



DIARY DATES
Diary dates for the
School Year 2013-2014
can be found on the
school website.
[CLICK HERE](#)
to go to the
calendar.

Please check regularly
for any new dates.

You will receive
further information
about forthcoming
events nearer the
time, as
appropriate.

Tuesday 4 February
Large Schools' Swim-
ming Gala at The Meres.

Friday 7 February
Reception/Year 1 Class
Assembly 9.15am.

Saturday 8 February
Swimarathon at
The Meres
Leisure Centre.

Thursday 13 February
School closes for
children, for half term.

Monday 24 February
School re-opens.

Friday 28 February
Colsterworth
Music Festival at
The Meres 9.00am



Dear Parents/Carers

We are now well in to the Spring Term, with many exciting opportunities available to our children over the forthcoming weeks. I look forward to sharing these with you and watching our school go from strength to strength.

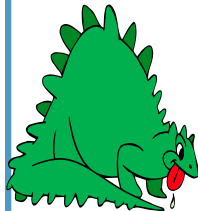
Mr L Batey
Headteacher

Events in School



Swimming Gala

Our team of swimmers, from years 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be competing in the Grantham Large Schools' Swimming Gala at The Meres next Tuesday - I am sure that they will be a credit to the school, and wish them every success!



Class Assemblies

Parents of children in Mrs Banfield's, and Mrs Selby's classes are warmly invited to join us at 9.15am on 7 February for a visit to pre-historic times! Other classes will be presenting class assemblies later in the year, and we will let you know about these nearer the time.

Swimarathon

Once again this year teams from Barrowby School will be taking part in The Rotary Club of Grantham Swimarathon, at The Meres Leisure Centre on 8 February. There is still room for a few more swimmers—you can find more information [here](#). I am sure that this will again be good fun, as well as raising money for local charities.



Choir Information

Our choirs are in full voice, and you can find information and backing tracks for the songs that they are currently learning [here](#).

Going for Green!

As you know, we are an Eco School, and gained our Silver Award several years ago. We are now working towards the highest level award—the Green Flag. Our School council have formed a new committee to explore ideas for projects to make our school even 'greener' and we will be sharing these with you as they develop.



Studio Photography Evening

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this event, as very few appointments had been booked. We hope to offer this opportunity again in the Summer Term.

Start of the school day

Playground gate opening reminder

If you have been sending your child to arrive at school before 8.45am, please remember that **the playground gate will not be opened until 8.45am, from Monday 3 February.**



Please ensure that your child/children are supervised by an adult until this time. Should any children be left unsupervised before 8.45am, parents will be contacted to remind them of the need to arrange appropriate supervision for their children, before the start of the school day.

As I indicated in my letter to you earlier this week, this is not a change of school policy. Parents have always been asked to make sure that children do not arrive, at school, before 8.45am.

On average, there are usually about five or six children who arrive at 8.30-8.35, rising to 20 to 30 by 8.40-8.45. This means that most of our parents will not notice any difference on Monday, as they already follow school policies regarding the start of the day—thank you for your support. For those who have been arriving early, the later gate opening time will only make around five minutes difference to the majority.

Whilst I do understand that the enforcement of our long standing policy may be a little inconvenient for those parents who have been sending their children early, I must be guided by safeguarding advice, and ensure that all our children are fully supervised from the time they arrive on the school playground.



Cars in Church Street

We have asked parents many times not to bring their cars into Church Street, as this creates a hazard for both children and adults. As the congestion caused inevitably means that manoeuvring to get back out of Church Street takes some time, it is not only safer, but quicker, to park away from Church Street (preferably at the British Legion car park) and walk the very short distance to and from school.

However, despite our repeated requests, and, on occasion, support from the PCSO, some parents persist in bringing their cars into Church Street, and, even more dangerously, parking and manoeuvring outside the school gates. Unfortunately, we have no jurisdiction outside of the school grounds, so we can only continue to ask parents to put safety first, and to remember that, if they disregard this request, they are choosing to put the safety of children at risk.

As ever—many thanks to all those parents who never bring their cars into Church Street—we appreciate your support, and your willingness to put the safety of our children first.

Drive Gates

The drive gates will also be closed at the start and end of the school day, to ensure that the safety of children arriving at, or leaving school, is not compromised by unauthorised vehicles entering or leaving the site. As you know, parents are not permitted to bring their cars into the school car park, unless they have been given special permission, and have been given a permit to display in their car. If you need to come in to school, please use the pedestrian gate, rather than the closed car park gates and report to the office as usual.

Thank you to all those parents who are working with us to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children.

Your support is very much appreciated.

School Information

Staffing

We welcome two new members of staff, Mrs Stanley and Mrs Woodward (Midday Supervisory Assistants). Mrs Stanley has already started work, and Mrs Woodward will be joining us after half term. Miss Widdison (Year 5 teacher) will also be joining us after half term, when Mrs Wright begins her Maternity Leave.

Late Arrival

Please do your best to ensure that your children are on time every day. If you do arrive late, please bring your children to the school office, so that their arrival can be recorded. As you know, new government regulations regarding absence came into force in September 2013. All late arrivals at school are recorded on your child's record, and this forms part of our statutory reporting to the DfE. If children arrive after the registers have closed at 9.05am, we now have to record this as an unauthorised absence for that session, unless there is an exceptional reason for the lateness, and this remains on your child's record.

Absence Policy

Our Absence Policy has been revised to fully reflect the new government regulations and Local Authority guidelines for authorising absence and dealing with any unauthorised absence. We will share this with you once it has been confirmed by the governing body.

Looking for a good home

We have a four drawer filing cabinet, and a wood framed, wall mountable display/trophy case which are no longer needed in school. If you are interested in either of these items, in exchange for a donation to school funds, please contact the school office.

Free Football ticket raffle

We have been given some free admission tickets for children for a Grantham Town Football Club Home Match of your choice. We are going to hold a free raffle for these tickets, which will be drawn on Friday 7 February. If you would like to be included in the draw, please print out and return the slip. Please note—these free tickets are for child admission only—adults accompanying them will be charged normal admission.

Free Grantham Town Football Club Child Ticket Raffle

Name _____

Number of child tickets _____



Parents calling at the school office



Our School Administration staff are here to help you, and there are occasions when you will want to call into school in person—please feel welcome to do so, when it is necessary. We try to attend to you as quickly as possible, but at the start or end of the day there can be a considerable number of parents visiting or telephoning the school office, which may mean a delay. To minimise this, and to encourage children to develop independence, please help us by:

- Reporting illness via the answerphone facility, or email, wherever possible.
- Using the website if you need to check information (for example, finishing times of clubs)
- Sending reply slips etc. via your child, rather than bringing them in to the office yourself.
- Ensuring that your child has everything they need for the school day, including P.E. and Sports kit, and musical instruments, and that they take it them into the playground with them. Occasionally it might be necessary to bring something to the office for them—a large and easily damaged model, for example, but in general, children should take responsibility for the things they need in school.
- Contacting us as early as possible if you have to change collection arrangements for your children. We know that sometimes a late notification cannot be helped (if you are stuck in traffic, for example), but if you can, please let us know before afternoon registration (1.15pm).

Thank you—by doing these things you will help us to make sure that you don't have too long to wait when you do need to come into school.

Our School 100 Years Ago....an extract from the Log Book, January 1914

Jan 5 During the holidays gas has been installed in the school.
School opened this morning after the Christmas Holidays. Present 138.
Roll 145



Jan 9 The first lesson in light woodwork was given this afternoon to 12 boys in the first class. Preliminary work—use of tools.

Jan 12 In the recent needlework completion in the Scholar's Own, Bettie Bloodworth has been awarded a prize. Arthur Parkes has won a book in the St George's Magazine Competition.

Jan 14 The attendance today has suffered owing to a dance last night. Many children attended and five are absent today in consequence.

Jan 30 Visited by Mr Salt, HMI, who remained for the day.
Received stock for the year. Included are Observation Books, Continuous Readers—Little Duke, Hereward the Wake, Silas Marner, Alice in Wonderland, Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk, wall atlas, together with the usual quantity of exercise books and stationary.