JOLLY JUMPER DAY

Staff and pupils wore Christmas jumpers today for a suggested donation of £1.00.

The money raised today (along with the money collected at our Christmas performances this week) will be split evenly between our chosen charities:

https://www.gOSH.org/
https://www.dogsforgood.org/

We will update you in January to let you know how much we raised.

ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 7/12/18 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

**EYFS/KS1**
Miss Pulfer’s Class 1LP with 98%

**KS2**
Miss Sargeant’s Class 6ES with 99%

LAST NEWSLETTER OF 2018

On behalf of all the staff at Graham James Primary Academy we would like to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 3rd January.

DIARY DATES

- **Monday 17th December**
  KS2 Christmas Dinner
  Reception/KS1 - must have packed lunch

- **Wednesday 19th December**
  Last day of term

- **Thursday 3rd January 2019**
  Return to school

- **Wednesday 23rd January**
  6ES Class Assembly

- **Wednesday 30th January**
  2MW Class Assembly

- **Wednesday 6th February**
  6JCA Class Assembly

- **Wednesday 13th February**
  4AB Class Assembly

  18-22 February
  Half Term

- **Wednesday 27th February**
  4KR Class Assembly

- **Friday 1st March**
  3RW Class Assembly

- **Wednesday 13th March**
  1AC Class Assembly

- **Friday 15th March**
  3FG Class Assembly

- **Wednesday 20th March**
  2VS Class Assembly

- **Friday 23rd March**
  5CM Class Assembly

Parents are welcome to watch class assemblies. They take place in the morning and are usually finished by 9.45am. Other family members are welcome to attend if parents are unable to watch.
**IMPORTANT NOTICE - DINNER MONEY**

Reminder that dinner money should be paid on the day or in advance.

Our preferred method of payment is Parent Pay. If you do not have a log-on, please ask at the office and we can arrange this for you.

It is the parents’ responsibility to know how much credit is on their account.

Office staff will now only send dinner money arrears texts once per week.

However, please note that we do not allow arrears to go over £10.50. We will not provide a school dinner for children if the arrears are over £10.50 and parents will be contacted informing them that they need to either pay before lunch time, bring in a packed lunch or collect their child to take them home for lunch.

**REGULAR ARREARS**

When an account is regularly in arrears, we will insist on payment up front and a lunch will not be provided without payment in advance.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

When arrears reach £10.00, parents will be contacted and asked to bring the arrears up to date immediately. Failure to do this could jeopardise a child’s place at Breakfast Club.

**SICKNESS AND DIARRHOEA**

We follow the Public Health Agency guidance which recommends that children should stay off school for 48 hours following the last episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting.

Please do not send your children back until they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Monday 17th December KS2 Christmas lunch. Cost £2.10. All Reception and KS1 children will need a packed lunch.

**HALF PRICE LONDON EYE TICKETS**

We have half price London Eye vouchers. These are valid until the end of next year.

Vouchers are available on a first come, first served basis. Please collect from the school office.

**CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION:**

Should you have any queries or concerns, in the first instance please ensure you speak with your child’s teacher. After speaking with the class teacher, and you are unhappy with the response received please follow the escalation procedure below:

- Class Teacher
- Key Stage Assistant Head Teacher (by appointment)
- Deputy Head Teacher – Mr Turner (by appointment)
- Head Teacher – Mrs Back (by appointment)

**POLITE REMINDER**

All children should wear black leather/leather look shoes with flat heels. Trainers/plimsolls or trainer type shoes with logos are not allowed.

Please ensure that your child is wearing suitable uniform and shoes when we return in January.

Thank you for your continued support.
If Someone Else is Collecting Your Child...

If your child is being collected by someone who does not usually collect them then please send a note in with your child that morning.

We do appreciate that sometimes parents may be held up in unforeseen circumstances and if that is the case then please phone the school. However, in the majority of cases you will know in advance that someone else is collecting your child and therefore we expect a note.

CLUBS

New club letters will be sent out by email on Monday. Please see club timetable below for details.

If your child already does Year 5-6 football, then they will retain their place (new letters will not be sent out).

If your child has done Ballroom Latin club previously, they will need to reapply for a space. We had a waiting list for the club, so to make it fair we are re-sending the letter out to give others the chance to partake if they wish.

If your child is off...

If your child is absent then you must phone on the first day of absence and leave a message when prompted. Please state the following:

• your child’s name
• class
• reason for being off

It is not sufficient to just say that they won’t be in. As a school we are expected by Ofsted and the Local Authority to know why a child is not in school and report any cases where there are persistent and/or unexplained absences.

Please ensure that you send a letter in with your child when they return to school. Please state the reason for absence as we need this for your child’s file.

When children are off regularly and parents do not call in to report their child’s absence we will consider doing a home visit.

LOST PROPERTY

All lost property with names in has been returned to children this week.

However, we still have two bags full of lost property (all nameless). Please call into the school office to have a look for any missing items. There are coats and even a brand new pair of trainers!

Unfortunately, we will have to dispose of any unclaimed items on the last day of term so please make sure you call in to school by Wednesday 19th December.

CAROLS IN THE CAR PARK

On Sunday 16th December, local schools will take part in “Carols in the Car Park”. It is held in the car park at St Margaret’s just off the Green in Stanford Le Hope.

It starts at 4.00pm if you would like to come along.

After School - Club Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Ju-Jitsu (run by Angela Conquest)</td>
<td>All year groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Study Club</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Football (NEW)</td>
<td>Year 2 (until February half term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ballroom Latin (NEW)</td>
<td>Year 5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Girls Football</td>
<td>Years 5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Boys (5-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Table Tennis (NEW)</td>
<td>Year 4 (until February half term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gymnastics (NEW)</td>
<td>Year 3 (until Easter)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Tuesday 4th December, our Year 6 classes visited the Imperial War Museum in London.

"On the way there we sang songs about Christmas and 6 x tables. It took us two hours to get there. When we arrived we put our bags in a school bag room. Then we went to the toilet. After that we had a look at the old guns and the trenches. Then we made a documentary about all the guns, tanks and uniforms. We made a short video. After that we ate lunch, then took a look at the things we had missed." – Charlotte W. (6JCA)

"On Tuesday 4th December, we went to the Imperial War Museum. We got there at half past eleven. We travelled there by coach. We put our bags in a box so that our arms and backs did not hurt. Then we went into the museum to learn facts about WWI. We looked at ancient things that were used in the war. We even saw pictures of soldiers who were killed. After a while, we went to a room called "The Learning Room" which is where we talked about the documentary we were going to do in the museum. We used phones to record our documentary. We also got given lanyards that showed we were making a documentary. I (Alicia) was with Kyren and Liam and Aaliyah was with Diamond and Eva. We enjoyed the trip very much and would highly recommend it." – Aaliyah and Alicia

"On Tuesday 4th December, Year 6 went on a trip to London to visit the Imperial War Museum so we could learn about World War I. We saw old tanks, submarines, uniforms and other WWI objects whilst we were there. We also did a documentary challenge. We had to film our groups talking about some of the WWI objects. We all enjoyed it very much. It was a fantastic day". – Reece A
WILL YOUR CHILD BE 5 YEARS OLD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2019 AND AUGUST 2020?
WHY DONT YOU COME ALONG FOR A TOUR OF OUR SCHOOL TO VISIT THE CLASSROOMS AND SEE THE CHILDREN AT WORK?
WE WILL BE CONDUCTING TOURS ON:

**TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2019 10.00am**

ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!
NO NEED TO PRE-BOOK. JUST TURN UP.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

**Tuesday 15th January 2019**
Primary School Admissions closes - please ensure you apply before this date

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### ATTENDANCE

Attendance is closely monitored.

Please support your child and the school by ensuring that students attend every day and on time.

All students have been set a minimum attendance of 96% and we urge you to resist the temptation of arranging family holidays during term time.

Our aim is to improve overall attendance and poor attendees will be contacted accordingly.

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### GOLD AWARDS

The following children have recently received a Gold Award:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27.11.18</td>
<td>Ryan Claisse</td>
<td>6JCA</td>
<td>Amazing Emotive Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.11.18</td>
<td>Amelia-Rose Ashdown</td>
<td>1LP</td>
<td>Tricky Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.11.18</td>
<td>Dylan Gray</td>
<td>1LP</td>
<td>Tricky Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.11.18</td>
<td>Travis Gorham</td>
<td>2VS</td>
<td>Super Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.11.18</td>
<td>Noah Osborne</td>
<td>1AC</td>
<td>Super Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.11.18</td>
<td>Ella-Mae Coveney</td>
<td>1AC</td>
<td>Super Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.11.18</td>
<td>Logan Cummings</td>
<td>1AC</td>
<td>Super Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.12.18</td>
<td>William Finch</td>
<td>3FG</td>
<td>Hard Work during Codex Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.12.18</td>
<td>Thomas Pope</td>
<td>3FG</td>
<td>Hard Work during Codex Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.12.18</td>
<td>George Durden</td>
<td>3FG</td>
<td>Hard Work during Codex Sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STEP AWARDS

The following children have recently received a STEP Award:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.11.18</td>
<td>Cameron Legge</td>
<td>6ES</td>
<td>Helping others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.11.18</td>
<td>Alfie Tilson</td>
<td>6ES</td>
<td>Helping others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.11.18</td>
<td>George Flatt</td>
<td>6ES</td>
<td>Helping others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.11.18</td>
<td>Isabella Moore</td>
<td>6ES</td>
<td>Helping others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.11.18</td>
<td>Elliot Wheatley</td>
<td>6ES</td>
<td>Helping others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.11.18</td>
<td>Millie Farmer</td>
<td>4KR</td>
<td>Helping to tidy up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.11.18</td>
<td>Ronnie Garland</td>
<td>4KR</td>
<td>Helping to tidy up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING IN CORRINGHAM TOWN CENTRE

Our Year 4 children made Christmas decorations to decorate one of the Christmas trees in Corringham Town Centre. On Friday 30th November, some of the children went to the town centre to hang the decorations on the tree outside Corringham Library.

“We went out to find the Christmas tree and then decorated it. Then we went into the library and Miss Blackbourn read us a book”. - Jake H (4AB)

“I went to decorate the huge, green Christmas tree. It was a long journey and my legs really hurt! There were 12 people from each year 4 class. Finally we got there and we had to wait two minutes for another school to arrive. Everyone got about 2 or 3 decorations to put on the tree. The man had to help the other school with their tree so we waited in the library and Miss Blackbourn read us a story called “The donut of Doom”. When we came out of the library we had a group photograph. On the way back my legs hurt even more! Eventually we arrived back at school in time for break”. - Millie F (4KR)

"On Friday 30th November we hung all of our beautiful and amazing Christmas decorations on the tree. Miss Blackbourn read a story called "The Donut of Doom". There were twelve children from each class. Me and Millie were partners. At the end a man took a photo”. - Ronnie G. (4KR)

“We went to Corringham to decorate the tree. Graham James and another school decorated the tree near the library. I really liked decorating the tree because it was different to just staying indoors. I’m sure everyone loved it. It was very enjoyable”. - Bethany M. (4AB)
**HOLIDAY DATES 2018-2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Start and end Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 4th September – Wednesday 19th December 2018</strong>&lt;br&gt;Half Term: Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October 2018&lt;br&gt;Christmas Break: Thursday 20th December 2018 – Wednesday 2nd January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td><strong>Thursday 3rd January – Friday 5th April 2019</strong>&lt;br&gt;Half Term: Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February 2019&lt;br&gt;Easter Break: Monday 8th April – Monday 22nd April 2019&lt;br&gt;<strong>Good Friday 19th April 2019, Easter Monday 22nd April 2019 (B/H)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 23rd April – Tuesday 23rd July 2019 (see below for non-pupil days)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2019&lt;br&gt;<strong>May Bank Holidays – Monday 6th May and Monday 27th May 2019</strong>&lt;br&gt;Last day of school Tuesday 16th July 2019 (see below for non-pupil days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Pupil Days</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th, Friday 19th July, Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July – non pupil days</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>