

# Greenside Grapevine

Friday 23rd January 2026

This week in our whole-school assembly, the children have been learning about the *Jane Goodall Earth Medal*—an inspiring award that celebrates people who make a positive difference to our planet.

We began by exploring the life and work of Dr Jane Goodall, a remarkable scientist known worldwide for her ground breaking research on chimpanzees. Her dedication to understanding how animals live, think and behave has shaped the way we view wildlife today, earning her the reputation of a true chimpanzee expert.



The children were fascinated to learn that the Jane Goodall Earth Medal can be awarded to people from all over the world who show exceptional care for animals, protect the environment, or help strengthen human connections with nature. Recipients might be scientists, teachers, community leaders, or anyone working to make the world a better place. We also discussed why the medal was created. At its heart, the award celebrates kindness, care and responsibility. It reminds us that looking after one another—and the planet we share—is something that truly matters.

Finally, we reflected on the main message of the medal: that even the smallest actions can create meaningful change. Every child has the power to make a positive impact, whether by showing kindness, caring for nature, or making thoughtful choices in their daily lives.



It was a wonderful opportunity to inspire our pupils and encourage them to see themselves as capable changemakers. Our assembly also gave our Year 5 and 6 pupils a wonderful opportunity to share the fabulous pieces of writing they have created based on Jane Goodall's work. This conversation led us to an important idea: how we, as a school community, can celebrate and remember members of staff who gave so much to Greenside but are sadly no longer with us.

Many of you who have been part of the Greenside family for some time will remember Mrs Hogg, who unfortunately passed away last year. She dedicated over twenty years to our school and was a true role model—kind, patient, creative, and deeply passionate about caring for plants and the natural world. To honour her legacy, we will be creating a special award in her name. Each year, this award will be presented to a child, and their name will be added to the trophy as a lasting reminder of her influence.

We also wish to remember Mr Moore, who sadly died during COVID. As our caretaker for many years, he was incredibly helpful, resourceful and always willing to go the extra mile. One of his most creative contributions was designing and building a history bunker in our cellar—a space we hope to bring back into use to support our children's learning in the future. Again each year this award will be presented to a child, and their name will be added to the trophy as a lasting reminder of his influence.

To ensure these awards truly reflect the spirit and contributions of both Mrs Hogg and Mr Moore, we will be forming a working party made up of staff and members of our School Council. Together, they will help decide on the final names and criteria for these special awards, ensuring that the legacy of these much loved members of our Greenside community continues to inspire future generations.





# Safer Internet Day 2026 | Tuesday 10 February

## Safer Internet Day 2026

Next month, on Tuesday 10th February 2026, our school will join others nationwide to celebrate Safer Internet Day, the largest global online safety campaign.

We will be having an assembly learning about this year's theme, **'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,'** focusing on teaching children and young people the skills to use AI technology safely and responsibly, and highlighting the support available.

From voice assistants, to chatbots, to algorithms, AI technology is playing an increasingly large role in all our lives. It is important that we find time to discuss these tools and the impact they can have on our own and our families' online experiences, including:

- the news and content we see,
- the way we work, including using AI for homework or studies,
- the risk of misuse of AI, for example to create realistic scams or non-consensual images.

We encourage you to join us in celebrating by continuing the conversation about AI technology at home. Here are some helpful resources:

- You can complete the UK Safer Internet Centre's interactive quizzes with your child.
- Read the UK Safer Internet Centre's top tips for parents and carers [here](#).
- You can share the UK Safer Internet Centre's top tips for children and young people with your child.

You may also like to use one of these prompts to start a conversation with your child:

- What's your favourite thing to do online?
- Have you ever used an AI tool? How did it make you feel?
- What do you like about AI technology?
- Do you have any worries about AI technology?
- What advice would you give to your friends about using AI?
- Who would you talk to if you saw something worrying online?
- What more can I do to help you feel safe online?

A key part of protecting children and young people from online harms is through preventative education. By talking about this in school and at home, we can all work towards keeping children safe when they are online. Celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for you to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher or our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

## Attendance

Our attendance target for this academic year remains at 98%. Our whole school attendance from the start of September is 95.55%.

We would like to thank all our parents/carers for their support in ensuring their child(ren) attend school regularly, on time and ready to learn!

# 98%



### Attendance Reminder...

Where possible, please can all medical appointments be made out of school hours.

If this is not possible, please inform the school office, in advance, and show a text message or email confirming the appointment.

Pupils should then only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment.



**From the start of this half term (05.01.2026), classes have the following late marks on their registers. This includes both L marks (late after 8.45am) and U marks (late after 9.15am).**

#### Friendly Foxes 2

- Enthusiastic Elephants 11
- Positive Penguins 5
- Outgoing Otters 8
- Confident Chameleons 3
- Adventurous Anacondas 27
- Persevering Pumas 20
- Tenacious Toucans 10
- Dazzling Dolphins 4
- Creative Caimans 18

**Well done Friendly Foxes!**

**REMEMBER**  
The class with the least late marks each half term will receive an extra **playtime!**

### Class Attendance so far this academic year:

- Friendly Foxes 95.69%
- Enthusiastic Elephants 95.27%
- Positive Penguins 97.03%
- Outgoing Otters 97.87%**
- Confident Chameleons 96.9%
- Adventurous Anacondas 93.69%
- Persevering Pumas 96.09%
- Tenacious Toucans 96.04%
- Dazzling Dolphins 93.16%
- Creative Caimans 94.61%

**Well done Outgoing Otters!**

**REMEMBER**  
The class with the highest attendance each week will receive an extra **playtime!**

### Punctuality

It is extremely important that our pupils arrive at school on time each day. **Doors open at 8.40am and close at 8.45am.**



We are shocked to report that, across school, pupils have missed 5,311 minutes due to lateness since the start of September.

Since returning to school from Christmas, a total of 1,349 minutes have been missed. This equates to almost three and a half full school days, in just over two weeks.

It is extremely important that our pupils arrive at school on time each day. It allows your child to start their day with their peers, it shows respect for their class staff/friends and it ensures they do not miss vital recaps and messages at the beginning of the day. Please continue to encourage your child and remind them of the importance of attending school on time, each day.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any support.