

# Gracefield news

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## WELCOME BACK!

It's been a fantastic few weeks as we finally welcomed everybody back to Gracefield. There has been an excited buzz around the school and we have loved hearing all the laughter in the playground as the children rediscover their friendships.

I want to say a huge 'well done' to all our parents and carers for helping the children persevere with Home Learning. We know it was tough, but your support made all the difference.

The classrooms are now a hive of activity again and although we are still operating in separate bubbles, with several restrictions still in place, life feels normal again.

We decided to hold a special school community event on Tuesday to bring the whole school together for our Creative Day. There were lots of fantastic activities in each of the classrooms, including eggs parachuting out of windows, vegetable painting and spaghetti structures, amongst other things! You can see all the activities on page 3 of the Newsletter.

I am looking forward to seeing what the rest of this term brings as we approach our traditional Easter festivities together.

Mr Gunter  
Headteacher

## EASTER BONNETS

We are making plans for Easter celebrations this week. We would like the children to make Easter Bonnets at home which can be worn in a special whole school assembly on THURSDAY.

On Friday the children will perform the Easter Concert during Assembly, which will be recorded for parents to watch later with their child at home.

We will also hold our annual Easter Fair within the bubbles, when the children will make crafts to take home. No money required.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO CLUBS ON FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL.**



## A RECIPE FOR FRIENDSHIP

Daniel, Year 5

Take some teamwork, fun and trust,  
Sift in interests and sprinkle tolerance,  
Then blend up the sharing, peace and thought,  
Put in the pan to simmer, and turn up the heat for the arguments,  
Wait for it to settle for the determination,  
Pop the dreams into another pan, waiting for the dreams to expand.  
Add potential to the pot. Add the pots together,  
Wait for it to set. Enjoy!

Serve with hope and spread equality over it.

Note: If there are bubbles while cooking, put some more peace on it.

Warning: A bad spread of equality makes the friendship split and sink.

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Year 1 are looking at the seasons this term and with Spring in the air, the children went on a discovery walk to Mrs Morgan's garden to investigate the signs of Spring.



They discovered a bird's nest and lots of new life springing up in the garden.

## BUSY MAKING MUSIC



We were raising money at Christmas from our hamper sale to buy some new musical instruments.

The new glockenspiels have proved a hit with Reception and Year 1 in their music lessons as the children learn how to play different rhythms and notes with Mr Bird.

## NEW FLEECE NOW AVAILABLE

The government's regulations require us to make ventilation one of the top priorities for keeping covid at bay in schools. Statistics show that good ventilation drastically reduces the risk of transmission. This means doors and windows have to be opened continuously, which at times can leave classrooms and corridors decidedly chilly! To combat this, and make children more comfortable, we have commissioned an additional fleece to be added to our uniform list. This is now available from Wovina and whilst the ventilation situation is an issue, the children can wear this additional layer in the classrooms. The fleece can be worn instead of a blazer on PE days and will eventually be incorporated into our PE kit. Wovina can be found at [www.wovina.com](http://www.wovina.com).



Gracefield School Fleece Jacket

£13.20

# HEADTEACHER'S CHALLENGE

One of the key features of Fridays during lockdown was Mr Gunter's Headteacher Challenge, set for pupils and staff. It was designed to bring us all together in a fun way and we saw lots of creativity in the challenges set. The Book Cover Challenge is now on display in school and on the boards outside as it produced such an amazing array of creative thinking! Well done everyone who took part in all of the challenges.



**Bake off** ↪



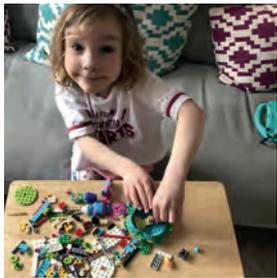
**Book Covers** ↪



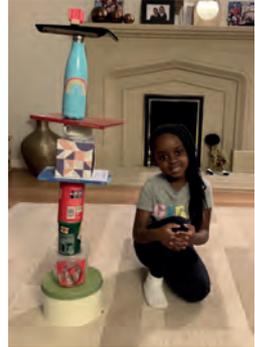
↪ **Exercise**



↪ **A to Z**



**Skills** ↪



↪ **Towers**

Well done to everyone who took part in the challenges - staff included! Thank you to parents and children at home for voting each week, we hope you enjoyed taking part as much as we did!

# FEED THE BIRDS

Another home/school project during lockdown centred around the RSPB National Birdwatch campaign. Children in school and at home made bird feeders and lots of us took part in the Birdwatch weekend, spotting all the different birds in the garden and around school.



# EMERGENCY CARE WALL

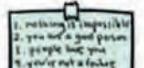
for sadness



for loneliness



for self-doubt



best friend's phone #

list of reasons why you can

for anger



for worry



for other



# LISTENING EARS

Reception made listening ears to practise using their phonics, sounding out the phoneme for 'ear'.



# GETTING CREATIVE AT GRACEFIELD

We scheduled Creative Day for the first week that we had all the children together again so that they could work in teams on some fun, creative challenges. Here's how they got on ...



Year 1 used fruit and vegetables just like those grown by the farmer in their current story topic of Peter Rabbit. Mr McGregor's produce was weighed and measured and then used to create some rainbow fruit pictures and some prints using paint.



Reception were learning about Scotland as part of their topic about the United Kingdom. They made tartan pictures, flags, Scottish dancing puppets and Scottish flag biscuits.



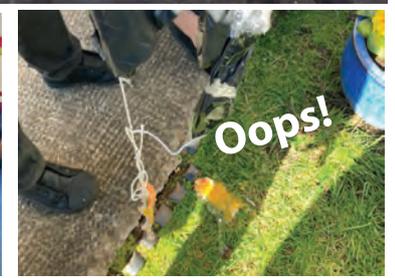
There were eggs parachuting out of windows when Year 3 got their creative juices flowing! The children were challenged to create a parachute that would transport an egg without breaking it.



Year 2 recreated the story of Persephone, goddess queen of the underworld, wife of the god Hades and goddess of spring growth. Using masks, they brought this Greek mythological tale to life and there was much laughter in the playground as the tale unfolded!

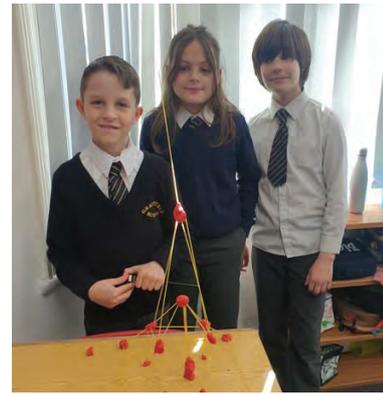


Most of the eggs survived the descent, so well done Year 3!



# GETTING CREATIVE AT GRACEFIELD

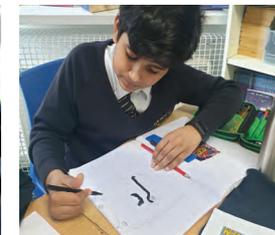
Year 3 also took on a construction challenge in the playground, creating lots of different structures. Year 4's creative construction involved spaghetti and playdough with the challenge to create the tallest structure. It's harder than you think as the spaghetti is so fragile!



Year 5 started the day making circuits before moving on to create some amazing marble run structures.



Year 6 individually recreated a section of pop art before combining them into this clever artwork.



Well done everyone for making Creative Day so enjoyable. It was lovely to see you all working together!

# WORLD BOOK DAY

Children at home joined children at school in celebrating World Book Day. From Spiderman to the Genie of the Lamp, the books chosen this year and the corresponding costumes were excellent.



# YEAR OF THE OX

We celebrated the Chinese New Year throughout school with decorations and activities. Reception created a huge human Chinese dragon in the playground and Year 3 made some really colourful versions from paper.



There were lots of Chinese lanterns being made around school and all the children wore something red for the day.



# WE'VE MISSED YOU!

Reception wanted to make a card for Mrs Morgan to welcome her back following her recent absence due to eye surgery. They presented it to her in the library. Mrs Morgan is still getting used to her post surgery eyesight, but is progressing well.



# BUDDING SCULPTORS

Reception and Year 1 have been learning about British artist and sculptor, Andy Goldsworthy, known for using natural materials such as rocks, leaves, or branches in his artwork. The children really enjoyed creating a pathway sculpture using natural materials.



# BUILD A BEAR



Reception and Year 1 have been learning all about bears in their Topic work on Goldilocks and Vintage Toys. The children made their own special bear, stuffing the toy and creating birth certificates for them. Well done children on a great craft activity!



Each bear came with a little heart to place inside the bear before it was ready for cuddles.

# YEAR 2 GYMNASTICS

Year 2 have been learning gymnastics in PE and using our new balance tables, practised this stretching technique, holding the pose for as long as possible. It's a lot more difficult than it looks but they held out for a long time!

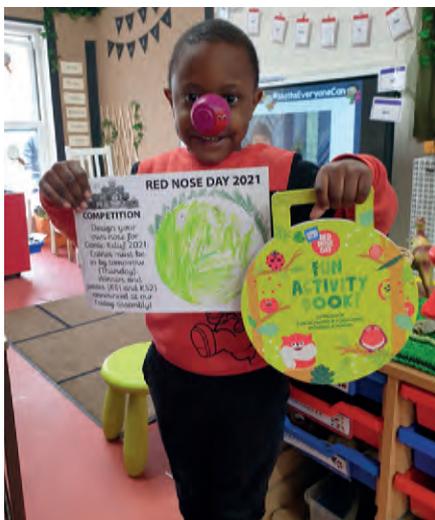


# DOING SOMETHING FUNNY FOR MONEY

We once again joined in with the Comic Relief Red Nose Day fundraising. Early Birds kicked off the day with a sponsored 4-Square tournament. The children worked hard to take as much of Mrs Tanner's money as possible and raised over £20 in 20 minutes, so well done to the five Year 5 children for the energetic start to our fundraising!



Our two competition winners did a great job designing their own nose and Year 4 provided a plethora of jokes to make people smile in the playground.



Thank you to everyone for all your support with our fundraising.



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Where do you put cow bones?

In a ...  
**MOOSEUM**  
Lizzie

What do you call a spaghetti in a pasta bowl?

**An im-pasta!** Raif  
(imposter)

**HEE HEE!**

What's a cheese called that's not yours?

**NACHOCHEESE!**  
Holly

What did the angry pizza say to the chef?

**You wanna pizza me?!**  
Michael

**HO HO!**

What do you call a person who ruins breakfast?

**A cereal killer!**  
Elinor

**HA HA HA!**

# YEAR 3 VOLCANOES

Year 3 made volcanoes using paper, glue and paint before creating a lava flow using vinegar and baking soda.



# UP PERISCOPE

Year 6 have been making periscopes from cereal boxes and mirrors. They were able to look across the city and see for miles from the top floor of the school.



**Thank you!**

**Year 6 have  
chosen as their  
charity for this term  
the Fishponds Baptist  
Food Bank.  
They are asking for  
donations of Easter  
goodies which can  
be left in the  
donations box  
at the back  
of school.**

## KINDNESS AT EASTER

A big thank you to everyone who has donated to the Year 6 Easter Egg appeal so far. Mrs Elson has been collecting the donations regularly and will continue for the rest of this week. Your donations are already being distributed to those in need and the Fishponds Food Bank sent this photograph with their thanks.



## READING SCHEME

Over the past few months we have been streamlining our Reading Scheme. Reading with the children daily is an important part of Gracefield life, which has been somewhat disrupted over the past year due to COVID 19 and various school and bubble closures. Last October we purchased over 300 books to add to our current Reading List. These were sorted through in the half term and Christmas holidays and we are now checking through all the reading levels within the classes and making more books available to the children.

The scheme is in place to help children learn to read, build confidence and make progress. Each child learns at a different pace and it is important for the teacher to be sure that children are not only reading fluently, but with comprehension, before they change levels. It will take us a while to get back on track after all the disruptions but we are well on the way. The children may change reading levels once we have ascertained where they are in the new system. We are confident that our more streamlined system will see them all progress through the reading scheme. You can help with this by reading with your child daily. This is one of the most significant ways to help them progress quickly through the scheme. We want the children not just to be able to read, but to enjoy doing it. Our Reading Scheme will give them the building blocks to enable them to learn the mechanics of reading. Encouraging your child to read other material at home will help them foster a love of reading that will stay with them for life.

## HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

We were very impressed to hear that one of our children has taken an interest in helping those most vulnerable in our city. Idrees has been helping his parents cook meals delivered to those in need by the charity Feed the Homeless. Idrees even has his own branded safety jacket, given to him by the charity. Well done Idrees for helping to spread kindness in the world.



## SHOWCASING OUR SCHOOL

We have been making a new film all about Gracefield which we can send to prospective parents whilst we are still unable to hold our Open Mornings. We hope to be able to share it with you before the end of the week. The children were fantastic over the two days, co-operating with all the filming requirements.

If you know anyone interested in attending Gracefield, please pass on details of the short film or ask them to get in touch. Places are available for September but are filling up quickly!

