's learning if they have missed a day of the sequence of lessons.

We ask that all parents/carers continue to prioritise their child's attendance. This will ensure they make the best possible progress and have the best chance to fulfil their potential.

The national expectation for good attendance is 95% or above.

Every Day Counts



School uniform

A gentle reminder that all pupils are expected to follow our school uniform policy. Please refer to our website for details.

Pupils in Year 1 upwards are expected to wear grey school trousers or grey school skirts and black leather shoes. **Pupils who have written permission from a medical professional are exempt from this. Leggings are not permitted.*

Please also note...

- ***Hair gel is not permitted & boys' haircuts must not be lower than a Grade 2 (no shaved lines/patterns)***
- ***Long hair must be tied back with a plain hairband or bobble (no bows)***
- ***One plain stud permitted in each ear (no other jewellery)***
- ***No nail varnish***