



GRINDON HALL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Nookside, Sunderland, SR4 8PG

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Interim Principal: Mrs Chris Robinson

Important Dates

- Tuesday 30th April – Junior Maths Challenge.
- Thursday 2nd May. **Year 7 Parents Evening:** 4pm-6pm.
- Monday 6th May – BANK HOLIDAY.
- Monday 13th May – Y6 SATS week.
- Monday 20th May – Y2 SATS week.
- Friday 7th June – Reception Family Assembly.
- Monday 10th June – Y1 and Y2 Phonics Screening.

Welcome back!

A warm welcome back to all students, staff, parents and carers! I trust you have all had a happy Easter break and are ready for the term ahead.

Parents and carers are aware that within the next week Grindon Hall Christian School is due to become part of Emanuel School Foundation and I am sure David Dawes, the Executive Principal Designate will be contacting you directly once the conversion has taken place.

It gives me great pleasure to announce to you the new Head Boy and Head Girl for next year. This is a change to usual practices as the students are now drawn from next year's Year 11 and we are taking the opportunity to make other new positions available for students and further develop some of the roles.

For next year:

Head Boy is **Daniel Poulton**

Head Girl is **Evie Hodson**

Senior Prefect is **Faith Massey**

Senior Prefect is **Molly Walker**

My warmest congratulations go to them!

My thanks and congratulations also go to the other students who put themselves forward for the positions and likewise made us proud today in the final interviews (and before the holiday when they spoke to students). They are Emily Harrison and Aaron Cave. I am confident in the new student leadership structure, there will be senior leadership roles for them too.

It has been a crisp and business like start to the term this first week back, and I thank all parents for their continued support.

Kind regards,

Chris Robinson - Interim Principal.

Literacy Focus

Advice that children should still be read to as teenagers makes sense, as they learn the complex gear changes between speech and prose. Famous children's author Michael Rosen, of *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* fame, says that children should be read aloud to well into their teens. He says,

'I was very lucky to have been brought up in a household where my older brother and my father read out loud to me as a teenager. It was a form of conversation or entertainment. They were "hey-listen-to-this" moments, taking in Dickens, Hardy, Catch-22, Catcher in the Rye, the Molesworth books, newspapers, magazines, Konrad Lorenz's science books, Alan Moorehead's accounts of exploration and any random passage from their studies. Come to think of it, my father didn't stop! In his 70s, when I was in my 40s, my father still read me the stories he wrote about his childhood. His intonation, his pronunciation of Yiddish, our cackling at his jokes live on.'

This week, it was suggested that in order to foster a love of reading, parents and teachers

should continue reading aloud to children well into their teens. Ideal for reading out loud are things such as short stories, poems, plays, modern novels, journalism, texts of speeches, biography, and narratives connected with scientific discovery, history, geography and the arts.

The benefit is that our young people will have a greater understanding of the complexities of continuous prose and will therefore be in a much better position to achieve their maximum potential. So next time you read something funny or interesting why not give it a go and share it out loud!

Sun Protection

Hopefully we will have some fine weather and sunshine this term. Please remember that children will be outside for breaks and also for some lessons/ activities during this term.

Sun protection should be first applied at home each morning and children should have access to further supplies in school so they can top up their protection at breaktimes. Please note we ask that parents DO NOT supply the sprays as we find too many incidences where they have been misdirected into the eyes of themselves and others. Creams, lotions, sticks and gels are all acceptable. All packaging should be labelled with your child's name. Children must apply sun protection independently.

Y5 Bikeability Programme

Sunderland City Council's Transport Team will be on-site from 8th May to conduct the Bikeability Programme for our Y5 pupils. The course is designed to develop road sense, awareness of traffic dangers and to improve your child's ability to ride safely.



Y5/6 Football

Our 9 a side football team continue their league campaign next week. Redby Primary

will be our visitors on Wednesday 1st May. The team have played in good spirits all season and we wish them good luck.

Watch out! Iron men are about!

There has been an invasion of iron giants in 3CT this week! Beware! They have been eating all of the metal in the classroom! Pencil sharpeners, paperclips and table legs have started to go missing!

The children in 3CT had great fun learning about the Iron man last term, and create these giants as a homework project. Many thanks to parents for your continued support with all homework being set.

Mrs Critchley and Mrs Tinn

