

# THE GREENFIELD GOSSIP

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

Issue 15: January 2018

A belated, but Happy New Year to you all – if I have not already spoken to you in person! 2018 has got off to such a positive start here at Greenfield ... the children have come back from a long Christmas holiday, focused, engaged and ready to learn. Behaviour is good and the children are really back in the swing of school life ... enjoying the routines, surprises and challenges that make up a school day!

It appears though, to have been a strange start to the year around the world, with themes of inequality and injustice pervading so many of the big news stories. Issues of race and gender continue to dominate on both sides of The Atlantic and it feels as if the world is getting ready to move on with different parameters and boundaries in terms of what is right and fair and acceptable – inclusion and equality are increasingly on the agenda in many adult workplaces and industries.

Schools have been promoting the key British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for several years now – the aim has always been to ensure that young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain with key values of respect, tolerance, dignity and honesty at the heart of this agenda.

Here at Greenfield, we have always tried to embed these values within our curriculum and daily life through assemblies, discussion, PSHE and R.E work, displays, clubs and circle time so that these values just become part of the fabric of the school. Our aim is to ensure that all of our children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat all others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background, gender or ethnicity.

Perhaps some of the Greenfield children could support our leading politicians and heads of industry as we try and build a more tolerant, thoughtful, respectful and equal society! We await with interest to see how the rest of 2018 unfolds ...

Mr N Quinn

Head of School



## Science Special

In the Greenfield Gossip, we have decided to look in detail at the wonderful subject of science. We interviewed Mr Nethercot to find out more...



Your class teachers and Science Leaders, Mr Nethercot and Miss Snow, will help you with your science topics!

**Q1: What is your favourite science topic to teach?**

**Mr Nethercot:** I most enjoy teaching biology and animals including humans. I find the human body fascinating.

**Q2: What science facilities does Greenfield have?**

**Mr Nethercot:** Greenfield has lots of resources, including: the woodlands, the pond and planting areas. We have it all in the great outdoors.

**Q3: Why is science so important to teach?**

**Mr Nethercot:** It is important because it helps us understand how and why things work.

**Q4: How would you sum up science across Greenfield?**

**Mr Nethercot:** Science across the school is creative, exciting, well-planned and enjoyed by all.



We asked Mr Nethercot if there were any new things he and Miss Snow were planning on introducing into science in the near future. Here are some of the latest ideas and developments ...

**Scientist of the week:**

Along with star of the month and the regular achievement certificates, we will be introducing another award called the 'Scientist of the Week'. Each teacher will pick a student who has worked especially hard in science and they will receive an award in assembly and get to wear a lab coat in all their science lessons until the next award is given out!

**The PSQM award:**

This rare award outlines Greenfield's commitment to science. The award guides science leaders to a structured approach to improving science in school. People will be quizzed about their experiences and science leaders (Mr Nethercot and Miss Snow) will be completing a number of tasks to make science even more outstanding at Greenfield.

**Science question display:**

Every week YOU can write your trickiest questions on your class's science display so your teacher or fellow class-mates can give the answer. This feature will answer your queries and make you Einstein-smart at the same time!

Finally all of the science leaders in Greenfield are really impressed with your wonderful science homework and want to see the outstanding quality continue!

Interview: Seb Pope and Lara Monk

What have Miss Snow and Mr Nethercot discovered in their latest science experiment?



- ★ Star of the Month January 2018 ★
- FS Ellie Goodman
- ★ Y1 Isabel Lewington
- Y2 Amelia Blackwell ★
- ★ Y3 Luke Jelves
- Y4 Alex Higgins ★
- ★ Y5 Charlie Perry
- Y6 Ashton Porter

Apologies - missed from Issue 14

- ★ Star of the Month November 2017 ★
- ★ FS Nile Rostock ★
- ★ Y1 Isla Paragreen ★
- Y2 Annie Exton



Photo: Mrs Walton knows lots about Dance as well as Gymnastics!

## Mrs Walton spills the beans...

**Q: Did you have a dream job or some crazy ambitions when you were a child?**

*Mrs Walton: Well I really wanted to be a gymnast ... I spent my whole childhood upside down, swinging off things and walking along narrow ledges! We had a great P.E. teacher at Blaby Stokes and I did lots of gymnastics at school. I also wanted to be a zoo keeper ... I used to collect pets ... stray cats, insects ... and I loved the idea of running a zoo when I was a little girl. I loved Twycross Zoo as a child and I have always loved animals.*

**Q: What do you enjoy the most about working in a primary school?**

*Mrs Walton: I like all parts of my job! I enjoy seeing the children starting school at a young age and doing their first nativity and seeing them improve at reading over time. I love watching the children grow and develop and then get to Y6 and be ready to move on to High School – it's a*

*real privilege to watch them all grow up!*

**Q: Is there a country that you would love to visit or a landmark in the world that you would love to see?**

*Mrs Walton: I would really love to visit Niagara Falls; I love waterfalls and it would be great to take my two daughters to Canada and Alaska. I really fancy going husky racing across the snow as well – that would be amazing! One place I would go back to is Venice ... I haven't been there since I was a teenager and I remember it to be such a beautiful place – the bridges, the water, the music ... and of course ... the ice cream!*

**Q: If you won the lottery, what is the first thing that you would buy?**

*Mrs Walton: The first thing I would do is to provide the money for Greenfield to have its own indoor swimming pool! It would be brilliant to have our own pool and teach all of our children to swim really well and it would be great for the community to be able to use the pool at the weekend! I would of course also book a dream holiday ... starting with a trip to Niagara Falls!*

**Q: During your time at Greenfield, who has been your favourite teacher to work with ... and why?**

*Mrs Walton: I have worked with so many lovely teachers at Greenfield. Mrs Hurst was amazing to work alongside ... she was like a whirlwind – so bubbly and full of energy, but also so thoughtful and caring. I really enjoy working with Mrs Keen in Y2 – she is so calm and fair and just like Mrs Hurst, she looks for all the positives in every child!*

**Q: What are your hopes for 2018 ... for you, for the school, for Leicester and for the world?**

*Mrs Walton: For me, I would just like a nice, peaceful year! For the school, lots of inspiration and challenge, like always. And for Leicester and the world ... I just hope for a little more peace and tolerance and understanding of each other as people. But also for life to be fun ... optimistic, light-hearted ... and fun!*

Interview: Charlie Hornbuckle and Alex McPeak

### Plastic ... not so fantastic!

Plastic is a huge worldwide issue at the moment; we have all heard about 'plastic problems' on the news. But what do you really know about this problem and how can we help in our day to day lives?

Worldwide, plastic waste is having an enormous impact on our environment and in our oceans. Plastic is hurting marine life (animals that live in the ocean) everywhere including: turtles, fish, dolphins and many more wonderful creatures. I'm sure that you agree that this is very upsetting: so what are people doing to help?

Theresa May - our Prime Minister – has recently been sharing her views on this potential disaster. People have been taking much more notice now that the problem has been discussed so much in parliament. Some countries such as Iceland are already doing their bit and trying to replace as much plastic as possible with paper packaging to help solve this tricky issue. Everyone has to do their bit.

There are many things that we can all do to help at home and at school; an example of this is recycling the packaging from food we have eaten and not littering, especially not at the seaside! When littering by the sea, you could risk hurting or maybe even killing marine life that could potentially get caught in the plastic packaging that you have thrown away. Another thing we could do to help is spread awareness about this issue ... re-use plastic bags and try to cut down on the amount of plastic we buy and use. After all, I am sure we all want to help to look after the environment and protect the animals that live on our beautiful planet.



Article: Emma Broadhead and Layla Boseley

### What's Happening?

**Mon-Wed 5th-7th February**  
Parents' Evenings

**12th-16th February**  
HALF TERM

**Fri 26th March**  
END OF SPRING TERM

**Mon 9th April**  
SUMMER TERM STARTS  
Y6 Visit "Warning Zone"

**Wed-Fri 2nd-4th May**  
Y4 Edale Trip

**Mon 7th May**  
May Day Bank Holiday

**Thur-Fri 10th-11th May**  
Y2 Caythorpe Trip

**W/B Monday 14th May**  
Y6 SATs Week

**25th May-3rd June**  
HALF TERM

**Fri 13th July**  
END OF SCHOOL YEAR