

GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY



NEWSLETTER

We have certainly enjoyed being able to celebrate this festive and special time of year at Goldington Green Academy LIVE this month! The Christmas tree is up in the school hall and looking sparkly and beautiful!

We are so pleased to be able to share our Christmas performances with parents and carers. The children I know will do an incredible job, and we definitely have some future performers in our school! I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our school community, on behalf of the whole school, for your support. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of my staff for their amazing hard work during what has been a challenging Autumn Term.

Please remember to keep up to date with all the news happening in the school particularly through our Year Group tweets., which parents are encouraged to check regularly. Our monthly Newsletter also contains information and diary dates and copies of all letters sent home are also available on the school website.

On behalf of myself and the staff I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2023!

Diary Dates for December/January

December

- 1st Year 6 Lincolnsfield Trip
- 3rd Christmas Fayre
- 5th 9.30am Reception & Acorns Christmas Performance
- 5th 2pm Reception, Acorns & Preschool Christmas Performance
- 7th 9.30am Year 1 Christmas Performance
- 7th 2pm Year 2 Christmas Performance
- 8th Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children' charity
- 8th Forest of Marston Vale—School Tree Planting Day
- 8th 2pm Year 3 Christmas Performance
- 9th PTFA Christmas Discos
- 12th 2pm Year 4 Christmas Performance at Priory Methodist Church
- 13th 2pm Year 5 Christmas Performance at Priory Methodist Church
- 14th Christmas Dinner Day
- 15th 2pm Year 6 Christmas Performance at Priory Methodist Church
- 16th Party Day
- 16th **Last Day of Term**

Children return to school for the Spring Term on Wednesday 4th January

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

January

- 3rd Staff Training Day
- 4th **Start of Spring Term**
- 11th M&M Productions in School 'Sleeping Beauty'
- 24th Class Photographs

Skingsley Mrs C Skingsley
Headteacher

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Skye from Chestnut Class and her older sister Leah who used to attend our school, on their recent dance competition event in Peterborough. If you would like to watch their dance please follow this link

<https://linksharing.samsungcloud.com/bs8C2DBivcCf>

We are very proud of their achievements.

Lateness

We are concerned at the ever growing numbers of children who are arriving late for school. It is important for children to arrive on time so they can take part fully in all activities.

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.

If your child arrives 30 minutes after their designated start time then the lateness is unauthorised



Attendance and First Day Contact

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents of the school attendance policy and the correct procedure for reporting pupil absence. These are:-

- Telephoning our dedicated pupil absence line, which can be accessed 24 hours a day, by calling the school (01234 326335) and choosing the option for pupil absence and leaving a message **stating child's name, class, and a precise reason for the absence**. Please remember to speak slowly and clearly so the message can be understood. **These messages should be left before 9am in the morning.**
- By showing an appointment card or letter in advance at the school office.
- By completing an application of leave of absence in exceptional circumstances in term time, which is available from the school office.

In line with our safeguarding policy, if we haven't heard from you, a member of the school office will telephone all contacts that you have provided to us, until we are able to ascertain why your child is not at school. It is therefore really important that we have up to date contact details.

To send or not to send?

Often a child will wake up in the morning saying that they feel unwell. Whilst we do encourage children to come to school even if they 'feel a little unwell', we do not want any child who is genuinely ill to come to school. Always try and send your child to school if they are a little under the weather, for example with a runny nose, headache, tummy ache. The school will always contact you if your child is unwell which is why it is vitally important that we have your correct contact details.

HOWEVER, please do not send your child to school if they have any infectious illnesses. If your child has been vomiting or is suffering from diarrhoea then they must stay away from school for 48 hours from the last bout of illness. This is to ensure that any infection does not spread through the school.

Unacceptable reasons for Absence

- Shopping/Birthday treat
- Trips out
- Tiredness
- Meeting relatives
- Sibling unwell
- Non urgent dental or medical appointments
- Car breaking down
- Mum or Dad unwell



Thank you for your continued support and please do remember that if you would like to speak to someone about any concerns you can talk to Jackie Waller, our family support worker in school, who is available each day 8.30am-12.00 noon.

Can you help?

We are looking for any donations of board games/puzzles for use in our lunchtime club. If you can help, please send them in to the school office. Many thanks. Also we would like to thank St Mary's Church for their kind donations.

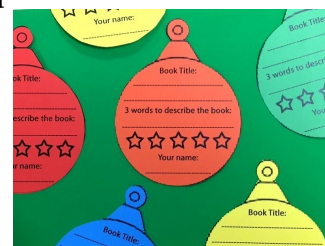
Harvest Festival

At the beginning of November we celebrated Harvest face to face for the first time as a school community since before COVID. The vicar from St Mary's Goldington and his curate led harvest assemblies for children from Reception through to Year 6 and our visitors also went to see the children in Pre-school and Acorns to talk about harvest. Bedford Food Bank and Prebend Day Centre benefitted from your kind and generous donations. The contributions to Bedford Food Bank contributed to 266 meals. Thank you all so much for your kindness.



Library News

We are holding a fun winter reading challenge in school. The children are able to pick up a 'book bauble' in their house colour from the School Library, write a 3 word review and then put their bauble on our Reading Tree in the Library to decorate it. We have a wide range of new books to choose from football books to funny comics, spooky stories to Pokemon books, inspiring non-fiction to fantastic fiction. Tell your children just to pop to the School Library to find out more.



Staff News

We are saying goodbye to 2 members of staff this month. **Miss Rebecca Cherry**, Unqualified Teacher, will be leaving us at the end of term to start a new job, and **Miss Sarah Howard**, Cleaner has also moved on to pastures new. We wish them both every success in their new jobs.



Recent Fund Raising Events

Thank you all for your kind support of the recent fund raising events. We raised:- **£828 for Children In Need**, and **£350 raised at the PTFA Fireworks evening**.

Barn Nativity Trip - Report by Emily, Chestnut Class

On the morning of Tuesday 29th November we went on the Barn Nativity Trip, which was all about learning the Christmas Story that Christians believe in. We went on the school minibus together through Bedford to St Johns and St Leonards Church in Bedford.

When we arrived, we were met by Becky who was part of the group, and then we waited for the other school to arrive. Before we entered the church some of us asked some questions like "How long has the church been here?" - The church is about 842 years old." Becky replied.

Then it was time to go inside to see the first scene of the nativity, it was about Elizabeth and Zachariah having a child. It was so good, and then we went to the next scene where Mary was told that she was going to marry Joseph and have a child and they had to call it Jesus.

After that, we headed outside to find Joseph in his house doing his work when he got told he was going to marry Mary and have a child so he went off to find Mary. Next we headed around the other side of the church to where they wanted us to imagine it was Bethlehem where the Inns were, they tried for a space at the first Inn and then the next Inn then finally someone said "I have got a barn if that's ok, it is warm and dry" "Thank you, thank you!" said Mary and Joseph.

Then we went to the last scene where we had to go back inside and it looked really different, because they had turned it into a barn where baby Jesus was born.

At the end, we were allowed to ask some questions about what we had seen—I asked "What is Myrrh?" and I learnt that it a kind of oil that is used to make things smell nice.

I really enjoyed this trip and would rate it 5 out of 5 start—it was great!

Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas post box is up and ready to receive your children's Christmas cards to friends and class mates within school.

Please can you ensure that the envelope is properly addressed with the recipients full name and class written clearly, otherwise we cannot guarantee the card will be delivered.



Watching England Vs Iran at school

Report by Malachi and Tyler in Cedar Class

We were so excited to watch the game with friends in class. Everyone gathered towards the front of the classroom to watch on the big screen. All you could hear was singing and chanting. The atmosphere was electric. Mr. Parmar and Miss. Cupit popped fresh popcorn for us during the second half. Our favourite goal was from Saka and our Player Of The Match was Jude Bellingham. In English, we have been re-enacting scenarios from the game as well as writing about them like the Iranian goalie breaking his nose. We think if we were him, we would have wanted to try to play on afterwards too.

MP's News

This month the MP's of Goldington Green Academy have sent a letter to the mayor of Bedford Borough. We are hoping that he will agree with our idea and add barriers to the sidewalk outside our main car park gates for the safety of drivers and cyclists. This is because on many occasions there have been events where the driver cannot see the cyclist coming and the cyclist doesn't give way so the car has collided/nearly collided with the cyclist which could cause injuries not only to the cyclist and the driver but the people around them. We think the barriers would keep both users of the path and the road safer. As you can see here in these



photos the driver nor the cyclist can see each other which may lead to accidents. We think the barriers will stop the cyclist and make pedestrians safe for crossing.

Philharmonia "Orchestra Unwrapped" - A report by Patrick, Coconut Class

First we ate our lunch together at 11:30 and after that we were sent to the mini-bus and were taken to the Corn Exchange. We then headed up stairs to meet the other group. They had got there before us. Whilst they were finishing their lunch, we sat down for a while until we were allowed to take our seats in the audience. The host of the entire performance was called Lucy and she came over to us before the performance started and asked some questions. And then it started! The first piece of music was the theme tune of Harry Potter, I learnt that this was written by Edvard Grieg. The story of the performances were all about "Speaking up" for what you believe in - and each piece of music had a story to tell. We learnt a song to all sing together about being kind and treating people equally.

I really enjoyed the performance and my favourite was by a composer called Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. The last song of the afternoon was a performance of "We don't talk about Bruno" from Encanto - everyone was singing along. It was brilliant.

Merri Christmas Trees Fundraising Event

For every tree selected by GGA parent/carer/teacher, PTFA will receive £5!

Come visit Merri Christmas Tree Farm to experience tagging or choosing your Christmas tree direct from the field and raise funds (£5) for Goldington Green Academy PTFA at the same time. Simply mention Goldington Green Academy PTFA when selecting!

There are three ways to buy a MERRI Christmas Tree;

1. TAG your tree for collection or delivery at a later date
2. CHOOSE your tree then have it cut down to take home that day
3. PRE-ORDER your tree for collection or delivery at a later date.

Tree Tagging has started

Tree Choosing starts on 26th November.

Please visit <https://merri.jezzam.com/events> to book a tree tagging ticket.

MERRI Christmas Trees, Queens Close, Oakley, MK43 7TB
(opposite Oakley Post Office)



Forest School News

We're greening up GGA even more!

In December we'll be working in conjunction with The Forest of Marston Vale who have provided us with 100 saplings of native trees and shrubs to plant on our school field. Classes will be helping to plant these as part of the 'Trees for Climate' which is a five year, multi-million pound woodland creation programme that offers support to community groups thinking about tree planting projects.

In addition to this, our younger children in EYFS will be given the role of sowing thousands of native wildflower seeds, in spring, at the base of each tree which means our current pupils will be handing down a 'green legacy' for hundreds of future generations of GGA students!

Alongside this, we are also soon to be the proud owners of a 15 x 8ft polytunnel which will provide the children with a space to start their own produce off for our burgeoning business enterprise 'Goldington Greens'.

The children will grow their own food produce in order to sell it towards the end of the summer term as a means to encourage all our families to try and grow some of their own fruit and vegetables alongside flowers and herbs.

This incentive will tie in predominantly with our Forest School structure and the polytunnel will double-up as an outdoor 'lab' for children to take their fieldwork investigations to and study their finds in closer detail.

All in all great news for greening our school community!

Recipe of the Month Christmas Snowman Biscuits

Get your little ones to help decorate these festive snowman biscuits. You can bake and freeze the biscuits ahead, then bring them out for a winter's day activity. For the recipe please following the link below:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/snowman-biscuits>



Values Education

During the month of December the school is focussing on the value of:
Peace

If your child has demonstrated the value of Peace 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.