



DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

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| Saturday, 6 | Rapso (N-Gage) at Grenville, 1—4 pm |
| Monday 15 to Friday 19 | Half-Term holidays |
| Saturday, 20 | Dance (N-Gage) at Grenville, 10 am —12 pm |
| Monday, 22 | Reading/Book Week |
| Weds, 24 | Year R Visit to Rectory Farm , Water Stratford (am) Year 5 & 6 visit to Ashmolean Museum |
| Friday, 26 | Hot Dog Day |
| Saturday, 27 | Dance (N-Gage) at Grenville, 10 am—12 pm |

MARCH

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| Weds, 3 | Yrs 1 & 2 Visit to Newbury Rainforest |
| Thursday, 4 | Book Week Assembly, 2 pm |
| Tuesday, 9 | Parents Evening, 3.30—5.30 p.m |
| Thursday, 11 | Parents Evening 6—8 pm |
| Friday, 26 | FROGS Disco |

APRIL

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| Thursday, 1 | Pizza Day End of term |
| Friday, 2 | Good Friday |
| Monday, 5 | Easter Monday |
| Tuesday, 6 to Friday 16 | Easter holidays |

Dear Parents



Health and Safety

In December we had our three yearly Health and Safety audit. This is a process that all schools have to go through. All areas of the school and its site were looked at and judged. We are very proud to announce that we received an 'Excellent' grading and an overall score of 90%. A grading of this category means that we are continuing to do a good job to provide well for the safety of your children and our staff. Not all schools achieve this highly and our efforts in maintaining a safe and secure environment to teach your children have been commended by the local authority as well.

On a security note we have had some new 'digi locks' fitted on the doors into Years 2 and 6. Please be aware that these are one-way only locks and a code is required to enter the building using these doors. We hope you will agree that they contribute significantly to making our building safe. Please support us in reminding the children that, once closed, the doors cannot be opened—therefore they must not pull on them!

Mural

You may recall the large mural that was on display at the Christmas Bazaar. This is the design that is going to appear on the large blank wall space in the Hall. The fundraising for this and the generation of the other art projects that happen in school are the result of a small sub-committee. Once we have finalised the date for the painting we will be looking for parents, who are experienced in the arts world, to support the painting and at times the children in making this fantastic masterpiece come alive. If you are interested in helping with the painting, please contact Mrs Kingston.

Clubs

We aim to provide a rich programme of after-school clubs – if there is something that you would like to see on our club menu please let us know. Numbers are down slightly on last term and we would like to see as many children as possible benefiting from the opportunities and experiences offered.

Playground Developments

We are getting closer to our fundraising target for the new additions to our playground equipment. Now the snow is out of the way we can

finally start to remove the existing play equipment. There are exciting plans for the development of this area, however please bear with us if there is a slight disruption during the removal or installation of any part of it. Thank you to FROGS for working very hard on raising the money.

Mud in School

Many apologies if your child has come home with muddy shoes, not to mention muddy clothes - some of the boys thought they might play a game of rugby this week! They have been told to avoid all muddy areas until the weather is drier.

Website

Watch this space for news of our new website.

IT support for parents

We have a very well resourced IT suite and we are looking to open up this resource further to parents to either attend training on using IT or as a drop in where you can work with your child on the internet, perhaps completing a homework activity. Please can you let us know how you would like to use the IT suite, by completing and returning the form overleaf. This will then enable us to try and meet some of your needs.

Parents Evening

This is to let you know that Parents' Evenings will be taking place on:

Tuesday, 9 March, 3.30—5.30 pm and
Thursday, 11 March, 6—8pm

Further details, regarding making an appointment, will be sent out in a separate letter. As always, this will be a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

Book Week advanced warning

You may also like to be ready for another exciting Book Week which commences on 22 February. The children will be working on a book closely connected to their topic and will be showing the rest of the school and parents a short presentation of their work on Thursday 4th March at 2pm. There will be a separate letter regarding this, so be ready for requests for props and costumes!

Whole Class Music Lessons

Last year our children in Key Stage 2 received whole class instrument tuition. They learnt to play the djembe (African) drums. This year we are continuing the whole class learning with Years 5 and 6 receiving recorder lessons. Next year we hope to continue with other instruments (through the Wider Opportunities Scheme), possibly string or woodwind instruments.

Guitar Lessons

We currently have vacancies for guitar lessons for KS2 pupils. Tuition is offered individually or in small groups. Lessons are fun and informative and children are able to study acoustic style playing, along with singing. They can discover a range of music from folk to modern day. Lessons are also offered to study classical, bass and electric. If you are interested, please contact Suzy Smith, the guitar teacher, at suzyasmith@aol.com or phone 0781 4367187.

Cinderella Pantomime

All our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the Cinderella pantomime last week, which was performed by M & M Productions. This special treat was entirely funded by FROGS, so many thanks to them. This was rounded off nicely with our ever popular Pizza Day lunch.

Reporting School Absences

As already mentioned in a separate letter, parents/carers are asked to follow the procedure shown below when reporting a child's absence:

- Contact the school office before 9am to report an absence.
- The school must be contacted each day a child is absent.
- On return to school, a note should be provided giving the reason for any absence.
- Home School Diaries should **not** be used to report absences.

Any absences not reported will be marked as unauthorised. Persistent absences may result in the involvement of the Education Welfare Officer.

Absence for Annual Holiday or Extended Visit Overseas

Parents/carers are reminded that they do not have any entitlement to term-time leave for their children and are therefore strongly urged to avoid booking holidays or visits overseas during term-time. Should such an event be unavoidable then the necessary form should be completed and forwarded to the Headteacher for approval one month before the proposed absence. Usually, a child will not be granted more than 10 school days leave in any school year and permission will not be given if applied for after the holiday or visit. If permission is withheld then the holiday/visit will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Parking

During the summer we had some new signs added outside the school. The presence of these signs means that if you are caught parking on



the zig zags by a Traffic Warden, PCSO or the Police you can be fined. Please consider this when dropping off and parking. We have been informed by parents that some people are still stopping on the zig zags and would like to warn you that the PCSOs have said that they are going to do random checks at our busy times.

PARENTS' PARKING PROMISE

Parking too near to school entrances puts children in danger

The area outside our school is busy in the morning and at the end of the school day. Parents who park close to entrances act irresponsibly, potentially placing children in danger. The 'School Keep Clear' Zig Zags should maintain an area free from parked cars. This allows children and parents walking in and out of school to cross safely, where they can see and be seen by approaching traffic.

Using the car less would help reduce the congestion and danger

Many children are driven to school when they could easily walk part or all of the way. Walking has various benefits:

- It helps keep children fit and healthy;
- Develops traffic awareness skills;
- Keeps the environment cleaner;
- Reduces traffic outside school at starting and finishing times.



Sign the Parents' Parking Promise and make your school a safer place

Please help us by completing the tear off slip below. By returning this you are undertaking to keep parked cars away from the area outside of school— therefore protecting the lives of all the children who attend our school.

If you return this slip to school, we will issue you with a car sticker which shows your commitment to the Parents' Parking Promise. Hopefully your example will encourage other parents to do the same.

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| <div data-bbox="97 1265 268 1473" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="325 1249 730 1281" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>PARENTS' PARKING PROMISE</h4> </div> <div data-bbox="288 1346 756 1411" data-label="Text"> <p>I will protect the safety of children at my school by being a thoughtful driver.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="288 1442 762 1507" data-label="Text"> <p>I will try to use my car as little as possible for school journeys.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="97 1538 697 1570" data-label="Text"> <p>I will not park on the 'School Keep Clear' Zig Zags</p> </div> <div data-bbox="97 1632 751 1666" data-label="Text"> <p>Child's name: _____</p> </div> <div data-bbox="97 1727 384 1760" data-label="Text"> <p>Child's Class: _____</p> </div> <div data-bbox="97 1821 751 1854" data-label="Text"> <p>Adult's name: _____</p> </div> <div data-bbox="97 1951 743 1984" data-label="Text"> <p>Signed: _____</p> </div> <div data-bbox="97 2013 470 2047" data-label="Text"> <p>Date: _____</p> </div> | <div data-bbox="863 1249 1217 1323" data-label="Section-Header"> <h4>Use of ICT Suite at Grenville School</h4> </div> <div data-bbox="1321 1193 1497 1384" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="815 1361 1469 1469" data-label="Text"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I / we would like be to able to drop in and use the IT facilities after school with my child/ren</p> </div> <div data-bbox="815 1507 1481 1615" data-label="Text"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I / we would like be to able to drop in and use the IT facilities after school without my child/ren</p> </div> <div data-bbox="815 1653 1481 1760" data-label="Text"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I / we would like be to able to drop in and use the IT facilities between 9 – 10 for my own use / research</p> </div> <div data-bbox="815 1798 1481 1933" data-label="Text"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I / we would like training delivered in the IT suite to allow me to become better at using IT - <i>this training will be provided by an external person</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="815 1966 1437 2000" data-label="Text"> <p>Name of Parent: _____</p> </div> <div data-bbox="815 2063 1453 2132" data-label="Text"> <p>Please return this slip to the School Office by Friday, 12 February. Thank you.</p> </div> |
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