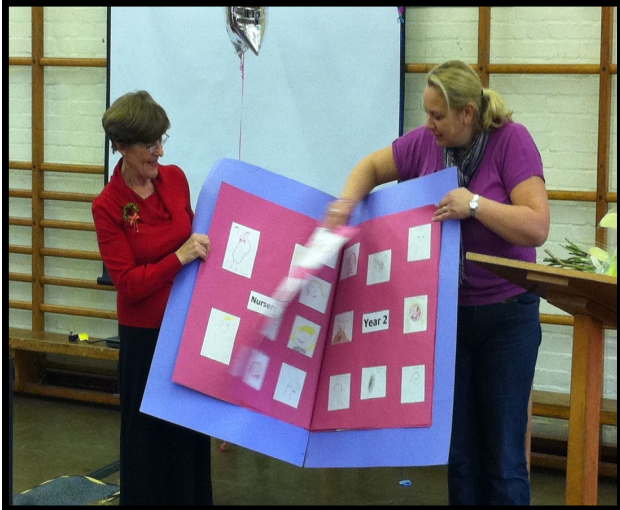


Newsletter

January 2012

Mrs Michalski enjoys a wonderful send off from GHS!



Mrs Michalski enjoyed a wonderful send off from us all at the end of last term, commencing with an after school party attended by many friends and former colleagues from over the years. Mrs Michalski was presented with a new laptop, which she was delighted to receive!

The final assembly of the school year was also dedicated to saying thank you to Mrs Michalski. Cards and gifts were presented, including an engraved bench that will be placed in our redeveloped nature area when it opens at Easter.

Mrs Michalski has asked me to pass on the following thank you to you all....

Dear Parents, Governors, Staff and Pupils,

I would like to say a very big thank you for the wonderful gift of a laptop which was presented to me on my retirement. You could not have chosen a better

gift, something I was intending to invest in when I retired. I would also like to express my thanks to you all for all your time and hard work in arranging my retirement 'do'. It was most enjoyable if a little overwhelming, but lovely to see everyone, both past and present colleagues.

Also, thank you for the lovely flowers and huge card presented to me during the last assembly (with the drawn pictures of all the children and staff). I will treasure the memory, the children playing their recorders, and lovely singing, and to top it all off a special bench with a brass plaque dedicated to me to commemorate my 37 years at the school. I am truly honoured, thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed my time working at the school. This is perhaps why I stayed so

long- challenge and change. I could not have wished to work with more friendly and dedicated staff over the years. The pleasure of meeting and getting to know so many parents and seeing the children pass through the school and move on to pastures new, and to see some of the past pupils returning with their own children. Thank you for making my time at the school such a memorable one. But hopefully this is not good bye, as being a resident in the village, I hope to see many of you in the future.

I wish Mr Adams and the school every success in the future. I know that it will continue to grow with the help of all the dedicated staff, and the tremendous support from P.T.A. and parents.

Thank you once again. I will miss you all, especially the children.

Margaret Michalski

Forthcoming Events

- Handwriting Focus Week- Monday 23rd to Friday 27th January
- Working party in conservation area on Saturday 28th January 10am-2pm
- Years 1& 2 School Trip to Roald Dahl Museum Tuesday 31st January 9am-3.15pm
- Safer Internet Day Tuesday 7th February
- HOT DOG DAY-Friday 10th February
- Pupil Reports issued to parents- Friday 10th February
- Children break up for half term holiday at 3.15pm on Friday 10th February
- Children back to school on Monday 20th February

Nature Area Working Party

Thank you to parents who helped with the last Nature Area Working Party; the event was a great success, with much of the area being cleared ready for redevelopment. All parents and children are invited to help us with the next party, taking place on the 28th January.

28th January
10am-2pm

Parent Helpers Needed!

If you have a little time to spare each week to help out in school then we would dearly like to hear from you! We need parent volunteers to come into school to help hear our children read. If you can give up a little time then please contact the office. A CRB check does have to be completed, requiring the completion of some paperwork, but please don't let that put you off!



School Council Minutes

1. The school council has organised its own 'School Shop'. Taking place on Thursday lunchtimes, children can buy health snacks, books, pencils, rulers and rubbers. Over £15 has been raised already.
2. The school council have begun asking children to complete the school council questionnaire.

Early Morning Club

Running at the bargain price of £1 per session, our Early Morning Club (formerly known as the Early Morning Sports Club) needs more children to come along if we are going to run the club after 1/2 term at the current price level. We now offer a wider range of activities for children to enjoy before school, including reading, board games and table tennis. Contact the office if you would like your child to come along. The club starts at 7.55am, but children can arrive any time after this.

Football Team Take Part in First Matches

Our school football team played its first matches on a bitterly cold night in December, playing against Buckingham Primary School's A and B team. Despite a disappointing final score, the team played very well, with a super team goal scored by Henry after a clinical pass from Ciaran! The school team will be in action again later this school year, with a return match at Great Horwood planned.



Nursery

We have extended the opening hours of Nursery, now offering afternoons in addition to mornings at very reasonable prices. Please contact the office for more information or to book a place for your child.

Clubs!

Please check the school website for the latest updates on the range of clubs in school.

Welcome

We would very much like to welcome Mrs Chadwick to our team here at Great Horwood School. Mrs Chadwick is our new school administrator, and will be the first point of contact for many of you.

Mrs Chadwick can be contacted in the usual way via telephone (01296 712622) or email (office@greathorwood.bucks.sch.uk).



Handwriting Focus Week, Parental Support and Phonics

23rd to 27th
January

We will be having a handwriting focus week in school during the week commencing Monday, 23rd January. Handwriting sessions will be running more regularly for this week, and children will be given opportunities to apply handwriting skills for a range of presentation purposes. Teachers will be focusing on the pencil grip of our pupils, ensuring that the grip is comfortable and effective for handwriting. If your child has a pencil grip that is unusual and is inhibiting fluent writing then we ask that you work with us in school to

help correct this, especially during our handwriting focus week. The 'For Parents...' section of our school website, found on the front page, has a link to 'Parental Curricular Support'; here, you will find a range of resources to support your child's learning, including a support sheet for handwriting. We will be adding to this area over the coming weeks.

In our last Ofsted inspection, the teaching of letters and sounds was

identified as a development point for us in school. As part of our action plan, children across the school, not just key stage 1 and Foundation, will be having phonic and spelling teaching sessions more regularly. We will also be running an information evening for parents on how to support your child, sharing with parents information about the forthcoming Phonics Screening

