

GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY



NEWSLETT

Happy New Year to you all. Welcome back everyone and particularly warm welcome to all our new children and families joining us this term. I hope that you all had a good Christmas and start to the New Year and that everyone is well rested and prepared for whatever the new year sends our way.

I hate to mention that Covid word again, but it is still ever present. I am pleased to say we are open and school will operate in very much the same way as in December. Fingers crossed nothing will change and we will still be able to continue with our planned events and activities.



Skingsley

Mrs C Skingsley
Headteacher

Diary Dates for January/February

January

- 5th Start of Spring Term
- 6th Pre School Spring Term Starts
- 10th Flu Immunisation Yr.R - Yr.6
- 12th M&M Productions in school - Aladdin
- 27th Class Photographs
- 28th The RSPB Big Bird Watch

February

- 4th Level 1 Bikeability (Yr.3 & 4)
- 7th-10th Level 2 Bikeability (Yr.5 & 6)
- 14th-18th Half Term



Staff News

We would like to welcome back **Mrs Tammy Nurse**, Teacher, and **Mrs Emma Woodford**, Pre School TA, as they both return from their Maternity Leave. We wish them a smooth transition back to school. On a sadder note, we will be saying goodbye to **Miss Sarj Atwal** who will be leaving us on 15th January to start a new job. We wish her every success in her future career.

Donations

Now that the festive season is over for another year, please can you consider donating your child(ren)'s 'grown out of' Christmas jumpers. We would like to keep a supply in school for any child who is not able to come to school wearing one when we celebrate the festive events here at school. Thank you for your kind support.

PCR tests

Please can we remind you that if you take your child for a PCR test that we need to know at school. In particular, we need to know the result of that test when you receive it. We have to report each day to Central Government the number of children missing school due to COVID and the number of confirmed positive tests. Thank you.

Recent Fund Raising Events

Thank you to the PTFA for organising the Christmas Hamper Raffle. The ticket sales raised a wonderful **£583.75** for school funds.



We are also pleased to announce that we raised **£368** for the Save the Children Charity on Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to all who donated. It was wonderful to see the children in their colourful festive jumpers.

Reminder

Please remember when leaving a message on the pupil absence line to give your child's full name. Many parents just give child's first name and with almost 650 children in school it is very difficult to work out which child you are leaving a message about, especially if you forget to give the class. Thank you for your help.

Artsmark Gold Award

We are really proud to announce that Goldington Green Academy have been successful in gaining GOLD Artsmark award accreditation!

The school was praised by our assessor for having "strong, long term commitment to the Arts and culture". It was also noted that, "All pupils can access an established range of arts and cultural provision through work with local arts and cultural organisations in school and on visits outside the classroom, leading to effective showcasing opportunities." The report highlighted how GGA continued a commitment to the Arts throughout the pandemic through digital programming and strong leadership.

We are happy to celebrate our success and the programme offered excellent support and feedback on how we might progress further offering more opportunities and experiences to learners. Watch this space!



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Year 5 Trip to Frogmore Papermill by Isabelle R & Lilly-Mae, Coconut Class

At the Frogmore Papermill we learnt how to make paper by hand. We learnt about old paper making machinery that still gets used today. We also learnt about Victorian working hours of children as young as 10. We enjoyed learning about all the types of techniques that were used and I particularly loved learning on the Canal trip about horses pulling coal on boats to make fire.

A fact we learnt was that some people used to work day and night and at Christmas they may have only got 1 or 2 days off work.

We loved this trip and I would like to go to some other interesting places on school trips.



School Closure due to Severe Weather

As the cold winter months approach us it is important that you know the processes Bedford Borough Council use if the decision is made to close the school due to severe weather conditions. During periods of potential weather disruption we ask parents to:

- Check our school website www.goldingtongreenacademy.co.uk where it will clearly state either 'school closed' or 'school open' and a link will be available to our Severe Weather policy.
- Check the following website for information on school closures www.bedford.gov.uk/school-closures and for school transport cancellations www.bedford.gov.uk/winterupdates
- If you do not have access to the internet, please listen to one of the following radio stations **Heart 96.9FM** or **Three Counties Radio 95.5FM**.

Please note that if the school is open it does not automatically mean that it is safe for the contracted school transport to run. In the event of worsening weather

conditions during the school day it may become necessary to close school early in this very rare event school will contact parents to advise them of the situation.

School Meals Price Increase

Please be aware that from the beginning of this term School Meals have gone up in price to **£2.35** per meal.



Lateness

We are still experiencing difficulty with pupils arriving late to school. It is important for children to arrive on time so they can take part fully in all activities. It can also mean that a member of staff must leave the classroom to collect your child from the gate in the case of our younger children.



Tips for getting your child to school on time:

- **Prepare the night before** - organise bags, PE kits, clothes etc. This can lead to a stress free morning.
- **Get the children to bed on time** - this may be easier said than done but a child who's had enough sleep will be likely to be enthusiastic about getting ready in the morning.
- **Invest in an alarm clock** - they could have their own or you could use a family alarm clock. This gives a very clear sign that it's time for everyone to get up.
- **Listen to your child** - by spending a bit of time talking about their day you may find out there is something bothering them in school, for example problems with friendships. If it's something that is causing an issue, please talk to us at school.

Lost Property

Please can we remind everyone of the importance of naming your children's property, especially clothing. We receive mountains of lost property at the school office, the majority of which is unnamed! You cannot expect school to reunite your child with their jumper/coat/PE kit etc. if it is unnamed. Please, please, please spend some time to name uniform and check it regularly to ensure your child's name has not worn away. Also check daily that the uniform your child came home in is theirs and not someone else's and if it is, return it to school promptly so it can be returned to it's owner. Thank you for your support in this important matter.

Values Education

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

Understanding

If your child has demonstrated the value of Understanding 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 and School's Website.



Final Reminder

Admissions to Reception Year September 2022

If your child's date of birth falls between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 it is essential that you complete an application form for your child's place in the Reception Year at school before the cut off date of 15th January 2022. **ALL PARENTS must apply for a Reception place, if you do not apply you will not be allocated a school place AT ANY SCHOOL.**

These applications can be completed online at www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions (which is the preferred method). If you apply on line, please ensure you receive a confirmation email of this and keep it for future evidence should there be an issue with your application. If you do not have internet access please telephone the School Admissions Service on 01234 718120 to request a paper application form.

Please remember that your child will not automatically get a place at our school if they attend our Pre School or Acorns class, and that even though your child is wearing our school uniform and we very much see us as one school, preschool and Acorns children are not part of Goldington Green Academy until they are formally admitted into Reception through Bedford Borough procedures.

All the information on the starting school process is online at www.bedford.gov.uk/startingschool

Remember

You must apply for your September Reception place with Bedford Borough Council



Recipe of the Month Omelette Wedges

Why not try making these with your children. They are suitable for breakfast, lunch with salad, or cold in your child's lunch box for school. Just follow the link below:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/omelette-wedges>

