



GREYTHORN PRIMARY

"Engaging hearts, equipping minds, opening doors"

Spring Term

Weekly Newsletter

9th January 2026

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SATURDAY 10th JANUARY

10am - 12pm Open Morning For
New Parents September 2026

TUESDAY 13th JANUARY

Year 5/6 Young Voices

MONDAY 2nd - 4th FEBRUARY

Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes

MONDAY 16th MARCH

Year 5/6 National Space Centre

TUESDAY 28th - 30th APRIL

Year 3/4 Ilam Hall

MONDAY 11th - THURSDAY 14th MAY

KS2 SATS 2026

SUNDAY 19th - THURSDAY 23rd JULY

Year 6 - York Residential

2025/26 TERM DATES

Autumn Term

3 November - 19 December 2025

Spring Term

5 January - 13 February 2026

24 February - 27 March 2026

Summer Term

13 April - 21 May 2026

1 June - 24 July 2026

INSET: 23 Feb, 22 May, 27 July



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HEADTEACHER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you have enjoyed a peaceful and restful holiday break. Thank you for your thoughtful gifts and kind seasonal messages and best wishes to the staff.

We have returned refreshed and ready for the new Spring term. As the colder weather continues, please ensure your children are dressed appropriately (coats, hats, scarves, etc.) and take extra care when travelling to school so that everyone arrives safely and on time.

Mrs Carpenter





ATTENDANCE



Attendance

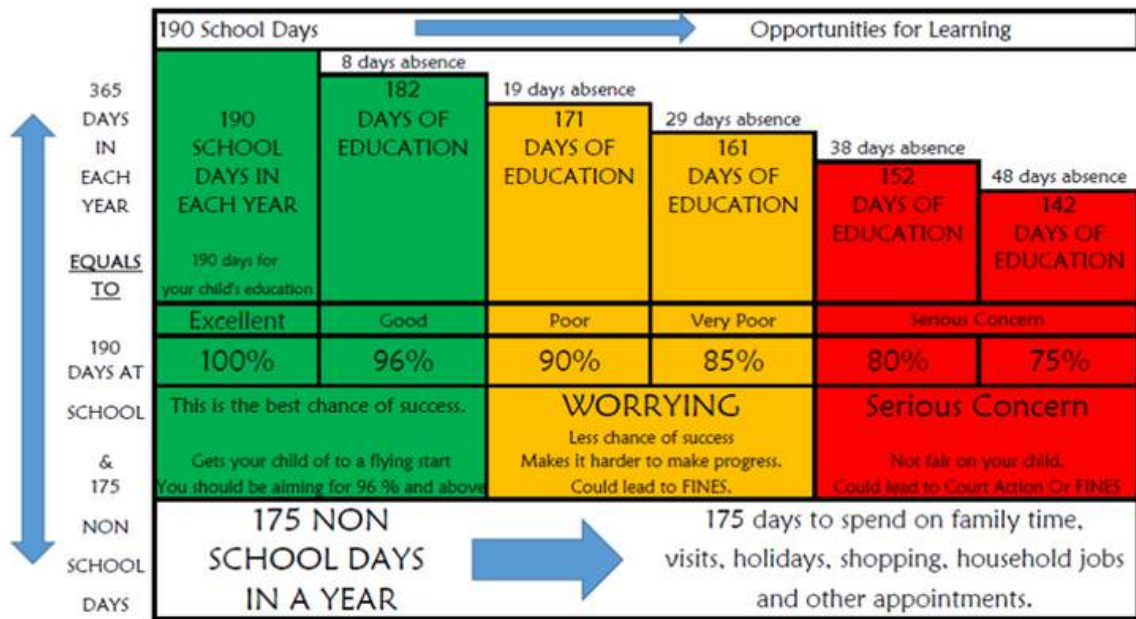
It is vital that your child attends school every day – lost learning is hard to catch up on and can affect your child’s outcomes. Please make your child’s medical appointments outside of school times as far as is possible although we do recognise that important hospital appointments may unavoidably be in school time.

What is an authorised absence?

- If your child is ill and you have contacted the school-please leave a message on the office answerphone by 8.30am on first day of absence
- If your child is attending a medical appointment and school have seen evidence
- Religious observance

What is an unauthorised absence?

- Your child being taken out of school for a holiday during term time
- Your child not attending school due to birthday celebrations or other family events
- Your child visiting family or friends, shopping or hair appointments
- Your child taking a full day off school for medical/dental appointments
- Your child arriving to school after 9.15am
- Your child being absent with an ailment that school would expect them to attend with
- Your child missing school due to a medical/dental appointment for a parent/sibling



Please help us to help you. If you are worried about your child’s school attendance, then staff are available at school and within the local authority who can help and support you. Gaps in education can mean your child will not reach their full potential.

It is imperative that your children arrive on time for school each day. The effects of lateness on your child can cause emotional distress and dysregulation, missed morning routines and key learning and missed early morning social time with their peers. Lateness is regularly monitored, should this your child’s lateness continue, you will be invited into school to discuss ways in which we can help improve this.

Here at Greythorn Primary School we consider good attendance to be 96%+. Every day counts!



STAFF NEWS



We are delighted to welcome Mrs Eve Beaumont to the Greythorn team. She will be in school next week completing a handover with Miss O'Grady, Mrs Barnes and Willow Class. Please ensure she receives a warm Greythorn welcome when she arrives.



Hi, I'm Mrs Beaumont and I am very excited to be joining Greythorn Primary as a Year 1/2 teacher in January. I have been teaching for 12 years in schools in Nottingham, Leicester, China and Cambridge! I am looking forward to starting my new role and can't wait to meet you all.'



Mr Tytherleigh has had a great first week back at Greythorn. The children were all delighted to see him.



Hello! My name is Joe Tytherleigh and I'm really excited to be joining Oak Class in January as their new teacher. I previously worked at Greythorn as a Teaching Assistant before completing my teacher training and I've also taught PE and supported the holiday and breakfast clubs here. I love being part of such a welcoming school community. I grew up in Surrey and I have always enjoyed keeping active through football and fitness. I can't wait to get started, see you in January!



BADMINTON CHAMPION!



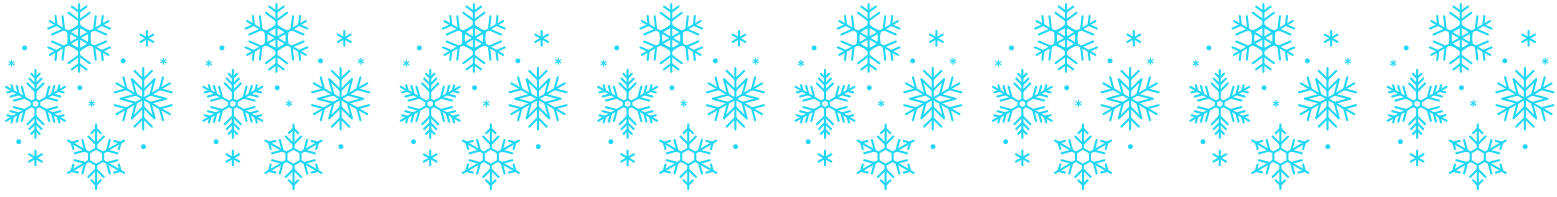
In December 2025, Caden competed in the U11 English National Championships 2025, where he was incredibly proud to win a bronze medal.

This championship is the largest and most important national tournament in England for his age group and represents the final and culminating event of the 2025 competition season. Athletes qualify for this event through a series of regional and national competitions, making it a significant milestone to reach, let alone to medal.

For Caden, this achievement means a great deal. It reflects not only his hard work and commitment throughout the year, but also his resilience, sportsmanship, and determination.



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS



Foundation

This week in Foundation, we made the most of the cold weather and transformed into ice explorers. The children had a wonderful time creating snow volcanoes, building snowmen, shaping snowballs, and investigating our ice exploration tray. They worked carefully and safely, wearing goggles as they chipped away at the ice, and even discovered that using warm water helped them free the polar bears more quickly as the ice melted. It has been a fantastic week of hands-on learning, problem-solving, and winter fun.



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS



Year 1/2

Happy New Year! Year 1/2 enjoyed an exciting hook day, on Monday, to launch our new enquiry, 'Where does chocolate come from?'

We did lots of different activities from tasting different types of chocolate, to exploring the process to make chocolate and creating artwork for our displays. We can't wait to continue this learning!



We have also had great fun playing in snow!



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Year 3/4

'This week, Year 3/4 have been busy launching their exciting new enquiry, "What if there were no rainforests?" We began with a hook day, where we 'flew' to Brazil and started learning all about the Amazon Rainforest. The children created their very own rainforest displays for their classrooms. To do this, they researched the different animals found in the Amazon and produced some fantastic drawings.

Later in the week, the children became geographers and used their map skills to identify where rainforests are located around the world. They amazed us with how well they reactivated their understanding of the equator and the tropical regions of the world. They also showed impressive knowledge of the seven continents and could name some of the countries where rainforests can be found.

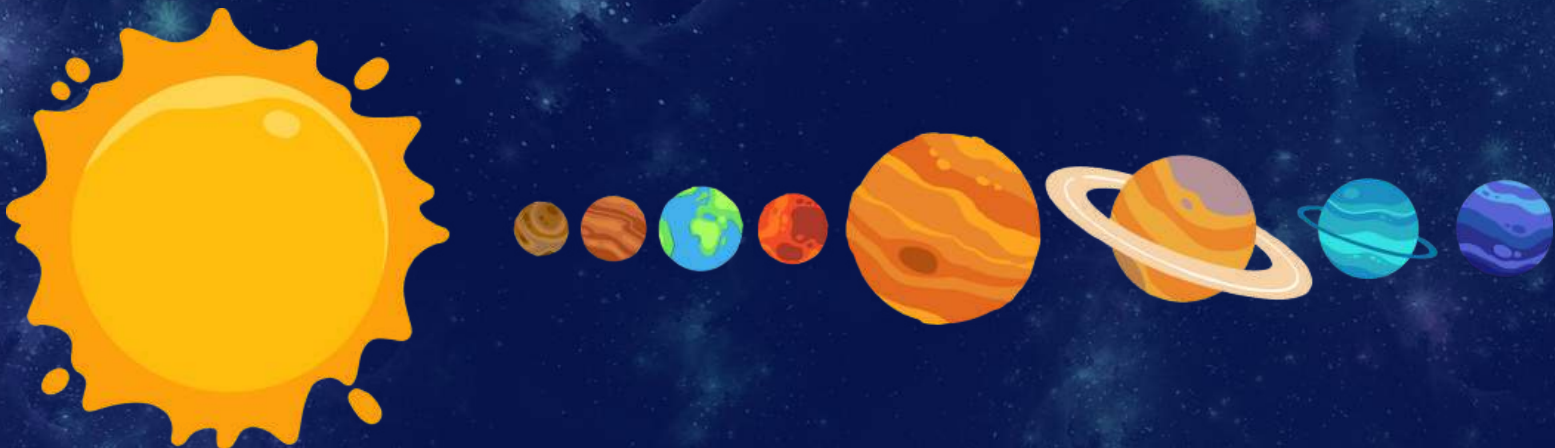
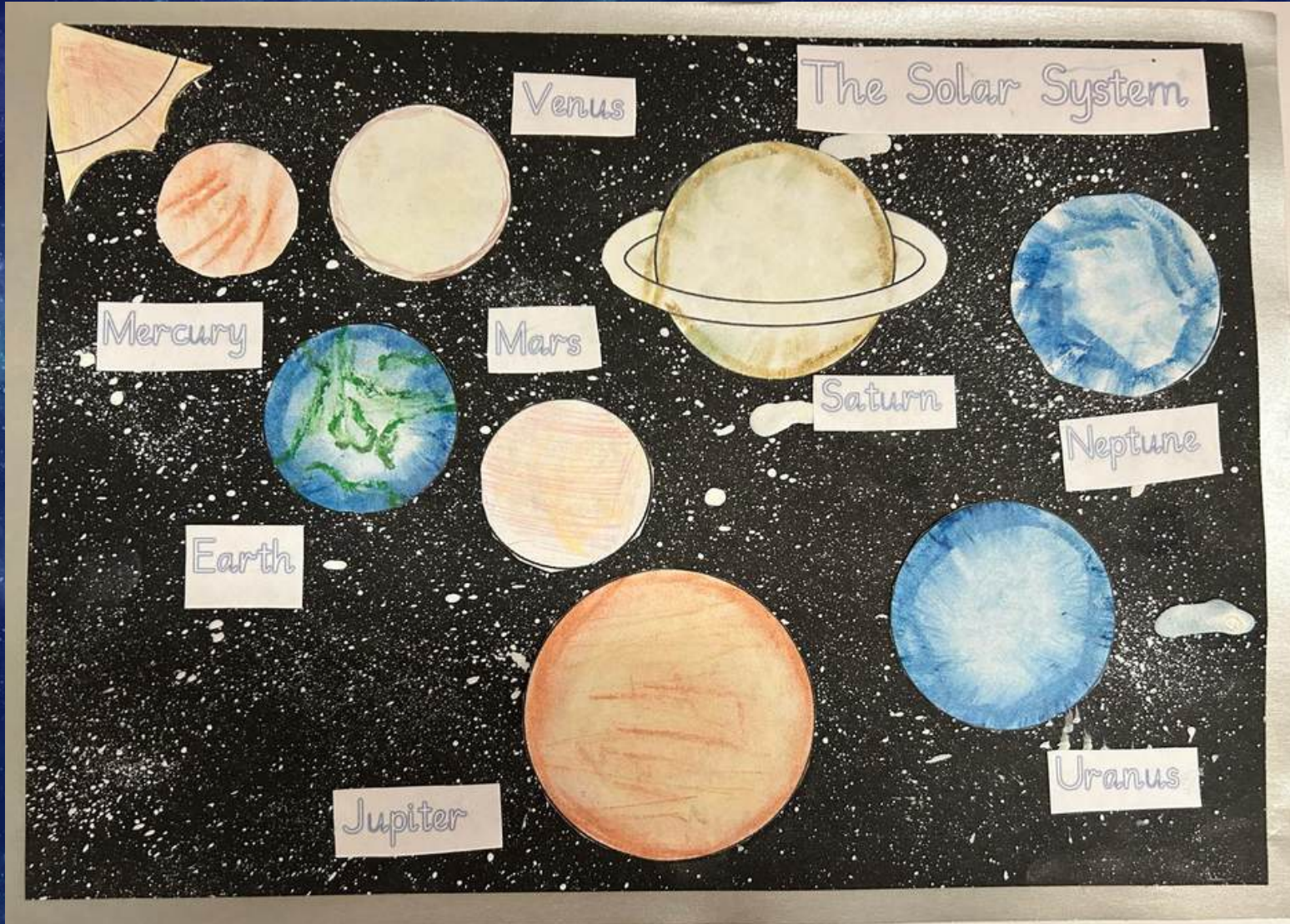
We can't wait to learn more as this exciting enquiry continues.'



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Year 5/6

Year 5/6 have begun their enquiry, 'Is it possible to live anywhere?' by creating pictures of the Solar System and watching videos about the planets.



Week

2

My School Menu

Winter 2025 - 2026

Week commencing

10th November, 1st December,
12th January, 2nd February,
23rd February, 16th March



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Option 1

Margherita pizza
Soya Gluten Milk
with potato balls,
baked beans &
sweetcorn

Quorn dipper
Gluten
wrap Gluten
with tomato
ketchup, peas
& French fries

Cheesy tomato
pasta
Mustard Soya
Gluten Milk
with garlic bread
Gluten Soya Milk
sweetcorn & peas

Bangers & mash
Gluten Sulphur
Dioxide
OR
plant based
sausage
Soya Sulphur Dioxide
with seasonal
vegetables &
gravy

MSC Fish fingers
Fish Gluten
OR
Fishless fingers
Gluten
with oven chips,
baked beans &
peas

Pudding

Donuts
Soya Milk Gluten
Egg Sesame

JimJam 'nut free'
chocolate
croissant
Gluten Milk

Chocolate muffin
Egg Gluten

Vanilla sponge
Gluten Egg
& raspberry sauce

Fruit ice lolly



**A VERY WARM WELCOME
AWAITS YOU
AND YOUR CHILDREN**



*WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE
IN DEVELOPING HAPPY
CHILDREN WHO
BELIEVE IN
THEMSELVES.*

**COME AND SEE
OUR
WONDERFUL
SCHOOL**

OPEN DAYS

SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY 10AM - 12 NOON

✉ office@greythorn.notts.sch.uk

☎ 0115 914 9779

🌐 www.greythornschoo.co.uk

📍 Greythorn Drive | West Bridgford | Nottingham | NG2 7GH

COMMUNITY NEWS



Year 3 Football Opportunity

Clifton All Whites FC – Under 8s (Sunday Team)

Clifton All Whites FC is a well-established local grassroots football club. We are forming a new **Under 8s (School Year 3)** Sunday team for the current season.

This opportunity is aimed at children who enjoy football, are performing well for their age group, and would benefit from a more challenging development environment, while keeping football **positive, supportive, and enjoyable**.

Who is this opportunity for?

- Confident and comfortable on the ball
- Enjoy learning, challenge, and improvement
- Compete well with strong players
- Show enthusiasm, focus, and a positive attitude

This opportunity is **not designed for beginners**. It is intended for children who are already among the stronger performers in their peer group or who show clear potential. We are recruiting **both outfield players and goalkeepers**.

Selection approach

As this team is being formed mid-season, our focus is on building the right balance of **ability, attitude, and enjoyment**. Parents are encouraged to make initial contact to discuss suitability. Some children may be invited to train with the group, although not all enquiries will result in an invitation.

Coaching & environment

Our volunteer coaching team hold the required grassroots coaching qualifications, are safeguarding and first-aid qualified, and focus on long-term development, confidence, and enjoyment.

Key details

- **Age:** Under 8s (School Year 3)
- **Training:** Thursday evenings
- **Venue:** FSM Nottingham Football Centre (Rushcliffe)
- **Matches:** Sunday fixtures (friendlies initially)

Interested?

Parents are welcome to get in touch for an informal conversation if they feel this may be the right level for their child.

Huw Richards | ■ 07543 918848 | ■ huw.richards@gmx.com

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Drawing attention to a child's successes – be they big or small – can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories – such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work – and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

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