

## NEWSLETTER 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

### A message from The Headteacher



Week one and we are in full swing! It has been a pleasure to walk around the classrooms this week and see the pupils so settled and classroom routines becoming embedded.

We have welcomed a number of new pupils and their families to the school community and we hope that you can all meet each other at some of our upcoming events. Next week we have our first community BBQ, we have invited some of our leavers from recent years to come and joint this event. Please keep an eye on key diary dates to see what else is coming up this term.

I wanted to thank everyone for supporting our changes to the start and end of the day. The small changes to the times have made a big difference to how settled the start of the day is and I know from feedback from some families that the earlier entry from the road to the playground has provided a calmer start to some of your days too – which is good news!

I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of parents this week and look forward to seeing more of you. Please do feel free to raise any issues, concerns or queries with me. I have an open-door policy and my office is now situated on the ground floor of the school next to the Admin Team, so I can be available for you.

This year one of our key priorities will be our pupils physical development. In order to enhance our physical development offer, we have decided to dedicate a full day each week to physical provision. This does not mean that we will only work on physical skills on this day but that we will use the day to enrich our curriculum and offer pupils specialist physical input and activities in an integrated way with the support of our therapy team. The pupils will complete their usual morning routines in class including registration and self-care. They will then be allocated to groups depending on their physical development needs. The pupils will have access to a range of specialist activities and equipment across the academic year. These include, swimming, rebound (trampolining), bike & trikes, dance, yoga and use of the Innowalk. Pupils will then return to their base class for their routine parts of the day e.g., lunch and end of day. All pupils will be supported by familiar adults across this time as well as staff with specialist training in the activities they are accessing. Other curriculum areas will be scheduled in and around physical activities. However, the key focus of the day for the whole school will be physical development.

We would like to assure you that this does not replace your child's usual physiotherapy or physical development provision, we have introduced this day to relaunch and enhance the existing provision.

We will be writing to you again shortly with further details as this initiative will be phased in over this term. We will begin with some swimming sessions next week. If this relates to your child we will write to you directly. Please be assured that all pupils will be allocated swimming this year.

I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming events.

Warm regards, Roxanne



## Stars of the week

**Titan class** – **Jeremiah** for settling well into the Titan class routine

**Mercury class** – **Adam K** for clear communication and making everyone in Mercury laugh!

**Jupiter class** - **Eda** for engaging in a brand new eye-gaze activity to let us know what she has been doing at school and home

**Europa class** - **Fatou** for initiating interactions with her new class and telling everyone what she likes

**Neptune class** – **Chinmay** for doing amazing sitting at the table for Good Morning and What's in the box?

**Venus class** - **Cerim** for using the toilet successfully throughout the school week!

**Mars class** – **Mason** for an amazing story and front cover drawing!

**Pluto class** – **Rose** for super tiger printing!



## Staff shout outs

- Shout out to **Christina** and the **Neptune team** for exploring new routines for the best provision for the children
- Shout out to **Sam** for running our first topic session in Europa class
- Shout out to **Sheila** from Jupiter class for planning an amazing shared attention activity to introduce our pupils to big and small this week!
- Shout out to **Denise** for all her fantastic help in Mercury, Titan and Europa
- Shout out to **Amanda** (school nurse) for working tirelessly to support the pupils health and medical needs and being a constant source of support for all teams.

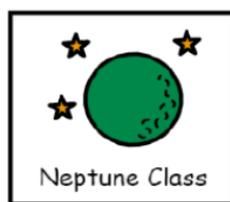
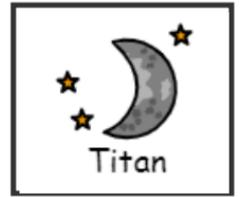


## Early Years Pathway

We have been very excited to open the **EYFS Pathway** this September. So far, we have welcomed 3 new children and 7 have now gone full time! All the children in the pathway have been teaching the adults about what they like and don't like through sessions and play.

In **Titan**, shared attention sessions is a firm favourite the children have demonstrated their amazing listening and attention skills.

**Mercury** have been exploring sound as part of their topic this week and their music session was a big success with everyone having a turn of getting on top of the big gathering drum!



## Semi-formal Pathway

In the **Semi-formal Pathway**, **Venus** and **Neptune** have been working hard on learning their school routines again!!



Some pupils have been using 'Now and Next' boards and our 'help to be green' toolkits to support them to be regulated and ready for learning.

The pupils have been generalising their communication skills since returning to school and getting used to completing work in a busy classroom environment again.

Our topic is 'Communita' and our focus text this week was 'The Tiger who came to tea' (you may have noticed a tiger theme). Neptune have been exploring different tea in small groups or as a 1:1 activity while Venus have been making tiger playdoh cakes and rich tea biscuits.

Well done to all the pupils in the semi-formal pathway this week for all of your achievements so far and have a lovely weekend everyone!

## Formal Pathway

The Formal Pathway have been reading "the Tiger who Came to Tea" and recording their own versions which included "The Cow who came for Cake", "The Unicorn that ate a cupcake" and Bob and Princess went to McDonalds "



Here is one of the stories by **Mars'** star of the week entitled "Sticky Tummies" /+

Sticky tummies.

Dinosaur bob is im the toy room.

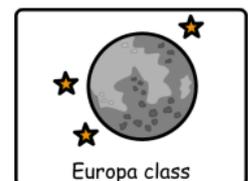
He ate all the glue stics.

He had a upset tummy.



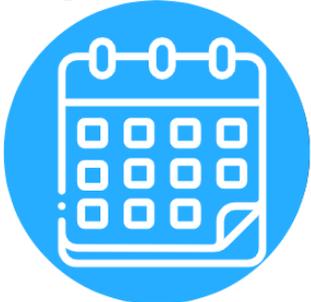
## Sensory Pathway

This week in the **Sensory Pathway** we have been focusing on building relationships with new peers through play. We have been using our communication environment and devices to play games and make requests.



Monday 19th September	School closed - bank holiday
Friday 23rd September 4.30pm-7pm	Community BBQ
Friday 30th September 9.30am-11am	Macmillan coffee morning
Tuesday 4th October 9.30am-11am	EYFS Pathway Parent Presentation (Mercury & Titan)
Wednesday 5th October 9.30am-11am	Semi-formal Pathway Parent Presentation (Neptune & Venus)
Thursday 6th October 9.30am-11am	Sensory Pathway Parent Presentation (Jupiter & Europa)
Friday 7th October 9.30am-11am	Formal Pathway Parent Presentation (Mars & Pluto)

**Key diary dates**



**Sign of the week**



This week's topic based sign is our Topic sign:  
**Community**



## Teacher & Learner

**Teach & Learner is a new feature to our newsletter. Each week it will be written by a teacher or one of the therapy team. We will hear their thoughts and reflections on something they have learnt about recently. It may be training they've been on, someone they've heard speak, a podcast or a book. Our team are always ready to learn and be at the forefront of research, hear different views and experiences and they love to share this with others!**

### Eating with our faces

Have you ever thought about how many senses we use when we eat? When I was in school, we were taught that there were 5 senses, vision, hearing, taste, touch and smell (there are many more!). When we eat, we are using these 5+ senses all at the same time.

Over the holidays I listened to a podcast featuring Joanna Grace—a specialist in sensory engagement and development. It focussed on Eating and the Senses and it made me think about many of the children I have worked with over the years

Is there such a thing as a 'fussy eater'? If there is, Joanna argues that it is not a sensory issue. The sensory content of food is massive—we have flavour, smell, texture... but also sound. For some pupils, is the sound of chewing overwhelming them? As neurotypical adults, we have learned to 'tune it out'.

As a child I never trusted fruit... how can you trust it? Sometimes the same fruit can be sweet, sour, soft, mushy, crunchy, bitter... there's an awful amount of variables which a simple chicken nugget surpasses.

The number of nerve endings in your mouth and on your tongue surpasses the number in the tips of your fingers. We are asking children to experience sensory inputs "in their faces". When we eat we aren't using fingers to touch.... It is also 'in our faces'. The sound is 'in our face'. If we get asked to feel something new or unusual, we might gently touch it at arm's length. If we eat or taste something new... we're doing it 'in our faces'!

Before I listened to this podcast, I didn't really think about how much we automatically process and how difficult it can be to translate our children's communications and preferences around food.

It's definitely something to keep thinking about and I would recommend this episode to any parent (regardless of sensory needs)

At Greenmead, we support our pupils' eating with the support of our Speech and Language Therapy Team via specific interventions, messy play, food groups and routine. If you need any support at home with your child's eating please get in contact with our school team.

Tim Twomey—Mercury Class Teacher, Cognition & Maths Lead, Assessment Lead





It's time for Coffee Morning and **you're invited!**  
Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

**Friday 30th September**  
**9.30am-11am**  
**Greenmead Primary School**

Join us for coffee, cake and a natter  
Please feel free to bring a cake or something yummy to share (homemade or bought!)  
If you can't make it and you would like to donate to Macmillan, you can use the QR code below



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Greenmead Primary School

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