

GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY



NEWSLETTER

I hope you have all enjoyed half term and are ready for the busy time leading up to Christmas! This year we are determined not to let the virus spoil our celebrations and we are planning to continue with festive activities in a safe environment. The traditional Early Years Nativity will still go ahead along with the usual Years 1 - 6 festive songs and poems but these will all be shared virtually. More details to follow later.

The meet the teacher parent consultations will be held over the next couple of weeks and the letter regarding booking in has already been sent and is posted on our website. These telephone calls will be the normal 10 minute slots.

School Improvement Priorities 2020-21

This autumn term we have 3 key school improvement priorities:

1. Recovery - this includes the recovery of learning and the curriculum with the introduction of Google Classroom and Blended learning and closing gaps in learning.
2. Highly effective family and community engagement - Positive Relationships and building resilience in the school community.
3. Developing pupil leadership of our rewards and mental health and well being system.



Skingsley

Mrs C Skingsley
Headteacher

Diary Dates for November/December

November

- 2nd Yr. 4 Telephone Consultations
- 3rd Yr. 6 Lincolnsfield Trip
- 3rd Yr. 1 Telephone Consultations
- 4th Preschool and Acorns Photographs
- 4th Yr. 3 Telephone Consultations
- 5th Yr. 5 Telephone Consultations
- 6th Yr. 2 Field trip to Bedford Castle Mound
- 9th Acorns Telephone Consultations
- 10th Yr. 2 Telephone Consultations
- 11th Yr. R Telephone Consultations
- 12th Yr. 6 Telephone Consultations
- w/b 16th Yr. 6 Mock SATs week
- 24th Victorian School visiting Yr. 5



December

- 18th Last day of term

**Spring Term starts Tuesday 5th
January 2021**

Staff News

We would like to give a warm welcome to all our new members of staff who join us this month, **Mr Brendon McPhillips**, Teaching Assistant in Years 3 and 4, **Mrs Vicky Pottruff**, Cover Supervisor. Two members of staff are taking on additional roles within school, **Mrs Emma Bridle** TA in Ginkgo Class and **Mrs Helena Fincham** TA supporting in Year 1. Finally, we would like to say congratulations to **Mrs Tammy Nurse**, Redwood Class Teacher and her husband on the news that they are expecting their first baby in the Spring.



Fun Run

A big thank you and well done to everyone who took part in our annual Fun Run, luckily the weather was not against us and the rain held off. We had lots of fantastic costumes which brightened our spirits when running the course.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has donated, the money will go towards developing our outside learning areas. We are asking for donations via Parent Pay which is open until the 6th November 2020.



Available in Alternative Format

Science at Home

We would like to introduce a new feature on our Newsletter. We will be giving you the opportunity to try some simple scientific experiments at home with your children. To start us off, this month we have:

Firework in a Jar

WHAT YOU NEED

A tall jar/glass
Warm water
Oil
Food colouring



HOW TO MAKE A FIREWORK IN A JAR

- Fill the jar about 3/4 full of warm water and then add a layer of oil.
- Carefully drop the food colouring into the oil.
- Watch what happens.

WHY DOES IT WORK?

Oil and water do not mix! Also oil is less dense than water (meaning there is less of it in the same volume) and therefore floats on top of water in a nice layer. The food colouring we used was water based and therefore does not mix with the oil, instead it sinks through the oil into the water below. Food colouring is heavier than the water and so sinks to the bottom of the jar leaving trails (resembling fireworks) as some of the colour diffuses into the water.



Reading Survey

Thank you to all those who have responded to our reading survey. If you haven't yet done so, please complete the survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2QLSJML>

As a result of your feedback we have updated the reading page on our website to include the following links:

- Powerpoints and resources about reading at home (delivered in training sessions in 2019-2020).
- Lists of authors and books recommended for each year group.
- Links to ebooks.
- Links to public libraries.

We have also purchased a large number of new levelled reading books which will be available for children to take home after half term.

Please remember that you do not have to just read your child's levelled reading book at home. We encourage children to read anything they like at home!



GGA Celebrates Black History Month 2002

As we draw to the end of our Black History Month Celebrations, we thought it would be a good opportunity to share some of our learning successes. Children across the school have been exploring the contributions that black people have made to society. This included famous people from the past and present.

Year 6 undertook an interactive Rejecting Racism workshop with a focus on the Black Lives Matter campaigns. They explored what racism is and how to tackle prejudice and discrimination. Mr Young taught about the contributions that Caribbean Service men made during WW2.

Year 5 have been learning about the composer and political activist Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, the famous Dr Martin Luther King and Mary Seacole, also known as Mother Seacole by the British soldiers.

Year 4 focused on the bravery of Harriett Tubman and the fastest man in the world, Mr Usain Bolt!

Year 3 also learnt about the American Civil Rights Activist Dr Martin Luther King. They learnt about the march in Washington for jobs and freedom.

Year 2 studied the life of Mary Seacole and the contributions she made to the Crimea war. Year 1 looked at the life of Harriett Powers, famous for her quilt making. The children created their very own quilts.

Donations of Children's Trainers

If you have any trainers in good condition that your child has grown out of and that need a good home, we would very much appreciate it if you could donate them to school. Thank you

Members of Parliament

At the end of last half term we held interviews for Goldington Green Academy Members of Parliament posts. The successful candidates were:

Prime Minister—Lewis M-D

Deputy Prime Ministers—Vanessa & Lucas S

Other MPs include:

Aleeza, Ethan, Lily C, Arjan & Sati

There was fierce competition and we had many candidates. Well done to all those who applied.

The new parliament has a few busy weeks ahead of them deciding and deliberating but I am sure they are all up to the job. Well done to you all.

Yr. 2 Trip to Warwick Castle

Year 2 went to Warwick Castle on Friday 2nd October to enhance their learning about castles. Even though it was a wet day, an enjoyable time was had by all. Our visit began with a Bird of Prey show called The Falconers Quest, where we saw eagles and owls swooping through the sky. Some of the Year group then ate their lunch in the State Dining Room (where on her last visit the Queen also ate her lunch). The afternoon allowed us to climb the castle's tower and explore the great hall. We were able to experience what life was like in a medieval castle. When returning half of the year group enjoyed an extension to our school trip as we sat at a service station waiting for our coach to be fixed. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and loved seeing their learning come to life.



Values Education

During the month of November the school is focussing on the value of:

Tolerance

If your child has demonstrated the value of Tolerance at home, please let us know by emailing their class teacher, stating the reason you are nominating them.

Names of pupils nominated for the monthly Value will appear on the School's Value Notice Board/School's Website.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

MERRI
CHRISTMAS TREES

QUEENS CLOSE, OAKLEY, BEDFORDSHIRE, MK43 7TB
(OPPOSITE OAKLEY POST OFFICE)
28TH OCTOBER — 22ND DECEMBER

Contact Merri Christmas Trees to tag, choose or order your Tree.

Nominate
GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY
When you have purchased your tree.

Merri Christmas Trees will donate £5 to the school

Tag or choose booking tool available on Merri Christmas Trees Facebook page

For more information contact:
Julian Merrill 07946 519737
merrichristmastrees@yahoo.com

WWW.MERRIFLOWERS.CO.UK

Recipe of the Month

Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Why not try making this recipe at home with your children for Pineapple Upside Down Cake that Year 6 children made at school. Just follow the link below:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/pineapple-upside-down-cake>

