



# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023

Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7

## Message from Mrs Ballinger

I would like to start by thanking you all for your continued support during our recent Ofsted inspection. The 2 days the inspectors were on site were jam packed and I would like to acknowledge and thank all the staff and children who were amazing throughout. We look forward to sharing the final report with you once it has been published.



The weather has certainly turned cooler and more inclement, and so I want to remind you of what happens in the event of heavy snowfall, which could lead to a school closure. The decision to close school is only taken following great consideration about the health and safety of pupils and staff. In addition, the conditions of the site and the ability of Catering staff to travel to school to provide the children with lunch are other necessary considerations, as well as the advice received from Pupil Transport Services about the accessibility of outlying county roads and the safe transport to and from school of the pupils residing there. Decisions are usually made early in the morning, as circumstances can obviously improve or deteriorate overnight, and I am sure that you can appreciate that many children and staff travel from varying locations to school. Following any significant incident of snow, the decision to close the school will be posted on Staffordshire County Council's website. Additionally, we will post a message on our school website and will notify parents by our parent text facility. We aim to achieve this by 7.45am, subject to there being no technical difficulties, and no worsening of weather conditions after this time. Staff and pupil safety will remain the priority at all times.



On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, we were delighted to welcome 'Matt the Tale Teller' into school to carry out some story telling sessions with the children and parents. The children were treated to a series of interesting tales told in a unique and entertaining way. They were captivated! The feedback from those parents who attended was incredibly positive and we can't wait to welcome Matt back into school in the new year.



Children from across the school have enjoyed making Christmas tree decorations this week for the Trinity Methodist Church Christmas Tree Service. This is an annual service which has become a firm favourite on the Church calendar and is enjoyed by many of the Shenstone community. Once the decorations were ready, the children visited the Church and proudly decorated a tree to represent Greysbrooke and our place within the community. If you would like to attend this special service, it is taking place at Trinity Methodist Church on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm.



[notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

01543 480 321



# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023

Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7

## Fencing Enrichment Day

Today, we held our second whole school enrichment day of the year. Enrichment days are designed to introduce the children to a new sport allowing them to try it for themselves and giving them a short taster. Following the enrichment day, the aim is to introduce the sport into our afterschool club programme and the PE curriculum.

This session was all about Fencing. We learnt that the 'sword' is actually called a 'foil' and we learnt about adopting the correct stance and how the movements in Fencing are a step and slide. After just a few seconds of the session, we quickly realised that fencing is far less like Pirates of the Caribbean and far more about footwork and tactics than we thought.



We look forward to welcoming you into School  
for our Christmas performances next week.  
Thank you for your support with costumes

We will have a collection at each performance for St Giles Hospice

[notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

01543 480 321





# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023

Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7

## Lichfield Food Bank – Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you so much for once again supporting Lichfield Food bank with your generous donations over the last week. The trolley will be out by the bike sheds for you to leave donations every morning up until Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

To help give ideas for what items are needed the food bank have provided us with the calendar below.



Reverse

ADVENT

CALENDAR

Please deliver to our warehouse at Saxon Hill Academy, Kings Hill Road, Lichfield, WS14 9DE (far end of the car park).

We are open Monday & Tuesday - 0845-1145, Wednesday and Friday 1000-1415.

Email address: [info@lichfield.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@lichfield.foodbank.org.uk) | Telephone Number: 07833 741958

1 Tinned Soup	2 Tinned beans	3 Tinned Tomatoes	4 Pasta Sauce Jar	5 Tinned Peas	6 Tinned Carrots
7 Tinned Meat	8 Tinned Tuna	9 Tinned Fruit	10 Tinned Potatoes	11 Dry Pasta	12 Dry Rice
13 Biscuits	14 Fruit Juice	15 Long-life Milk	16 Tea Bags x40	17 Jam	18 Sugar 500g
19 Snack	20 Cereal	21 Crisps	22 Tin of Sweetcorn	23 Coffee	24 Chocolate

[Info@Lichfield.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:Info@Lichfield.foodbank.org.uk)
Registered Charity in England & Wales/Scotland/NI (1162359). \*Your donations will be going to a local food

[Info@Lichfield.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:Info@Lichfield.foodbank.org.uk) Registered Charity in England & Wales/Scotland/NI (1162359). \*Your donations will be going to a local food bank.

## Christmas Dinner Day

This year our Christmas dinner day is on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Please ensure you order the Christmas lunch on Relish by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December; this is so we can ensure sufficient supplies are ordered and delivered in time for the event.



We will be supporting Save the Children with a Christmas Jumper (or dress) day on this day too.



**Save the Children**

If anyone would like to make a donation, we have set up a just giving page on the link below.

<https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/CJD230028915>

[notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

01543 480 321



# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023

Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7



Christmas Fayre @ Greysbrooke  
Saturday 9th December 12pm - 3pm



The best Christmas event of them all.



There will be a Christmas raffle, turkey baps,  
mince pies, mulled wine,  
our famous teddy & box tombola, the elf cave,  
beauty parlour and more.



Not to mention SANTA - even the GRINCH is set to make an appearance this  
year,

You won't want to miss it!



[notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

01543 480 321



# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023

Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7

## Requests.....

Reception class - If anyone has any unwanted toy cars at home we would be very grateful to add them to our toys and play items.



Forest School - If you have any plain light coloured duvet covers or sheets that you no longer need we would love them for our outdoor learning area.

We would also like old pots and pans, large cooking utensils.....and a little more unusual but any old guttering or drain pipes !!



### NHS Families text support service & School Nurse - Virtual Drop In

NHS Midlands partnership have introduced a text messaging service for parents/carers of children aged 0-19 who live in Staffordshire,

and a virtual drop in school nurse clinic every Thursday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Please see flyers attached to this edition of the Grapevine for more info on these NHS services to support families.

### Advice regarding children's access to vision screening

School Vision screening has not been provided in Staffordshire since 2017.

It is strongly recommended by the NHS that all children have regular eye tests at least once a year. Eye tests for children are free on the NHS at any local opticians.

Please see flyer attached to this edition of the grapevine for more info



### Dates for your diary

Please see the Calendar attached for important dates this term, including payment deadlines!



This calendar will be updated and circulated with every edition of the Grapevine

[notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

01543 480 321





# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023  
Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7

## LEARNING UPDATE

### Year 5

Year 5 have recently been looking at a range of forces, in Science. We spent a lesson looking at friction and how it is a force between two surfaces, and what can impact the level of friction - i.e. a slippery surface, which would therefore create less friction. We spent a lesson using Newton Meters, testing out the friction between a constant surface and a range of individuals shoes, within our groups.



Our Year 5 DT Mexican Feast unit came to an exciting close a couple of weeks ago when we used all our knowledge from research about typical ingredients used in Mexican cooking to design and make our own side dish. The classroom was full of gorgeous smells like coriander and lime as we made guacamole, colourful salads and salsa to name a few. Our skills in safely using a knife to chop, a fork to juice a lime and a spoon to remove the stone of an avocado certainly came in handy. We had a wonderful time eating our dishes along with a vegetarian chilli and tacos - the tasting and evaluation was a wonderful end to all our hard work!



[notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

01543 480 321



# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023  
Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7

We have been looking at a range of different sports in PE, football and lyrical form of gymnastics, within a group setting. Each child has been able to offer and support others in the class to improve their skills and to continue to grow in a range of physical movements in sports from coordination, observation and individualised sporting techniques. Each child has embraced each sport we are focussing on this half term and they continue to encourage each other to reach their sporting potential - within the set sessions!



[notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

01543 480 321





# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023  
Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7

## Year 6

This term Year 6 have been part of an exciting trial. Since September we have been using a new website called 'Learning by Questions'. The trial has been incredibly successful and we have seen the impact through our mock SAT results. In fact, the trial has been so good that Greysbrooke has become an ambassador school so throughout spring and summer we will be sharing our expertise across ATLP and to local schools.



AMBASSADOR



In Science this term we have been learning about Light. In the first lesson, we used our iPads to evidence our findings from different enquiry questions. We explored how light travels, why shadows are formed and how shadows changed. In the second lesson, we focused on how we see. Check out this beautifully drawn and labelled diagram of an eye.

Our class text this term has been the incredible War Horse by Michael Morpurgo. It tells the story of World War 1 through the eyes of a young horse called Joey. We have absolutely loved reading the book, it is a real roller-coaster of emotions with many cliff-hangers. We read the final two chapters in one session whilst drinking hot chocolate. The best way to finish an incredible book!



[notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

[www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk)

01543 480 321



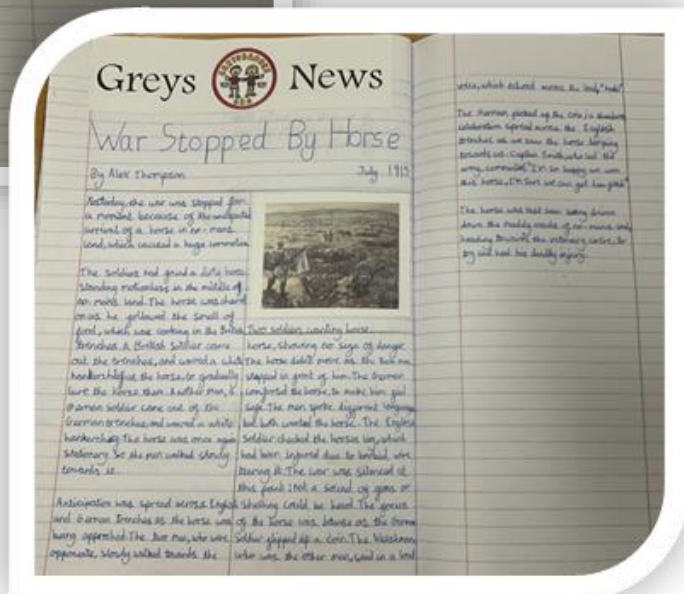
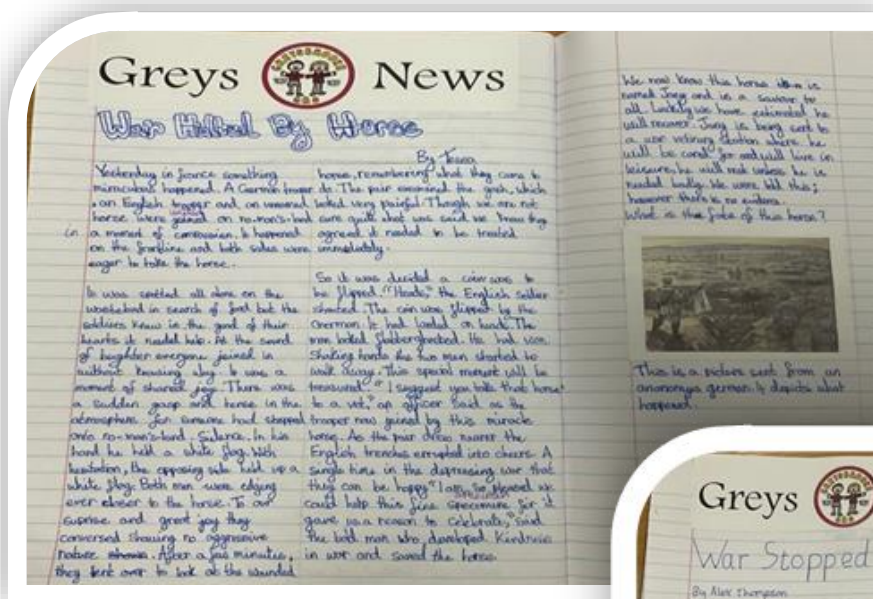


# The Greysbrooke Grapevine

Friday 8th December 2023

Autumn Term Newsletter No: 7

Our English lessons this term have been based around writing newspaper reports. We've looked at a variety of different example texts and learnt about the structure and text features which are specific to newspaper reports. We used our class text War Horse and wrote a newspaper report as a class based on the events of chapter 8, where the main character Joey gets taken captive. For our final piece, we wrote about the events of chapter 16, where Joey is found in no-man's-land and a German soldier and English soldier flip a coin to see who keeps him. Here's a few examples below...



notification@greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk

www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk

01543 480 321



# GREYSBROOKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## 2023 Autumn Term - Parent / Carer Calendar

AUTUMN TERM 2023	
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	FROGs Christmas Fayre 12 noon to 3pm
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Grandparents Christmas Performances KS2 10AM & KS1 2PM
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performances KS1 2pm / KS2 6pm
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performances KS2 2pm / KS1 6pm
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y5 visit to Shenstone Library
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Christmas party afternoon
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Christmas party afternoon
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner day - wear Christmas Jumper / dress today!
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Rocksteady performance to rocksteady parents@2.30pm
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Carol Concert at St John the Baptist Church @9.30am - Christmas jumper with school uniform
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Toy day & School closes for Christmas break
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School opens for Spring Term
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Young Voices Concert at the NIA
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Year 4 class assembly @2.30pm
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School closes for half term
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School opens after half term
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 France trip
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Class assembly @ 2.30pm
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	School closes for Easter Holiday



# Christmas Lunch

Roast Turkey  
or

Quorn Fillet  
with

Stuffing & Yorkshire pudding

Rosemary Roasted Potatoes

Carrots & Sprouts

Gravy

Christmas Cracknel Pudding  
Custard

or

Strawberry Trifle



Arthur  
Support  
Services



To be Served on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
Order on Relish between 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December





Presents  
SINBAD!  
A pantomime by Liz Daly

Sinbad has big dreams of going to sea! Instead he has to spend his days helping his sister Beyoncé in her bakery. Until, that is, he gets the opportunity of a lifetime... a free sea voyage! But with the evil Captain Blackbeard, his tough daughter Polly, and their scurvy crew of seadogs at the helm, is this an offer that's too good to be true?

Who is the crazy crustacean that puts Blackbeard in a panic?  
What exactly is the treasure that Queen Raeni has on her tropical island?  
Who are the two glamorous island girls they meet along the way?  
To find out, come along and join us for a fun evening out for all the family  
in our brand-new pantomime, Sinbad!

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Aldridge Community Centre, Middlemore Lane, Aldridge WS9 8AN  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Stonnall Village Hall, 114 Main Street, Stonnall WS9 9DY  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Stonnall Village Hall, 114 Main Street, Stonnall WS9 9DY  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Shenstone Village Hall, Barnes Road, Shenstone WS14 0LT

Doors open at 7.00pm for curtain up at 7.30pm

Tickets £10.00 adults, £7.50 under 17s  
From  
Ticketsource  
or  
07783 823390

Hope to see you there!



Dear Parent/Guardian

**Vision Screening/Eye Tests ARE NOT provided within schools in Staffordshire.**

**We strongly recommend that all children have regular eye tests at an Optician once a year.**

**NHS Eye tests for all children are free at any Opticians.**

It is important that even children with apparently normal vision should be tested. As children can often compensate very well for some eye problems which need to be identified and treated early to avoid lifelong visual loss.

The Eye test checks that your child's vision is developing normally. It is performed at this age so that any reduced vision or difference in vision between each eye can be picked up before the visual system is fully developed and any treatment can be started.

You do not need to do anything, if your child:

Is **currently** under the care of an Eye Specialist (Ophthalmologist / Orthoptist / Optometrist) at a Hospital Eye Clinic.

*Or*

Is **currently** under the care of a local Optometrist (Optician) or had a recent sight test.

**If none of the above applies, please arrange with your local Opticians for your child to have a free NHS Eye Test.**

Yours sincerely,

Orthoptic Department

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton

Families' Health and Wellbeing



Midlands Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust  
*A Keele University Teaching Trust*

# School Nurse virtual drop in clinic

Every  
Thursday  
from  
3.30 - 4.30pm



Your School Nurse  
is here to help you  
feel healthy, happy  
and safe during  
your school years  
and to get the best  
from your  
education.

Join the link and talk to a School Nurse.

We provide a confidential and  
friendly service

[mpft.live/schoolnurse](https://mpft.live/schoolnurse)





**We now have a text messaging service for  
parents/carers of children aged 0-19 who  
live in Staffordshire.**

**Get advice from our Public Health nurses  
(Health Visitors and School Nurses).**

**TEXT: 07520 615722**



**Feeding and  
nutrition**



**Child  
development**



**Parenting advice  
and support**



**Emotional health  
and wellbeing**



**Behaviour  
difficulties**



**Family  
health**

We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other health care staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm. If you need help before you hear back from us contact your GP, nearest walk in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health visitor from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.