

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome Back message

It has been wonderful to welcome all of you back to Greet for the start of this new school year. We want to thank you for your smiles and greetings; we've enjoyed catching up with lots of you about your summer break. A special thanks to the family that brought flowers in for their child's new class teacher on Thursday, it was such a kind gesture that was very much appreciated.

The children have returned exceptionally well. They are already focussed on learning, enjoying our whole school 'Here We Are' unit of work: a geography unit in which we learn about our local area. The children have been busy exploring maps, using compasses and carrying out traffic surveys!

Our youngest school members in Nursery and Reception have also begun to settle in. Our EYFS team are enjoying getting to know them; they are focused on helping the children to feel safe and welcome.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the understanding shown last Friday following the burst water pipe. We did not take making the decision to close school lightly, especially on the second day back of term! Unfortunately, the situation was beyond our control, and like several other schools in the area, we felt it was better to close fully rather than risk running out of water and having to send children home part way through the day. Whilst we understand this decision presented a challenge to a few families, so many of you expressed how grateful you were that we made that decision as it alleviate some of the stress on a difficult day.

We thank you all for your ongoing support.  
Ms T Yasmin & Miss C Williams

## MCAS issues

We have been informed that there is a known issue with notifications on MCAS; the MCAS team are currently working on a fix for this problem. In the meantime you should be receiving emails as normal and if we send text messages instead of emails, we will ensure they are sent to all parents / carers, regardless of if you have the MCAS app or not. Please ensure you have MCAS notifications turned on in your phone settings.

## First Aid procedures

Here at Greet we are incredibly blessed to have large outdoor spaces for the children to play in and explore at break and lunchtimes. We encourage the children to take risks within safe surroundings and with adults on hand to help them. During this time they are learning vital physical and problem solving skills.

There are times, however, when children unfortunately have accidents whilst they play. They trip over, bump into each other or slip. Whilst upsetting, this is a normal part of development. We would like to

reassure you that we have robust policies and procedures in place for responding to, and treating any first aid incidents. All of our lunchtime supervisors have been first aid trained and we have at least one trained first aider in every year group.

If your child has received first aid care during the school day they will be given a first aid slip. We also call home for any accidents that we feel parents need to know about. If you would like to speak to a staff member regarding a first aid incident with your child please contact your child's class teacher.

### T-Rex Experience

On Thursday this week we were visited by Jam the T-Rex and her baby, Baby Jam. The children (and staff!) enjoyed a truly amazing interactive assembly experience with Sam and Joe from Teach Rex. Take a look at some of the pictures below.

Can you please screen shot a couple of the pictures from Tania & Chris on X to add in.

### Transition to Secondary School

We always love hearing about how our previous Year 6 children are getting on at their new secondary schools and have heard from many of you that they have enjoyed their first few days. We've even had some visits from a few children who have popped in to say hello!

Following an interesting and insightful conversation with a parent this week, we have decided we are going to review the support we give our Year 6 children going forward to further improve the ways we help them to prepare for this move. There is a huge jump in expectation for the children once they reach Year 7 in terms of their personal organisation and independence and we want to ensure we are giving them the best chance at settling well.

Watch this space, more news will follow! We would love to hear of any ideas you might have too.

### Parent Welcome Meetings

We are looking forward to seeing you in school next week for our annual, new year group welcome meetings. These meetings give you the opportunity to meet your child's new class teacher alongside the rest of the year group team. Information will be shared regarding curriculum, homework, PE days and other key information relevant to the start of the school year.

The timetable for these meetings is as follows:

Year Group	Day	Time	Location
1	17 <sup>th</sup> September	2:30 – 3:15pm	Lower Phase Hall
2	18 <sup>th</sup> September	2:30 – 3:15pm	Lower Phase Hall
3	19 <sup>th</sup> September	2:30 – 3:15pm	Lower Phase Hall
4	19 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00 – 9:45am	Upper Phase Hall
5	18 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00 – 9:45am	Upper Phase Hall
6	17 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00 – 9:45am	Upper Phase Hall

Morning meetings: please wait in the playground after school drop off. Senior Leaders will be on hand to invite you inside for tea and coffee prior to the start of your meeting.

Afternoon meetings: wait outside the main entrance.

The meetings for families with children in EYFS will take place the following week in the children's classrooms:

**Nursery** 24<sup>th</sup> September 11:00 – 11:30am

**Reception** 24<sup>th</sup> September 2:45 – 3:15pm

### Asda Cashpot for Schools

Please support Greet when you shop. For more info please go to

<https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

### School term dates

#### Autumn Term 2024

Term Starts: **Monday 2nd September**

TRAINING (School closed for pupils): **Monday 2nd September, Tuesday 3rd September and Wednesday 4th September**

TRAINING (School closed for pupils): **Friday 25th October**

Half-term: **Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November**

Term ends: **Friday 20th December**

#### Spring Term 2025 (06/01/25-11/04/25)

Term Starts: **Monday 6th January**

TRAINING (School closed for children): **Monday 6th January**

TRAINING (School closed for children): **Friday 14th February**

Half-term: **Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February**

TRAINING (School closed for children): **Monday 31st March**

Term ends: **Friday 11th April**

#### Summer Term 2025 (28/04/25-21/07/25)

Term Starts: **Monday 28th April**

Half-term: **Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May**

BANK HOLIDAY (School closed for children): **Monday 5th May 2024**

TRAINING (School closed for children): **Friday 6th June**

TRAINING (School closed for children): **Friday 4th July**

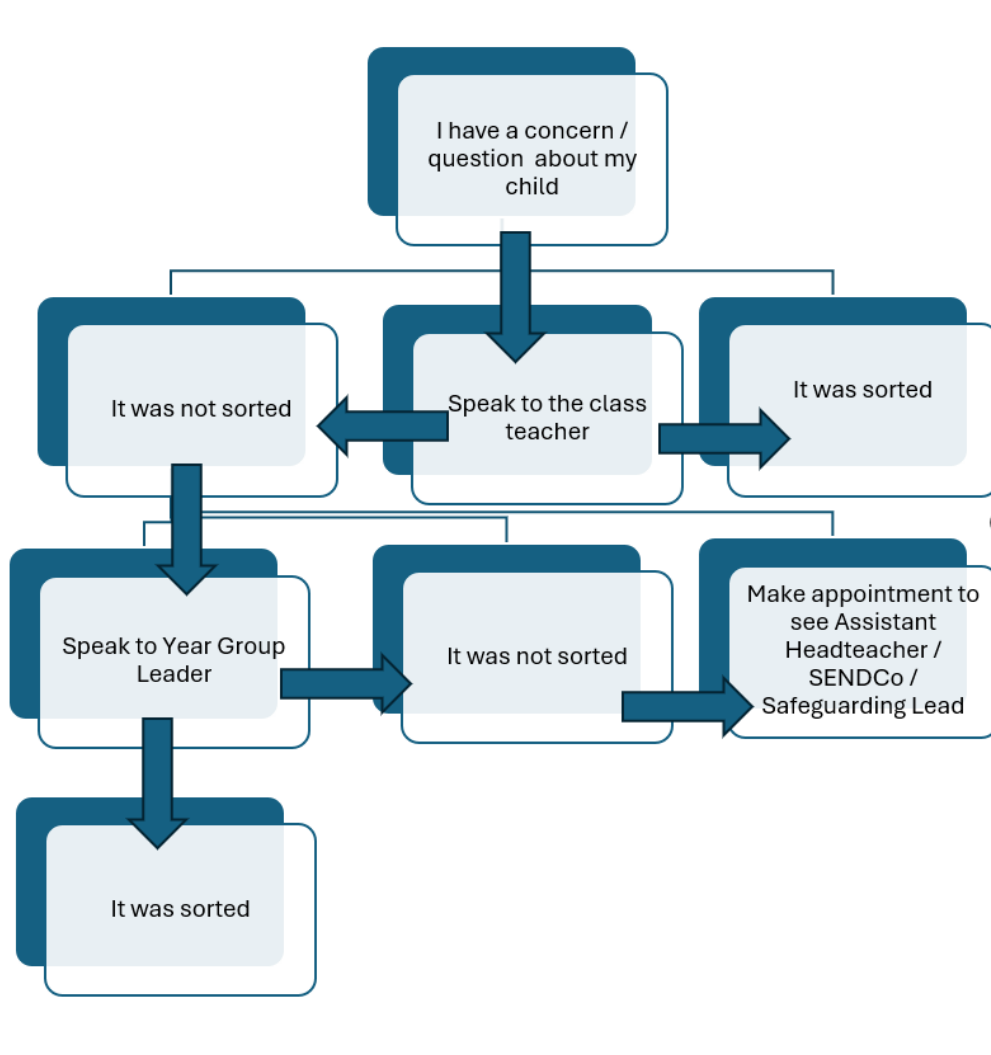
TRAINING (School closed for children): **Monday 21st July**

Term ends: **Monday 21st July**

## Applying for Year 7 September 2025

If you have a child in Year 6 you must apply now for a Year 7 place. Please go to our Admissions website page to on details and links of how to apply for secondary school <https://www.greet.bham.sch.uk/key-information/admissions> The deadline for applications is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**.

## Concerns / Questions Process 2024



## Trips

To book and pay for school trips, please use the MCAS app. Go to Trips and then press 'Available trips' to view all trips open for that child. If you need to pay additional instalments, please go to 'Outstanding Payments'. If you cannot see a trip, please check under Clubs instead.

Year 2 – Sculpture Trail, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Year 3 – Stone Age Experience, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Year 4 - Roman History Experience, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Help for families

Please find the latest HallGreen and Selly Oak Early Help Team Newsletter on our website here <https://www.greet.bham.sch.uk/parents/community-events> . They have included SEND information, housing support, mental health support and much more.



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

## 1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.

## 2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.

## 3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.

## 4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.

## 5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.

## 6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.

## 7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.

## 8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.

## 9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetabled amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.

## 10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.

## Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>