

Our Ref. MMc / DMB

11th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the first half of the Spring Term for pupils is to-day, **Wednesday 11th February**. Staff, over the next 2 days will be attending Phonics training that will maintain up to date skills for the benefit of pupils. School will re-open for pupils on **Monday 23rd February**.

Parents evening was held on Wednesday 4th February and was well attended by parents - thank you. From September 2026, school will hold 2 parents' evenings, one in the Autumn and one in the Spring Term. The feedback received by families was very positive and I am exploring ways to more effectively capture parent voice. The voice of parents is very important to me.

One way parents can contribute is by becoming a member of the Governing Board. I have attached some supporting information for you to consider. I know people are busy and the role requires a regular commitment, but we are finding it difficult to recruit parent governors. If you are interested, please contact school for further information.

School approaches to managing mobile phone use has been in the media recently. Greenbank School has always had a policy that mobile phones **MUST** be handed in by pupils on arrival to school. They are safely locked away until the end of the day. I fully understand that phones and other electronic devices support pupils travel to and from school but they have to be used safely and appropriately. We do build 'Online safety' education into the curriculum and assemblies to drive home the safe and appropriate use message. However, there has been a case this month where a small number of pupils did not hand their phones in and without consent took photographs of other pupils. Schools Safeguarding response was swift and decisive. All parents were informed of the incident and pupils supported to realise the serious potential consequences of their actions. On this occasion images were not uploaded to the internet- BUT the outcome could have been very different and involved external agencies, including the Police. I want to thank the pupils for their full co-operation and families for their support. I have held a number of assemblies to remind the pupils of the trust I place in them to hand their phones in and of the polices school has in place if we suspect our statutory Safeguarding systems have been breached. *This includes a pupil and bag search policy.*

On a lighter note, school is celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March 2026**. This special day is a wonderful opportunity to promote a love of reading and to build excitement around books and stories.

To mark the occasion, students (and staff) are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite literary character. This could be from a novel, comic, traditional tale, poem, or any book they enjoy. As part of our celebrations, we will also be running a Book Swap. This is a great chance for children to discover new stories and share books they have enjoyed.

Here's how it will work:



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann

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- *If students would like to take part, they may bring in a book from home to donate by Wednesday 4th March.*
- *In return, they will receive a token.*
- *On World Book Day, they can swap their token for a different book to take home.*

We kindly ask that any donated books are in good condition and suitable for young people aged 11-16. We look forward to celebrating World Book Day together and seeing the enthusiasm our students bring to this special event.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Kind regards,
Mr C Fitzsimmons*

Hello from Residential

Well, I can't believe we are the end of another term. I would just like to thank all the young people, parents, staff and Governors for their continued support this term.

The young people have continued to learn independence skills to ensure they are prepared for their future, and of course they have had lots of fun along the way.

Have a lovely break.
Charlene and the Residential Team

I have wished the pupils a safe and enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing them on 23rd February.

Yours faithfully,

Mr McCann
Head Teacher



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