



# Gracefield news

Issue No: 391

Date: 28th March 2020

## EXTRAORDINARY TIMES AT GRACEFIELD

I certainly did not expect to be issuing the last Newsletter of the Spring Term in such unusual circumstances. As I write to you, we have a small class of children in school, with the majority of our children accessing our emergency home learning package in their own individual settings.

We have agreed to support the government's request to remain open for the children of those staff who work on the frontline to manage this health crisis which we all face. We will also be opening during the holidays to support those parents further.

These are testing times, and I have been very proud to see the way that the staff have taken on the challenge of providing education, with very little notice, as well as volunteering to give up their holiday time to support our parents, despite the risks this entails. I want to reassure you that we are all diligently working away behind the scenes to support all our families. You may not be seeing us on a day to day basis, as normal, but we are still here for you ongoing throughout this crisis.

I would also like to pay tribute to our parents who have been positive and supportive throughout this week. As teachers, we recognise that at times this may have been difficult for you, but we have been encouraged by all the pictures and comments posted on Class Dojo or emailed to us.

Most importantly I would like to pay tribute to our parents who are frontline essential workers at this time. I have seen and heard first hand the physical and emotional toll your work has taken on you and on behalf of all our staff, would like to say a huge thank you for your service in battling this catastrophic health emergency. I hope that given the measures put in place to slow and stop the spread of the virus, we will be able to open our doors as soon as possible and return to normal.

In the meantime, I hope you can reflect on some of the stories in this Newsletter to remind you of what normal life is like at Gracefield. Whatever you are able to do, I wish you a very happy Easter break.

**Mr Gunter**  
Headteacher

## WAR TIME STORIES AND SONGS

Year 6 gave us a taste of life during World War 2 in their class assembly. We learnt about evacuees, sent away to avoid the bombs, what it was like during an air raid, and were treated to some nostalgia with well know songs from the era. Great assembly Year 6. We loved the costumes and the songs!



## SPRING WALK

Year 1 went for a spring science walk, to Mrs Morgan's garden. They started in the school garden, looking for various insects and flowers.



**HAVE A SAFE, PEACEFUL SCHOOL HOLIDAY**

# GOLDEN TIME FUN

As news of the enforced shut down reached us, the staff decided to give KSI a Friday afternoon of Golden Time. The children had a fantastic time, dressing up and playing a whole host of imaginative games.



# LEARNING ABOUT LENT

Year 4 taught us all about the meaning of Lent during their assembly. The period known as Lent, starts after Shrove Tuesday, when some people give up things, such as chocolate, for about six weeks, until Easter Sunday. This is to remember Jesus' time in the wilderness when he fasted for 40 days. As well as some great singing, we really enjoyed the fridge quiz Year 4!



# CROSS COUNTRY

The Colston's Cross Country Tournament was cancelled and so we decided to run our own competition in respect for all our children who had trained so hard. Well done to all the runners and winners! We hope you enjoyed it, despite the mud! A huge thank you to all the parents who came to support the children and to Mrs Rogers for the energetic warm up.



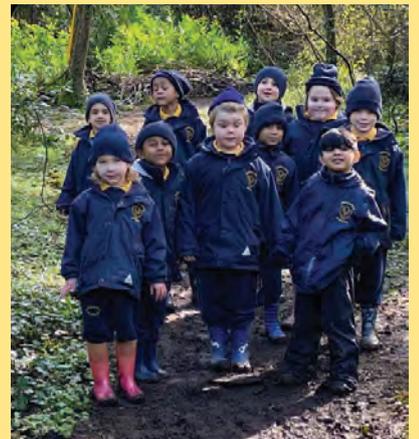
# PADDINGTON'S FAVOURITE!

Year 2 have been reading all about Paddington Bear. Learning to follow a list of instructions, the children made marmalade sandwiches, just like those enjoyed by Paddington in the story.



# IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY

Reception and KS1 had a great day out at Forest School. Despite the extremely muddy conditions, the children really enjoyed gathering sticks for the fire, making and cooking bread, building dens and climbing trees.



# MEASURING SPEED

Year 2 have been learning about measurements over the past few weeks. They used the playground to measure speed and distance.



# WHAT DOES IT WEIGH?

Year 1 have been using cubes to find out the weight of different objects.



# MAP READING SKILLS

In a generation where sat navs are a popular way of finding the way around, Year 5 have been learning to do things the old fashioned way with a map and a compass. Great skill to have Year 5!



# COOKING WORLD FOODS WITH YEAR 6 CHEFS

Year 6 have been learning how to cook and taste different world foods in DT this term. They made quesadillas and did a great job chopping ingredients and rolling filo pastry for vegetable spring rolls.



# LET'S DO IT FOR SPORT RELIEF!

Sport Relief week saw lots of different sporting activities happening at Gracefield to raise money for a good cause. Thank you to Mrs Rogers for running our Whopping Wake and Shake to kick off the week. The children also took the Stopwatch Challenges including hula hoops, football, skipping, boogie and finally, the move it challenge assault course.

