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Gracefield news

HAPPY TO BE BACK!

Welcome back to the Autumn Term everyone! I have been extremely pleased to see all the children back in school and very impressed at how smoothly things have gone so far.

The children have adapted quickly to the new set up and our investment in new outdoor sinks over the summer has made a considerable difference to our hand hygiene efficiency.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who have done their best to keep to the social distancing guidelines and the staggered start and finish times. We are learning and tweaking arrangements as we go, in order to adapt and create the best learning environment. You will find some of these changes later in this Newsletter.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new children and families who have joined this term. It is lovely to have you with us!

We are now looking forward to a term, where, albeit with adaptations, the children will engage with an exciting curriculum and enrichment activities which will enhance their learning journey this year.

Mr Gunter
Headteacher

I'LL HUFF AND I'LL PUFF!

Year 2 are analysing and writing about the story of The Three Little Pigs. To bring the story to life the children acted it out in the playground, complete with some fearsome wolves!



SUMMER IMPROVEMENTS



The summer holidays were a hive of activity at Gracefield as we worked to make all the changes necessary to be able to return to school with a full admission list.

As well as the usual painting and general repairs which go on during each school holiday, we installed three new playground sinks to help us accommodate the additional handwashing

required by the government during the covid-19 crisis. These have proved invaluable in cutting down the time it takes to get all the children washing hands for 20 seconds after break and lunch.

Reception also underwent a transformation and the staff worked hard to create a natural ambient environment which recent research has proved enhances and improves children's learning.

The children have a 'Curiosity Corner' where they can study and explore different items.



They also have a 'Small World Play' area which is adaptable and brilliant for inquisitive minds.



The 'Message Centre' encourages early mark making which will help the children progress onto writing skills.

The children have really enjoyed their new classroom and our Year 1 children have also been able to utilise the new equipment. Well done to Mrs Yemm, Mrs Derkacz and Miss Smart for all their creative input in the new classroom!

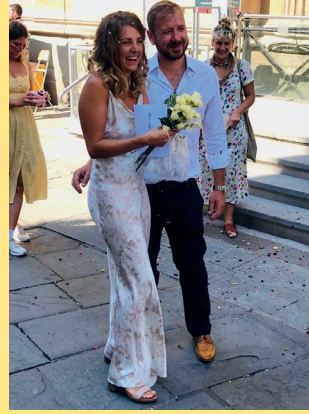
For the first time, our new Reception class had to start school without a handover from parents, due to the restrictions on visitors inside of school. Having such a beautiful environment has helped them settle really well and we are very impressed as to how quickly they have adapted to school life.

ROMAN ROCKY ROAD!

Year 3 are studying the Romans and to get the full experience of Roman road building, the children made their own - very sticky - Rocky Roman Roads from a variety of sweet treats.



CONGRATULATIONS



Huge congratulations to Miss Jones who became Mrs Derkacz during the summer.



Despite all the restrictions, the happy couple had an amazing day and managed to get away for their honeymoon. During their time away, they climbed Ben Nevis and sent us this fantastic picture.

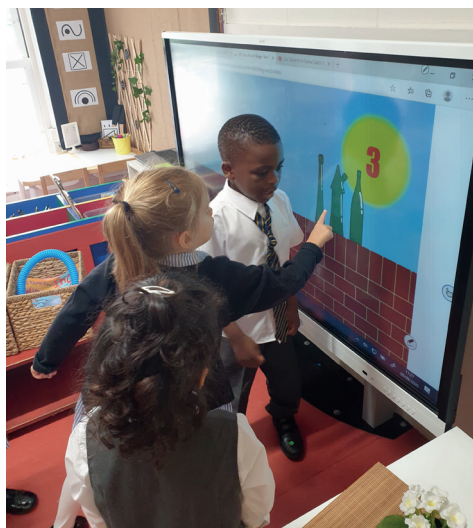
PLACE VALUE

Year 2 have been getting to grips with place value by using connecting cubes.



HAVING FUN WITH MATHS

It's been a long time since our Year 1 children have experienced formal learning. This week they have been solving maths problems in lots of fun ways. The children have enjoyed getting back into the habit of lessons and they also have plenty of opportunity to play alongside Reception with the play based learning equipment.



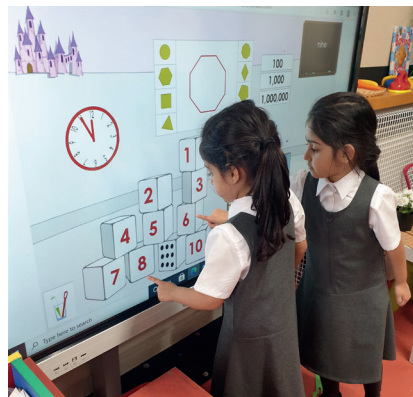
PLAYGROUND GAMES

It is lovely to hear the (loud!) sounds of the playground again at break and lunch as the children play together again. The log is as popular as ever!



DISCOVERING RECEPTION

Our new Reception class have settled in well and are enjoying Reception life! They have been exploring in the home corner and looking at 'colours' in lots of different ways.



WHAT'S IN THE SUITCASE

Year 6 are studying World War 2 for their topic work. They opened a suitcase to find various items and they had to work out what they represented.



The children guessed correctly - the contents represented items that would have been used by a wartime evacuee child.

PLEASE BEAR IN MIND ...

If you are picking up more than one child after school, it is helpful if you choose the latest slot to collect children. The school day is staggered and picking up children in an earlier slot means that the youngest children miss the end of their lesson.

Full uniform should be worn in school, except for on PE days when PE kit should be worn to school. Blazers should also be worn on PE days. Children should arrive and depart in their school blazers.

We do understand that uniform supplies have been difficult to obtain. We will hopefully be able to organise a uniform sale in the next couple of weeks and information will follow as to a date and time. In the meantime, we will be revisiting changing supplier in order for you to be able to try clothes on your child for correct sizing. Again, details of this will follow once the arrangement is in place. In the meantime, if you are struggling with uniform, we do have some stock in school so please let the office know if you need anything. Please also make sure all uniform is named. We already have new items in lost property which are unnamed.

Have a great weekend everyone. Once again, thank you for your support during these unusual times.

PE DAYS HAVE CHANGED

To accommodate all the Bubbles, PE days have changed. Children should come to school in their PE kit on PE day and wear their blazers.

RECEPTION - TUESDAY
YEAR 1 - TUESDAY
YEAR 2 - THURSDAY
KS2 - MONDAY AND THURSDAY