



Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School

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Gonerby Gazette

October 2017

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year.

We have changed the format of our newsletter and we are sending it as a letter via Parentmail with links to news articles we have posted on our website. This will make it easier to produce with pupils' contributions and parents will also be able to see more photos via our photo gallery. There will also be a PDF version on the home page of our website www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk.

[Macmillan Coffee Morning – reported by Abigail in Year 5](#)

[Year 5/6 visit Woolsthorpe Manor – reported by Marcie, Y5](#)

[Harvest Festival – reported by Alicia, Year 5](#)

[Y1/2 visit Sudbury Hall – reported by Mrs Eason](#)

[E-safety for Parents](#)

ClassDojo

As a result of your feedback, parents will have noticed that we are making much more use of ClassDojo this year. We use Dojo to recognise when pupils are demonstrating good learning behaviours (using their GHF BRAIN muscles) and parents can see when their child receives Dojo points. As we have over 190 parents connected, we are now using it to share what pupils have been learning in class and how they can be supported at home. With all the 'likes' for our 'Class and School Stories', it is clear that many parents like seeing what their child has been doing in school and posts will help set up a conversation at home. We are also sharing extra details about home-learning tasks and links to useful websites. As only invited parents are able to see what we post, this provides a safe platform to share photos (including of our Little Diamonds each week) and details of what we are doing in school. Parents can comment on posts or send messages too – although should not send important messages via ClassDojo or they could be missed.

If you are not already signed up to ClassDojo, Mrs Stylianides can explain more and get you set up on our Parents' Evenings or you could let the office know that you would like to join.

Building Works

We are pleased to report that the builders have just about completed the extension and, apart from the odd bit of tidying up, will be vacating the school site early next week. We are delighted with the build, especially the lovely light library and the staff toilets! We can't wait for you to see the transformation and are just organising furniture (kindly funded by the FSA) so we can have a 'grand opening' when we have properly moved in.

Please look out for important updates regarding re-opening our second entrance.

Class Assemblies

We all look forward to our class assemblies and have already had some super ones from Defoe and Carroll class. Parents of the class leading are very welcome to join us. Below are the dates for this term.

- Dahl – 12th October
- Lewis – 19th October

- Ahlberg – 2nd Nov
- Potter and Carle Y1 – 9th Nov
- Blyton – 16th Nov
- King-Smith – 23rd Nov
- Sendak – 30th Nov

Please remember that assemblies start at 9am and taking photographs and video is not allowed.

Reading

At GHF, every class reads together every day and we have invested a lot of money in new and exciting texts in recent years. We have also invested in online books, as well as raising the profile of some old classics. We are working hard to improve the children's reading skills (their decoding and their comprehension of texts) but we are also doing our best to nurture their love of reading. Being a reader is extremely important to a child's success in education and in life, so reading is a priority for everyone. Our mantra is 'kids who read, succeed' because we know that kids who don't read find life much more difficult.

We are excited about our new library as it will provide our pupils with greater access to lots of wonderful books for them to enjoy as well as get lots of practise reading so they can grow into skilled readers. Reading together at school every day is just not enough practise and they need to read lots at home too. Unfortunately, for one reason or another, there are some children who don't and we have to find other times for them to practise – which is very tricky with so much else to cover in the curriculum.

We are very fortunate that we have a small but growing group of reading volunteers, who come into school on a weekly basis to sit and read with some of these children individually. Our volunteers mainly consist of some very kind parents and grandparents and this term they have been joined by volunteers from an organisation called Schoolreaders (www.schoolreaders.org). Schoolreaders have over 700 reading volunteers who they match with local primary schools to listen to children read on a 1-1 basis. Our pupils love reading with a grown-up and our volunteers love helping them. If you have a bit of time to spare and this is something you might be interested in doing, we would love to hear from you.

Important Diary Dates

- Individual Photos - 13th October – parents can bring younger siblings at 8:30am
- Grant Koper author visit for infants - 16th October
- Parents' evening - 17th and 18th October
- Half term – w/c 23rd October
- InSET day – 30th October
- Pupils return to school – 31st October
- Book Fair starting Thursday 2nd November
- The Collection visit for Y3/4 – 14th and 15th November
- Large schools football competition - 16th November
- Children in Need Day - Friday 17th November
- Christmas Discos – 7th December
- Choir concert at Walton school - 8th December
- Non-uniform day on 11th December – for a donation for the Christmas Fair
- Christmas Fair – 15th December
- Reception and KS1 Christmas performances – 12th and 13th December
- Infants going to the Guildhall panto – 13th December
- Christingle Services - Monday 18th for KS2 and Tuesday 19th December for infants
- Christmas lunch – 19th December
- KS2 Christmas Singalong – 2pm on 19th December
- InSET Day – 20th December
- Children return to school on Wednesday 3rd January