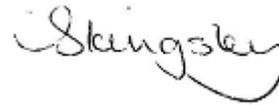


GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY

Welcome back. Here's to 2020! I hope that you all had a lovely break and managed to enjoy some time with loved ones.

As you are aware we had the sad loss of Mrs Viola just before the Christmas holidays. An extremely beloved and wonderful friend, colleague and teacher. The funeral has been arranged for Monday 27th January at 2.30pm at Norse Road Crematorium and the school will be closed on this day.



Mrs C Skingsley
Headteacher



Diary Dates for January/February

January

- 6th Spring Term starts
- 15th M&M Productions - Cinderella
- 17th Christingle services at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue
- w/b 20th Yr.6 Mock SATs week
- 20th Class Photographs
- 22nd 7pm PTFA Meeting in Apple Classroom
- 27th School Closed
- 31st 9am Gingko Class Assembly

February

- w/b 3rd Safety Week
- 7th 9am Monkey Puzzle Class Assembly
- 7th 9am Yr.6 Parent Engagement - Maths
- w/b 10th Multicultural Week
- 11th Key Stage 1 Gymnastics
- 11th Yrs. 3 & 4 Gymnastics
- 14th 9am Cedar Class Assembly
- 14th Non-uniform day 'Costumes from around the world' fundraising day for Ghana
- 17th-21st Half Term
- 24th (pm) Yr. 1 Parent Consultations
- 25th (pm) Yr. 3 Parent Consultations
- 26th (pm) Yr. R Parent Consultations
- 27th (pm) Yr. 4 Parent Consultations
- 27th 2pm Yr. 6 Ancient Greek afternoon
- 27th 6pm-8pm Evening Parent Consultations (all Year Groups)
- 28th (pm) Yr. 6 Parent Consultations

March

- 2nd (pm) Yr. 2 Parent Consultations
- 3rd (pm) Yr. 5 Parent Consultations



Staff News

We would like to say a warm welcome to the new members of staff joining us this term. **Mrs Hayley Brown, Miss Tanya Takar, Mrs Ozlam Barker and Mrs Kym Wilding** all Teaching Assistants, and **Miss Rosanne Roberts**, Cover Supervisor.

We hope they will all be very happy here at Goldington Green Academy.



Art Aprons

Do you have any old shirts/large t-shirts which could be donated to use as Art Aprons/Overalls. We are short of aprons in some of our classes and these would be very useful. Thank you for your help.

Going Paperless—Reminder

As stated in our November Newsletter we have 'gone paperless' as from 1st January. This means you will no longer receive paper copies of letters, or the Newsletter. Please ensure that we have your up-to-date email address to receive school information. Also please regularly check the 2 podiums, school app and website to ensure you are kept fully informed.



Lend a Hand To Save Trees

Available in Alternative Format

NEWSLETTER

The Barn Nativity Trip

A report by Matthew, Magnolia Class

Some of the children from year 4 went to a special re-enactment of the nativity story.



When we got to the barn nativity we saw Mary and the angel appeared and she told Mary that she would have a baby called Jesus. Mary was shocked but she believed the angel and she got ready. She met Joseph and they travelled a long way to Bethlehem with the donkey. When they got there it was so busy and everywhere was full, the only place that they could stay was a stable. Baby Jesus was born in the stable with the animals, that must have been a bit stinky and uncomfortable. Mary and Joseph didn't mind because they were so tired and they were happy that they had somewhere for the baby to lie down. The shepherds came first to see the new king and they had followed the star to find him and so did the wise men. The wise men gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were unusual gifts for a baby but I think Mary and Joseph might have liked the gold! This trip made me think about the real meaning of Christmas and stopped me just thinking about all the presents that I want. My favourite part was seeing the real donkey and singing the carols together in the barn.

1st Day Contact

Remember that if your child is unable to come to school for any reason you are required to telephone school and leave a message on the pupil absence line.

Please call before 9am. Ensure that you speak slowly, clearly and state your child's name, class and the reason for the absence. If the message is not clear you may get a text message to say you haven't contacted us.



During the morning we will contact any parent who has not given a reason for their child's absence using 'Groupcall'. This is a text messaging system that will ask you to contact the school with a reason for your child's absence. If we still do not hear from you, we will then telephone **all contacts** that you have provided to us until we are able to ascertain why your child is not at school. This is an important safeguarding exercise, especially if your child is in Year 5 or 6 and comes to school on their own.

Please also remember that if your child is late to school it is Parent/Carer's responsibility to report to the school office to sign their child in. Thank you for your support.

Bedford Borough Pupil Voice Conference 2019

On 5th December schools from across Bedford Borough were invited to attend the annual Pupil Voice Conference which was led by the Bedford Borough Engagement and Development Team. In attendance were approximately 140 children. On the day the children were involved in a series of interactive workshops which were designed to capture the views of children and young people to guide and influence services across Bedford. The activities focused on the issues that were most important to children and young people. Some of the topics covered were Knife Crime, Climate Change, Transport and Anti-bullying which was led by The Youth Parliament Team. The children had an opportunity to discuss their views with other MPs.

The MPs proudly presented on their current positions of being an MP. They did a marvellous job and worked extremely well as a team. The day brought wonderful opportunities for the children to showcase their leadership skills through the various activities. All of the staff and children at GGA were very proud of them.

Our MPs had an opportunity to learn from more experienced MPs on ways to develop their role in school. The team gathered ideas from other schools and will be discussing their findings at their next meeting.

Staff also had an opportunity to share good practise with other school council staff and discuss current challenges and solutions.

Overall the MPs had a wonderful experience and gained lots of tips on how to develop their role as leaders. The MPs are looking forward to working with The Engagement and Development Team in the new year to develop their roles.



Family Support Worker

Remember if you have any worries or concerns or need some help with something, come and see the family support worker—Jackie Waller. She is around school every morning until 12.30pm. Catch her on the playground first thing, or make an appointment at the school office.

Appropriate Clothing

Please can we ask that you send your child to school wearing appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. Children spend up to an hour outside over the lunch period and therefore need a warm coat, gloves, hat and scarf to wear. Also during wet or snowy conditions a pair of wellingtons are a good idea to prevent children spending the day with wet feet.



Royal Gunpowder Mills Trip

A report by Umair and Mason, Holly Class

When we arrived we got off the bus and lined up to go to our activities. We did four activities.

One was making gift bags. The buildings were set out like in Victorian times and it was all themed around a Victorian Christmas. We then learnt about some Victorian toys and games. We got to play some of the games, such as hunt the thimble. Afterwards we had lunch.

After lunch we continued onto the next workshop where we made screen printed Christmas cards. The final workshop was good, we learnt about Victorian food. Afterwards we got on the coach and came back to school.

It was an amazing trip and we really recommend it.



Please complete form below and return to class teacher

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 complete the details below and return to their class teacher.

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

Pupil's Name:

Class:

Reason for Nomination:

Understanding

Admissions to Reception Year September 2020

If your child's date of birth falls between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 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 2020. **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. We have a small amount of paper application forms which can be collected from school if you do not have internet access. Please remember that your child will not automatically get a place at our school if they attend our pre school or start in Acorns in either January or April 2020, 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. **You must apply for your September Reception place with Bedford Borough Council.**

Recipe of the Month

Mince Pies

Why not try making these seasonal treats at home with your children. Just follow the link below:

<https://www.deliaonline.com/recipes/books/delias-happy-christmas/traditional-mince-pies>



Feedback/Suggestions

Please complete this slip, detach and return to school if you have any comments, feedback or suggestions that you would like to share with us:

Child's Name:

Class:

Comments:

Thank you for your time, we value your opinions.