

THE GREENFIELD GOSSIP

Newsletter by the pupils of Greenfield Primary School, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire

Winter Issue 26: January 2020

A happy new year to you all and we hope that you enjoy reading our winter edition of The Greenfield Gossip. It may of course be winter here but record temperatures in Australia over the festive period have resulted in unprecedented bush fires which have destroyed homes, habitats and communities and caused so much devastation and heartache. It has brought the issue of climate change very much to the forefront of many political agendas across the world and has forced many people to accept that we simply can't continue to live on The Earth in the way we have been for the last few decades. Things have to change if we are to protect this planet and all its incredible wildlife and plantlife for future generations.

The Y6 writers for the Greenfield Gossip were unanimous in their desire to write about this issue because it is their view that every single person on the planet has their part to play – however small, and I hope you will all take the time to read their article and consider some of the suggestions that they make for us all to take on board as citizens of the world and guardians of the environment.

For the first time, we also have an article written by a Y4 member of our school. Edison wrote his article on looking after teeth as part of his science homework in the autumn term. It was such a well researched and interesting article that we asked him if we could publish it in The Gossip and he kindly agreed – it contains many very important suggestions for keeping our teeth clean and healthy. Edison is a great example of the engaged learner and active member of Greenfield that we so enjoy having in our school as teachers ... he is setting up a chess club to run on the first Friday lunchtime of every month, so if you enjoy playing chess, please come and see me soon so that we can get your name down on the list!

Mr N Quinn
Head of School



Climate Crisis

Australia is still on fire! Although bushfires are a naturally occurring annual event, this year's fires are significantly worse than those of previous years. Fuelled by unusually hot weather and a prolonged drought, Currently, around a hundred fires are still burning and with winds changing direction, some are almost impossible contain.

Over 100,00 sq km have already burned to the ground (an area nearly as big as the whole of England); at least twenty-eight people have died, with more missing; over three-thousand buildings have been destroyed or badly damaged and the number of animals which have perished in the inferno has been estimated to be over a billion. During December, smoke levels in Sydney were so bad that air quality was more than eleven times the 'hazardous' level. As they walk to school in affected areas, children are breathing in the same amount of smoke as they would from a whole packet of cigarettes! Many celebrities have donated large amounts of money to help the bushfire crisis. Famous Streamer and You Tuber Lachlan started a stream lasting 72 hours, playing Fortnite and donating €10,000 to help put out the bushfires. People have donated thousands of pounds towards temporary hospitals for injured kangaroos, wallabies, koalas & other animals.



Photo Credit: flickr.com/photos/berknot

Australia is only half way through its summer season, with temperatures normally peaking in January and February, so this battle is far from over yet. While natural weather patterns have driven recent fires, researchers said it is "common sense" that human-induced heating is playing a role. Experts say that climate change has worsened the impact of natural disasters like fires and floods. Weather conditions are growing more extreme; fires are starting earlier in the season and spreading with far greater intensity.

The world is slowly beginning to wake up to the current climate crisis! Political world leaders met at the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland this month. However, in his keynote speech on the summit's opening day, President Trump praised the benefits of oil and gas, resulting in one newspaper labelling Mr Trump the planet's "No 1 Climate Change Denier". Meanwhile, Greta Thunberg scorned the president and challenged the promises from the summit, offering her strong opinion: "Stop investing in fossil fuels immediately, or explain to your children why you did not protect them from the climate chaos you created! Our house is still on fire and your inaction is fuelling the flames by the hour!". Sir David Attenborough has warned, "We have been putting things off for year after year", "The moment of crisis has come" in efforts to tackle climate change.

UK scientists say the recent fires in Australia are a taste of what the world will regularly experience as temperatures rise. Right now, the world has warmed by around 1°C since the 1850s. Even with current government plans to limit emissions of CO₂, the world is on course for around 3°C of warming by the end of this century!

What can pupils of Greenfield do at school and at home to make a difference? Here are some of the things we thought of: recycle, save water, turn off lights, unplug unused electrical devices, walk to school as much as possible, carpool, eat more plant based foods and less meat, use reusable drinks bottles, buy local produce without plastic wrapping, reuse shopping bags, grow our own plants and vegetables, use energy efficient lightbulbs and turn off the heating at night. Some families even have electric cars and use solar energy.

We all need to do our bit as the planet belongs to us all.

Article by Alex, Cameron, Erin & Joe

Star of the Month
November 2019



Y1 Isabel Watson
Y2 Nikita Bellamy
Y3 Emilio Coughlin
Y4 Dexter Stewart
Y5 Freya Farrell
Y6 Maya Roper

Star of the Month
December 2019



Y1 Emmie Lewington
Y2 Harry Thompson
Y3 India Griffiths-Brown
Y4 Bonnie Hammond
Y5 Max Bennett
Y6 Lily Hodgson

Star of the Month
January 2020



Y1 Neave Conlon
Y2 Bleu Mills
Y3 Josie Brant
Y4 Hermoine O'Neill
Y5 Jake Warrington
Y6 Phoebe Graham

Keeping in touch with life at Greenfield Primary School



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Mrs Lewis spills the beans...

Q: How long have you worked at Greenfield Primary School? Do you still enjoy working with children?

Mrs Lewis: *Would you believe it – I have been here for 30 years this October! I got a job here in 1990, on the same day as Mrs Robinson, which makes us the longest current serving members of staff. I got a job as dining supervisor at Beechwood Infants and Mrs Robinson got a job as dining supervisor at Linden Juniors (Greenfield used to be two different schools you see!) Of course I still love working with children – the younger ones still make me giggle every day and it is very satisfying working with children ... especially when they ‘get it’ as they are working!*

Q: What were you like as girl and what was your dream job as a child?

Mrs Lewis: *Well I was very shy as a child and it took me a long time to settle at primary school. I was also a bit of a ‘Tom-boy’ ... I loved playing with cars and climbing trees and my favourite present I ever received as a child was a Scalextric! My Grandad made me a bike out of spare parts and I made him paint it blue! I thought I might be a hairdresser ... then an air hostess (but I realised I don’t really like flying) ... but what I really wanted to be when I was younger was a mum.*

Q: Do you like all the developments in technology over the last 30 years? What would you like to see being invented next?

Mrs Lewis: *I think technology is marvellous – I love my i-Pad and my phone ... they are great for on-line shopping, finding out information, research and helping with homework. I do like mobile phones for keeping in touch but I do think that children get them at too early an age. In terms of new inventions, I have never learned how to drive – so I would really love a self-driving car that could just get me from one place to another ... they would be much safer as well as they wouldn’t go over the speed limit!*

Q: Where is your favourite place in the whole of the UK?

Mrs Lewis: *I just love Devon and Cornwall – we have had so many lovely family holidays down there when my children were young. I do like the English seaside – I even enjoy the long drives to get there – so much more relaxing than busy airports. I like the great British weather when it is good ... sunshine with a nice sea breeze ... eating fish and chips and an ice-cream near the sea, watching children play on the sand – perfect!*

Q: What is the funniest thing that has ever happened on a Greenfield playground at lunchtime?

Mrs Lewis: *Well - I have been here for such a long time, that there are so many funny incidents to choose from! I do remember when we first had a slide put in, the children and the other dining supervisors were encouraging me to have a go. It was new and very slippery and I went so fast down the slide that I just shot off the end and landed in a muddy puddle on the playground – everyone thought it was hilarious! I will also never forget Mrs Heggs slipping on a grape in the small hall, knocking over the bucket of unwanted food and getting up covered in carrots ... it was very funny!*

Interview by Cameron and Erin



WOW !

Autumn 2019 was a incredible fund-raising term for Greenfield School; the children, parents, families and staff raised an amazing **£2,643.20** for “**When you wish upon a Star**” (Laps for Lapland) and a highest-ever **Poppy Appeal** total of **£765.03**



THANK YOU & WELL DONE

Healthy Teeth for Greenfield School

Shocking statistics show that 4 in 10 children did not visit a dentist in 2018. Tooth decay is on the rise, it is estimated that nearly ¾ of children have tooth decay in at least one of their teeth.

Why is it important?

Our teeth have such an important role to play in our lives. They help us chew and digest food, they help us to talk and speak clearly and they also give our face its shape!

What can you do to help?

Regular trips to the dentist.
Clean your teeth thoroughly twice a day, (including the gums) for two minutes or 30 seconds per quarter.

Floss in between your teeth.
Keep fizzy drinks and sweets to a minimum.

An electric toothbrush would be ideal, but a manual is suitable.
Read the label on your toothpaste to check the size you need.

Did you know?

Through your life you have two sets of teeth, but only one set of gums, therefore you need to look after them from a very early age. Parents are encouraged to gently brush their babies’ gums before their first teeth even appear.



by Edison

What’s Happening?

HALF TERM BREAK
Mon 17th-Fri 21st Feb

Thurs 5th March
World Book Day

Fri 6th March
Y3/4 Trip “Billionaire Boy”

Thurs-Fri 12th &13th March
Y2 Residential to Beaumanor

Fri 13th March
Sport Relief

End Of Spring Term
Fri 3rd April

Start Of Summer Term
Mon 20th April

Tues-Thurs 5th-7th May
Y4 Residential to Edale

Bank Holiday FRIDAY
Friday 8th May