

GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY

I hope you have all managed to enjoy the half term break including the festival of Diwali. I'm sure you will agree the first half term has flown by and how quickly the children have adapted to their new year groups which makes us very proud of them.

I hope that the children are now rested and eager to engage in the activities and learning as we move towards this particularly busy and festive half term. Sadly I am still restricted to having no weight bearing on my right foot and having my leg elevated at all times but I am back to the hospital soon and hopefully I will have some good news and that I can finally return to school, albeit with crutches and a wheelchair.

As you are aware this half term we have our Parent Consultations, please see or message your child's class teacher if you do not yet have an appointment. Once again, in response to requests, we are offering a blended approach where you can either do face to face, Zoom or telephone meetings.

As always I thank you for your continued support in all we do and I look forward to seeing you personally at some of the forthcoming events we have, particularly those new families who have joined since I have been off school and I am yet to meet!

Diary Dates for November/December

November

- 1st Yr.2 Trip to Warwick Castle
- 2nd Whole School Individual Photographs
- 3rd PTFA Fireworks evening
- 7th Yr.4 Parent Consultations
- 8th Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Year R September 2023
- 8th Yr.1 Parent Consultations
- 9th Yr.3 Parent Consultations
- 10th Yr.5 Parent Consultations
- 11th M&M Productions in School 'Sleeping
Beauty'
- 14th Acorns Parent Consultations
- 15th Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Year R September 2023
- 15th Yr.2 Parent Consultations
- 16th Yr. R Parent Consultations
- 17th Yr.6 Parent Consultations
- 18th Children in Need
- 30th Music trip to Corn Exchange
'Orchestra Unwrapped'

December

- 1st Year 6 Lincolnsfield Trip
- 3rd Christmas Fayre
- 8th Christmas Jumper Day
- 9th PTFA Christmas Discos
- 14th Christmas Dinner Day
- 16th Party Day
- 16th Last Day of Term

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

Skingsley Mrs C Skingsley
Headteacher

Open Morning for Prospective Parents Year R September 2023

We are holding 2 open mornings in November for Prospective Parents to have a tour of the school. Please book your place on either one by using the link <https://forms.gle/qDZJFeZY4kvgSBix6>

Conker and Pumpkin

To help support our children's social and emotional needs in school we are pleased to welcome Conker and Pumpkin, our school Guinea pigs they will be living in Rainbow room.



Can you Help?

Do you like gardening and have some spare time? We are looking for someone who would be interested in developing the raised beds in our Environmental Area (Vis Ortis) like their own allotment. This could be a family member, grandparent, neighbour, anyone with a love of growing things. Please contact the school office if you could help.



Admissions to Reception Year September 2023

If your child's date of birth falls between **1st September 2018** and **31st August 2019** 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 2023**. **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

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 and School's Website.

Children In Need

On 18th November we will once again be supporting Children In Need by holding a 'Spotacular Day'. The children can come to school with anything spotty, spotty face paint, nails, hair tie, socks or clothing and you can make a donation via Parent Pay to this worthy cause. There will also be Pudsey merchandise on sale at school. Look out for more details to follow.



Staff News

We are pleased to welcome two new Teaching Assistants joining us this half term, **Mrs Marylene Gittens**, who will be working in Early Years and **Mr Dominic Parmar**, who will be working in Year 4.

Year 4 Anglo-Saxon Day

After half a term of learning about the daily life of the Anglo-Saxons Year 4 travelled back in time with the 'Off the Page' history company to experience life in an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

The children made candles, practised their calligraphy skills and made jewellery to name a few of the activities on offer. They listened to some Anglo-Saxon stories; remember the one about Alfred burning the cakes?

In the afternoon the children transformed into archaeologists by taking part in a 'real-life' excavation to find hidden artefacts. They then set up their own museums where they displayed their finds.

A great day. Lots of learning and lots of fun. Well done to the children for their excellent participation.



Recipe of the Month Super Healthy Salmon Burgers

If you're after something a bit lighter than potato-packed fishcakes, try these simple salmon burgers with ginger, soy sauce and coriander by following the link below:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/superhealthy-salmon-burgers>



GGA celebrates Black History Month.

During October children across the school have been learning about the contributions that black people have made and continue to make to society. This included famous people such British space scientist and educator Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Arthur Wharton who was the first black professional footballer, Jessie Owens the first black American track and field athlete to win four gold medals at the Olympics, Katherine Johnson whose maths helped send astronauts to the Moon and back, The brave and courageous Mary Seacole who helped the British soldiers at the battlefield during the Crimean War, Harriet Powers who was famous for her quilt making skills, the American hero Ruby Bridges who was the first African American child to desegregate an Elementary School. At six years old, Ruby's bravery helped pave the way for Civil Rights action in the American South, Dr Martin Luther King who is known for his contributions to the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

Visiting artists enhanced the children's learning experiences through a variety of art form workshops. Teachers and children alike enjoyed these extra curriculum activities.

As we come to the end of our Black History Month studies we strive to continue to develop our curriculum to make it inclusive of everyone's history.

Forest School

During last half term, children in Year 4 have been taking part in Forest School.

On the first day of Forest School, we made a huge ant city. We mixed some tan coloured sand and dry mud together. Then we poured it in our ant city. Next, we made a 'green man' out of cloud coloured clay. I used mini pinecones as eyes and feathers as hair. The third activity we did in Forest School was making bird feeders. I learnt about crows. Did you know they solve puzzles? Finally, we made a minibeast hotel out of peach wood and pinecones the size of a conker.

By Georgie, Cedar Class



Congratulations!

We would like to say a huge 'well done' to Sophia in Cherry Class who over the half term holiday entered the Autumn Tennis Open at Riverside Tennis Club and won! Here she is holding her trophy.

All her hard work has paid off and as a result has now been selected to play for the County squad under 9's.

We are very proud of you Sophia.

