

Important Dates

- Tuesday 12th February – Mock Day, Year 10 English Literature.
- Tuesday 12 February – Y5/6 Netball 4:00-5:30pm.
- Friday 15th February – Staff Training Day.
NON PUPIL DAY.
- Thursday 28th February – Y10 Parents' Evening: 4pm-6pm.
- Thursday 7th March – World Book Day.
- Friday 22nd March – Y3 Family Assembly.

Gymnastics success at Grindon Hall

On Sunday the 27th of January and 3rd of February I was privileged to see our school gymnastics team in action again, with some breath taking performances from the students. On the 27th January, 23 of our gymnasts represented school in the North of England Team Milano competition, in which 20 of the gymnasts won places to represent the North of England in the national finals at Stoke on Trent in March.

There was further success on the 3rd February where every single one of our gymnasts won a medal at the North of England regional Sports Acrobatics competition. Sam, Banming, Elijah and Nyasha will represent the school and The North in the national finals at Stoke on Trent. Former students Ethan Parker and Jessica Ellen who both train at Grindon Gymnastics also qualified and will represent Sunderland College for the national finals.



Explosive science

This week, year 7 have been discovering the reactions of metals and metal compounds with acids. Perhaps one of the most exciting of these experiments is the reaction between metals and acids, to give a salt and hydrogen gas, which as you will no doubt remember from school explodes with a distinctive squeaky pop. However, I was grateful to a parent who took the time to tell his daughter about the Hindenburg disaster and show her video footage of the airship and what can happen when a large amount of hydrogen catches fire.



For those people who are interested here is footage from Pathé News:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgWHbpMVQ1U>

ParentPay activation reminder

ParentPay has now been active for more than three months yet we still have many parents who have not yet registered and started using the system. Even if your child does not have school meals, all other future activities, trips, clubs, music, revision guides etc, will be offered exclusively through ParentPay, therefore you are encouraged to activate your account as soon as possible in order to have a live view of all balances and transactions as well as being able to sign up for new activities. Reminders of user names and passwords can be requested at any time, and our office staff are willing to assist anyone who feels they need a little help getting started.

School meal debt

The ParentPay school meal system is designed to be a 'no-debt' system but sadly a number of parents are failing to top up regularly. This causes delays in the dining room as well as potential embarrassment to children when they reach the till and find their account has no credit. When a child has no credit each meal they are given results in a charge to their account and a build-up of debt for the parent. We strongly urge everyone to use the ParentPay system to keep your child's meal account up to date and in credit at the start of every week.

Breakfast Club now on ParentPay

We have added the ability to pay for breakfast club via ParentPay. At the moment this is just a payment channel rather than a booking system. You must continue to send booking forms to school stating the days you require and places will be confirmed by email as before. If we are oversubscribed and cannot offer a place, a full refund will be made.

KS1 SATs revision books now on ParentPay

We are offering some excellent and highly recommended Maths and English revision books for Year 2 children sitting their SATs this summer. These are available to buy now through ParentPay at a big discount over their normal retail price.

Year 3 Budding Writer

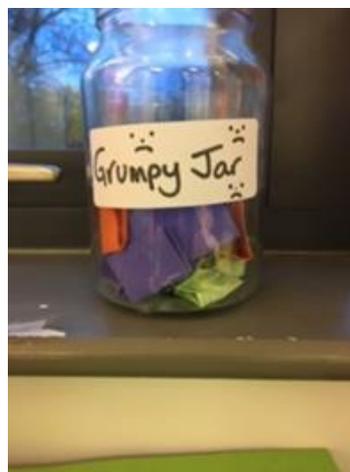
Sam McCoy has been writing wonderful stories at home and sharing them with the class. This tale was all about a detective who had to unravel a mystery by solving clues.



We look forward to the next episode!

PSHE

This has been a busy PSHE week as it has been children's mental week so we have been learning that our bodies and minds are actually very closely linked. We have been discussing what we do to improve our physical wellbeing can help our mental wellbeing as well. When we take steps to be Healthy: Inside and Out, it helps us to feel better in ourselves, focus on what we want to do and deal with difficult times. We have been talking about emotions and how we can take steps to deal with tricky situations. We made grumpy jars to put our negative thoughts in.



Tuesday saw "safer internet day" with the global theme '**together for a better internet**'. We have looked at tips and links on how to help us to stay safe and positive online and made pledges. As part of our "relationships" topic in the curriculum we have revisited the "Pantosaurus" PANTS (The Underwear Rule).



Parking Outside of School

The email below went out to all parents.
Please could you pass this important message to anyone who picks up your child.

Dear Parents

Road Safety outside of school

Firstly, thank you to the vast majority of parents and families who are considerate with regards to parking and road safety outside of school. I know this message does not apply to everyone.

Unfortunately, we appear to have a small minority of people who are parking on yellow zig zag lines, performing dangerous turns near the school entrance as well as simply stopping and allowing children to exit a car in the middle of the road. This is dangerous and does not teach children road safety. It must stop.

It is important that yellow markings on the road are kept clear in order to allow children to cross the road safely - they are there for a reason.

Parking can be difficult outside of school, however, the local shops provide a place to park and ensure children cross the road safely by using the zebra crossing. It is important that children are taught road safety and how to keep safe when crossing roads.

We have been impacted by the lack of a school crossing patrol. This is out of the school's control as it is a service provided by the local authority. We hope that they find someone soon.

*We will work with the police should anyone flout basic highway rules and cause a dangerous situation. We need to keep our children safe and **EVERYONE** needs to work together and be considerate to ensure this happens.*

Again, apologies to the vast majority who are considerate with parking, but I know from conversations with parents that the lack of consideration from some people in order to keep our children safe is becoming increasingly frustrating.

Kind regards

*Daniel Suddick
Senior Leader*