



Newsletter

21st November 2025



Dear Parents and Carers of Greenleas School,

Our unsung hero this week is Oscar in Kingfishers who enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate with me.

We've had a Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious week at Greenleas with a Year 3 trip to see the wonderful "Mary Poppins" at Milton Keynes Theatres. Children at both sites boarded their coaches after lunch for an afternoon of flying kites and chim-chimenes which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Year 3 at both sites were so well behaved and were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Several members of the public commented.

This week we are launching our Celebrating Different Cultures book, which has come from our Diversity Forum, which started last year.

This is an opportunity for our families with different cultural backgrounds to showcase special events and moments from home, to develop understanding and inclusion across the school. Luca from Derwent Road has shared his experience at an Italian Medieval Festival, which can be viewed below. If your child would like to take this book home and share a special event which is not recognised locally or by the school, please speak to the school office in the first instance.

On Wednesday, I had lunch with Stanley, Reece, Harper, Jake, Anya and Blake from Years 3 and 4 at Kestrel Way, who had been chosen by the midday supervisors for their good behaviour and manners. We talked about Scotland getting into the World Cup next year, Ice Hockey victory songs, playground games and the songs we know from Mary Poppins.

William and Ayfa from Year 4 at Derwent Road and Kestrel Way have been writing an explanation text this week at school.

At Kestrel Way this week the children have continued visiting the Book Fair, organised by our Reading Lead Mrs. Iley. It has been lovely to see the children browsing the books and talking about the different titles and which ones they would like to read. Thank you to those parents who have made purchases – the school receives a contribution towards books from the total spend.

Our collections for Children in Need last week raised totals of £129.27 at Derwent Road and £135.72 at Kestrel Way.

If you are interested in supporting the work of the school, please see our advertisement for Parent Governors. This vital group hold the Head Teacher to account for the performance of the school.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Rebecca Clarke,
Head Teacher



Greenleas' Value of the Month for November is...

Co-operation

Co-operation is working together to achieve a common goal.

To help deepen your child's understanding of our value this month, you could discuss these questions: Can you name some things you do at school and at home that require co-operation? What makes working in groups fun? What can make it not fun? Why is it better when people co-operate?

Star of the Week

Derwent Road:
Jack H
Kestrel Way:
Lillie



Tidy Tortoise

Kestrel Way:
Wagtails
Derwent Road:
Doves

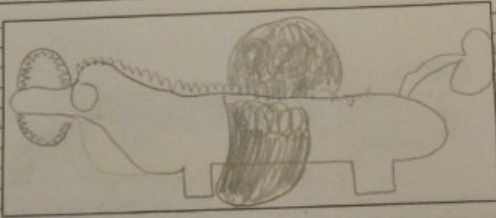


Click the icon to visit our school social media channels.



WHY IS THE SPONGE EXTINCT

Five years ago, the Sponge ruled Britain with its giant body which had venomous spikes. It destroyed cities with its extendible tail and high pitched roar. How and why did these extraordinary creature become extinct. Read on to find out more about the sponge.



is extinct. Sadly this mysterious creature will never be seen again.

Living with other dragons. Historically, the sponge had to live with other dragons for the reason it had to live with other dragons on its own mountain. These dragons would attack from everywhere, this led to it having to live in the jungle where immense hunters which had guns would kill them. Sadly, they couldn't move because there was a iron gate surrounding the jungle.

Stubby legs. In the past the sponge moved around with its feet. Sadly they were very slow. Its problem was its legs were so stubby it started having to fly. Instantly, their wings would rip because they were really thin.

Blunt teeth. The sponge had to chew with its teeth. Unfortunately, its food was very chewy. Unfortunately its teeth were very blunt so it couldn't chew. This led to it choking making it extinct.

From this text we can clearly see that the sponge

[To write an Explanation Text]

Why Camouflaging Cave Drool Sweeper Dragons are now extinct.

100,000 years ago, Camouflaging Cave Drool Sweeper Dragons mined through caverns all over the world. They mined valuable ores and were the strongest and most selective breed of dragon. Why are they now extinct? This test will clearly explain why Camouflaging Cave Drool Sweeper Dragons are no longer wondering the depths of caves.

Looks

The Camouflaging Cave Drool Sweeper Dragon had sharp teeth, horns and had a wrecking ball on their tails. They also can camouflage themselves perfectly in caves. But as man mined down into the caves to use the stone for building materials and weapons they could no longer remain hidden and were hunted.

Eats

This dragon's diet was ore and valuable rocks. As man took these and smelt them to make money the Camouflaging Cave Drool Sweeper Dragons got weaker and weaker until they couldn't move and died.

Lives

The Camouflaging Cave Drool Sweeper Dragons lived in cold, damp caves. Photographers were interested in them and saw the dragons in the caves. They kept taking photos of them and the flash blinded these fascinating creatures therefore they could no longer hunt and so they died out.

Celebrating Different Cultures

Medieval Festival in Italy

In July, I was in Lake Garda visiting my grandparents. One evening we attended a Medieval Festival in a hamlet built in the 13th century. We walked on cobble streets and through

clothes. People were wearing traditional clothes.

BORGO MEDIOEVALE DI CANALE TENNO DI TRENTO

First we made a pot with clay.

Rustico Medioevo
momenti di storia, cultura, folklore
XXXVII EDIZIONE

Could You Be a School Governor at Greenleas Lower School?

Or do you know someone who could?

Greenleas Lower School is looking for new governors to join our friendly and committed Governing Board. This is a fantastic opportunity to support your child's school and help shape its future.

What does a governor do?

Governors play a vital role in:

- Supporting and challenging school leadership
- Helping set the school's strategic direction
- Ensuring the best outcomes for all pupils

Who can be a governor?

You don't need to be an education expert—just someone who cares about children's learning and well-being. We welcome:

- Parents and carers
- Grandparents
- Family members
- Friends or neighbours
- Anyone in the community with a passion for education

What's the commitment?

Governors attend meetings throughout the year and contribute their time, ideas, and experience. Full training and support are provided, and the role can fit around work and family life.

To apply, complete the [application form](#) (at the bottom of the 'Greenleas Governors' web page)

Application window: 21.11.2025-01.12.2025

Please email your application to office@greenleas.net

Greenleas Achieves Equal Access Award!

We are delighted to share that Greenleas School has officially achieved Equal Access following the Barclays Girls' Football in Schools review. This award recognises our commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for girls to participate in curriculum and extra-curricular football and sport.

To celebrate this fantastic achievement, we were proudly presented the Equal Access Trophy at yesterday's Sportshall Athletics competition. Our commitment doesn't stop here and we will continue working hard to ensure equal access to sport for every child, promoting inclusion and opportunities across all areas of physical activity.

School Nurse Sleep Information

We were very lucky yesterday to have a visit from Naomi, our school nurse at Derwent Road, who gave a support session to parents around sleep.

Naomi then visited our year 3 and 4 classes and shared a child version of the session to them. The children were very surprised to learn how important sleep is to them, what happens to their bodies during sleep, given ideas around calming time before bedtime and healthy snacks and drinks in the run up to bedtime.

If you need any further support in this area or any other areas please use the links [here](#).



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT
 FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
 3:30 - 5:15PM

Tickets are limited, so book as soon as you can! Each ticket costs £8 and includes a drink, popcorn, festive snack and Christmas gift.

Please note this event is for Reception - Year 4 only.



RECEPTION - SING
 YEAR 1 - GRINCH (ANIMATED)
 YEAR 2 - GRINCH (ANIMATED)
 YEAR 3 - HOME ALONE
 YEAR 4 - THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Advent calendar raffle

£1 for 1 entry
 £4.50 for 5
 £8 for 10

Enter on the school app (paper tickets will not be issued, every entry will be numbered and a random number generator will be used to select the winning entries.)

We have over 20 advent calendar's to win! Chocolate, toy and book calendars are up for grabs! Raffle will close on November 21st and winners announced November 27th.



DERWENT ROAD PTA



**Kestrel Way PTA:
 Advent Calendar Raffle 2025**

TICKETS ON SALE VIA GATEWAY APP FROM 3.11.25 TO 26.11.25

1 TICKET	£1
5 TICKETS	£4.50
10 TICKETS	£8

OVER 40 CALENDARS UP FOR GRABS!

DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE ON 27.11.25

Ptakw@greenleas.net



KESTREL WAY, PTA

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS AVAILABLE

FOR PRE-SCHOOL AND PRE-RECEPTION CHILDREN ONLY

£4.50

As these children are too young for our Elf Workshop, the PTA have put together some gift bags instead. These will contain an elf hat, craft activities, reindeer food and some little gifts. If you would like to order a bag please do so via the gateway app. Bags will be distributed around 11th December 2025.



Kestrel Way

A BIG Thank You for all the car donations. We now have enough of these 😊

The school are now in need of any

PRE-LOVED BUCKETS & SPADES PLEASE

CREATE YOUR OWN LANTERN

for the LANTERN PARADE

Supported by
Leighton Linslade Rotary Club
Wednesday 24th December
6.15pm

Join us for the lantern procession leaving All Saints Church followed by traditional carols on the High Street

Registration Required For Lantern Making Workshops Being Held At All Saints Church, Church Square

Workshop Dates
Sat 29 November - 10.30 - 4.30 pm
Sat 06 December - 10.30 - 4.30 pm
Sat 13 December - 10.30 - 2.30 pm

Alternatively
Make your lantern at home
Register for a kit

For full details and to register for workshops or for a kit visit:
wegottickets.com/f/13981/

Lantern Kits £8.50 each

Open to all, but children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult for the workshops and parade

Christmas Fun Day

At The Dunstable Centre
Saturday 6th December
12 - 5pm

Inflatables ❄️ Bouncy castle
Santa's arts and craft workshop ❄️ Pool disco
Festive stalls ❄️ Christmas Zumba ❄️ Festive spin
Christmas Olympics ❄️ Under 5s soft play
Competitions with prizes ❄️ Raffle ❄️ Face painting

For more information, visit www.everyoneactive.com

All money raised will be donated to our charity of the year, Breast Cancer Now.

BREAST CANCER NOW the research support charity

everyone ACTIVE

NHS Bedfordshire Community Health Services

Parentline

A confidential text messaging advice and support line for Bedfordshire parents and carers of children aged 0-19.

Text: 07507 331456

Parenting advice and support Sleep Continence

Immunisations Mental health Minor illness

Speech Behaviour Temper tantrums

Infant feeding Diet & exercise

Child development Parenting

and much, much more....

We might include someone if we were concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff when following the same confidentiality rules. We are in reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we've received your text. If you need help before you have been back to contact your GP, contact with us on 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS (picture messages). We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include numbers used from landlines, international mobile numbers and some number sharing mobile apps). To find out what we do with your information, please contact us on 07507 331456 or see the link to our privacy notice. Please do not share your health professional team's messages to you, text 07507 331456. Messages not changed or your consent.

Bedfordshire adult and children's community health services are provided in partnership by East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) and Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS) NHS Trust

ChatHealth Pop-ins

UK Health Security Agency

Should I keep my child off school?

child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>

QR code:

SCAN ME

NHS

YOUR GUIDE TO PUPIL PREMIUM

RECEPTION - YEAR 4

What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium is additional government funding provided to schools to support students from low income houses to reach their full educational potential. Schools receive this funding to support these pupils through tailored interventions, such as tutoring, enrichment activities, or wellbeing support, with the aim of closing the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers.

How does it help your child?

When your child is registered as Pupil Premium the following support may be available in school:

- Additional learning support in class or in small groups,
- Access to a nurture breakfast each morning,
- Priority booking for parent consultation meetings,
- Access to a private Speech Therapist,
- Support with sourcing uniform,
- Access to one free after-school club for a term,
- Financial support during the school holidays to help with food costs,
- Bespoke free events just for pupils and families such as breakfast book club, or trips to the local library.
- Support during holidays with Holiday Activity clubs with free trips to pantomimes, experiences such as being a zookeeper for the day all free of charge through Central Bedfordshire,

Who is eligible?

Anyone who receives the following benefits qualify for Pupil Premium support in school:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income is no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit - if you applied on or after 1st April 2018 your annual household income must be less than £7,400 (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

How to apply.

Central Bedfordshire now automatically check families eligibility for Free School Meals and will contact families directly. However if you have had a change in circumstances either financially or with the people living in your home you can call **0300 300 8000** to update them and check eligibility.

If you need any help then please call the school office or ask for Mrs Hawkins (Derwent Road) or Ms Bird (Kestrel Way) and they will all be more than happy to help you through the process.