

GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY



NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to you all and I hope you managed to enjoy some time with your loved ones and steer clear of the many nasty viruses going around.

I trust that our families enjoyed our Christmas Concerts as much as we enjoyed performing for you all. It was lovely to get the opportunity to welcome everyone back into school and to the church and enjoy a live concert after the Covid restrictions. The children were fantastic and demonstrated excellent singing and acting skills. I want to congratulate each child who participated and to thank all the staff for their dedication in preparing the children.



We also would like to thank all our families for the staff cards and gifts. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated by everyone.

Finally, please remember to keep visiting our school website and check your year group Twitters for our latest news.

Skingsley

Mrs C Skingsley
Headteacher

Diary Dates for January/February

January

- 3rd Staff Training Day
- 4th Start of Spring Term
- 11th M&M Productions in School 'Sleeping Beauty'
- 20th Yr.2 & 3 Christingle at Priory Methodist Church
- 24th Class Photographs

February

- 13th-17th Half Term
- 27th Yr. 4 Parent Consultations
- 28th Yr. 1 Parent Consultations

March

- 1st Yr. 3 Parent Consultations
- 2nd Yr. 5 Parent Consultations
- 7th Yr. 2 Parent Consultations
- 8th Yr. R and Acorns Parent Consultations
- 9th Yr. 6 Parent Consultations
- 10th-19th Science Week

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.



Recent Fund Raising Events

Thank you to all who helped and attended this year's PTFA Christmas Fayre. We raised a massive **£992.30**. We are also pleased to announce that we raised **£224** 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.



Listening to your child read

Please encourage your child to read every evening in order to develop their skills. Reading aloud helps children to develop greater awareness of how punctuation works in a written text. Please, please, please try to encourage reading aloud - perhaps they could read to you whilst you're cooking dinner, or read aloud to a younger sibling or auntie, uncle or grandparent.



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.

Year 6 Lincolnsfield Trip A report by Nika, Kai and Joshua, Beech Class

Our trip to Lincolnsfield was the kind of experience that children would go through every day in World War 2. It was something that we would never forget.

We learnt about how families would survive during rough times and we even got to see a real life Anderson Shelter!

It was quite fun doing the exciting activities.

Kai's personal favourite workshop was the Blitz. The Blitz taught us how to defuse a bomb and we went into an Anderson shelter during the loud alarm.

Joshua really enjoyed the whole WW2 experience. It showed us the main supply of food and how to put out a fire.

Nika's favourite was the classroom. We learnt about the different punishments in school and the passports children had to always carry. We had a great time!



Carol Concert at Putnoe Heights Church A report by Ava, Cedar Class

On Saturday 17th December Goldington Green Academy choir were invited to perform in a concert at Putnoe Heights church with the Kempston Musical Society. I thought it was really fun to do, as it was cool singing with the adult choir and the audience was very enthusiastic! My keyboard solo of Jingle Bells went quite well and I got to do an encore! The adult choir was very good but so was the kids' choir! I enjoyed walking there in the snow with all the twinkling Christmas lights, it was really magical.



School Closure due to Severe Weather

As the cold winter months are upon 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.

Modeshift STARS Accreditation

Goldington Green Academy have been very busy with our active and safe journeys! We have achieved one of the top levels of Modeshift STARS accreditation in the 2021/22 academic year and have been shortlisted for the **2023 National STARS School Travel Awards**. As a result, we will be joining an online Modeshift STARS School of the Region Awards event. A big thank you to all of you for your support and participation in these events.

Year 2 Christmas Community Event

We held a very successful Christmas Community Event in Year 2 on the 8th December whereby the parents were invited into Year 2 to undertake some Christmas craft activities with their children. We had mince pies and posh biscuits which the children and the parents loved.

Message from EYFS Team

We are very proud of all of the Early Years children for their first Christmas performance of Wiggly Nativity! They worked extremely hard on the singing and actions to accompany each song. We hope our families enjoyed it as much as we did!

Staff News

We would like to welcome **Miss Mia Munday**, Class Teacher who will be teaching in Apple Class 3 days a week. We hope she will be very happy at GGA. We would also like to send our congratulations to **Mrs Jade Harrison**, Class Teacher and her husband on the birth of their second son. Jasper Zane Harrison was born on 29th November weighing 7lb 10oz.

Cleaner Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Cleaner starting immediately. The position is over 50 weeks per year with stand down weeks over October and February Half Term. The hours are 2 hours per day, either before or after school and the hourly rate is £10.50 per hour. If you are interested in joining our friendly cleaning team please contact the school office for more information.

Reminder

Please remember when leaving a message on the pupil absence line to give your child's full name. Many parents just give their child's first name and with well over 600 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.

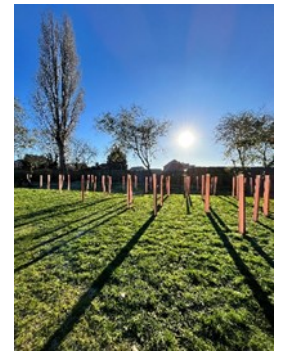
Tree Planting

On the 8th of December 2022, some of our pupils participated in a Trees for Climate activity with links to The Queen's Green Canopy project thanks to The Forest of Marston Vale. The Queen's Green Canopy is a nationwide incentive designed to celebrate the platinum jubilee in 2022 and will conclude in March 2023.

This incentive will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands which will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

As part of our Forest School focus, we have planted over a hundred saplings which includes a range of native species here on our field including oak, willow, mountain ash, viburnum, beech and many more.

As a result of our involvement, Goldington Green Academy are now part of a nationwide incentive to green our environment and to increase and protect our native tree cover.



Polytunnel

Sustainability is a key element of our forest school studies here at GGA and as such we have launched our own business enterprise in Y5, a small food plant nursery named 'Goldington Greens'.

In order to help us cultivate and increase our own seed raised stock, we have invested in a polytunnel to grow tomatoes, chilies, peppers, cucumbers and many other food plants.

We will also be growing and selling lots of companion plant flowers for the

vegetable garden to draw in pollinators, to help deter 'pests', and provide a range of environmental benefits.

Our main aim is to grow as much as possible, including herbs, to sell from our business enterprise stall in June/July 2023.

We hope to encourage even more of you to grow your own food plants at home, be it herbs in a window box or a raised bed full of tomato plants!

We would like to say a huge thank you to one of our Y5 parents, Mr D Beck, and his colleagues for giving their time and effort to construct our polytunnel over the course of a day – your help is very much appreciated by all of us here at GGA!



Recipe of the Month Fish Nachos

Kids will love this colourful nachos recipe, with flaky white fish, tangy salsa and oozy cheese. Get this easy recipe by following the link below:

<https://realfood.tesco.com/recipes/fish-nachos.html>



Values Education

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

Hope

If your child has demonstrated the value of Hope 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.