



Newsletter

Issue No. 2

Autumn 2 2025

As we approach the end of another wonderful term I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together. This term has been filled with learning, laughter, and countless examples of kindness and resilience from our pupils and staff. Thank you to our families for your continued support—it truly makes a difference.

Christmas is a time for celebration and gratitude, and I am incredibly grateful for our school community. I Hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break and return refreshed for the exciting opportunities that the new year will bring in particular as we join HEART Academy Trust in January.

This newsletter also marks a very special farewell. After an incredible **31 years of dedicated service**, we say goodbye to **Mrs Amanda Hotchkiss**, who has been the heart of our school office. Amanda's commitment, warmth, and tireless support have touched the lives of countless pupils, parents, and staff over the decades. She has been a constant source of calm and efficiency, and her contribution to our school cannot be overstated. On behalf of everyone, I want to express our deepest thanks and wish Amanda every happiness in her retirement—you will be greatly missed.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



Skingsley

Mrs C Skingsley
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

December

17th Christmas Dinner Day
19th Party Day
19th End of Term



Children return to school Tuesday 6th January

January

13th Year R Vision Screening
15th M&M Productions in school 'Cinderella'
20th Whole School Class Photographs
27th 9am Holly Class Assembly

February

3rd 9am Monkey Puzzle Class Assembly
10th 9am Coconut Class Assembly
12th Year 4 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo
16th-20th Half Term

Harvest Festival

Harvest was celebrated in different ways across the school on the 7th November. Many thanks to Ceri-Anne from St Mary's Church for leading a Harvest Assembly, reading a story relating to Harvest in many classrooms and for visiting our youngest children. Thank you very much for all the packaged food donations which will be given to Bedford Foodbank who support many families across the local area. Mrs Peck



Recent Monies raised

The following events raised:-

Fireworks—£382.67
Children In Need—£616.51
Blind Date with a Book—£50
Silent Auction: £453.50

Christmas Fayre £382.67 and still counting!

Thank you to everyone who supported these events and special thanks to all the people who gave up their time to organise and help out at them. These things wouldn't happen without all the support received.



Staff News

We are delighted to announce that **Miss Jessica Guerrero, Preschool TA** is expecting twins! She is starting her Maternity Leave at the end of term and is due to have the babies shortly afterwards. We wish her well and look forward to meeting the new arrivals.

On a sadder note, and following on from Mrs Skingsley's introduction piece at the top of this Newsletter, I would like to say that I am retiring at the end of December. I have been putting together the School Newsletter for the last 20 plus years and it does seem strange writing about my own departure!

Thank you Caroline for your lovely words. It has been a pleasure working here and I have seen many changes over the last 31 years, but I know that Goldington Green Academy will continue to be the wonderful school it always has been as it moves to join HEART Academy Trust in January.



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.



Year 3/4 Football Team

Our first year representing the school team has been amazing so far. Lots of us play for different teams but we are lucky for the opportunity to play alongside our school mates. We had a great experience in our first game winning 9-1 against Greenfield Lower school. Our results so far have gone very well, we have played 6 games winning 4 of them.

We have a couple of games left before we take a break for the Christmas season and we are already looking forward to becoming even better in the New Year.

By Ashu, James, and Robert on behalf of the GGA Year 3/4 football team.



Art Club

The artist of the month for November was Andy Warhol. Children in Art Club have been thinking about his artwork. They have made pictures of canned soup and doughnuts in the style of Andy Warhol and they have used recycled materials to create prints. We have created a display board in school dedicated to Artist of the Month, so please if your child produces any artwork at home linked to the artists encourage them to bring it in to school to be displayed. Thank you for your support. The Artist of the Month for December is Vincent Van Gogh.



Black History Month

In the month of October, GGA celebrated Black History Month. This year's Black History Month theme was **"Standing Firm in Power"**. The theme celebrates the strength, resilience, and contributions of Black people while encouraging continued progress towards a more inclusive future.



Throughout the month, we had visiting artists in school. The artists shared the stories of inspirational people who played a sufficient role in history. This was delivered through a variety of workshops such as dance, music, art and drama. Please visit our website gallery to see how we celebrated Black History Month.

Reminders

- Admission to Reception Year September 2026—Please apply for your child's place with Bedford Borough Council **before 15th January 2026**.
- From January we become a cashless school. We will no longer accept cash for any reason. Please use ParentPay.
- When leaving voice messages on the pupil absence line, speak slowly, loudly and clearly, stating child's full name, class and reason for absence.
- Child Absences—please remember to give a reason for your child's absence, it is not sufficient to say 'unwell', we need to know what the illness is.
- Make sure school uniform is clearly named so if items gets lost we can return them to their owners.
- Please dress your child in suitable winter clothing, coats, gloves, hats and scarfs.

Year 2 Trip to Warwick Castle

Year 2 went to Warwick Castle. We had an amazing day exploring the castle and seeing The Great Hall with all of the armour, weapons and different rooms. We also saw the Birds of Prey and saw the famous trebuchet.

