



Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School

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Gonerby Gazette

December 2019

What a wonderful term! Christmas *is* the most wonderful time of year - and it is certainly the busiest. From performances to Services and Singalongs, the children and staff have had so much to remember and the corridors have been filled with the most wonderful sounds.

On Tuesday afternoon, I was surprised to be invited to a wonderful (and secretly planned) assembly where everyone sang their heart out to my favourite songs and shared wonderful and kind words (including my own final 'School Report' written by the teachers) and inspirational poems. I could not believe that, with the clever help of Mrs Davidson, everyone learned a unique version of 'One more step along the world I go' – it was fantastic and I was overwhelmed. I will never forget this!

After 8 fantastic years at GHF I am sad to be saying good bye to everyone now. I will miss the brilliant children and their 'love of learning' and 'give it a go' attitudes. With their endless warmth, kindness and compassion, I have felt blessed coming to work each day and watching them grow. They have made me immensely proud, along with over 400 other children I have sent off to secondary school. I have valued and enjoyed the trust and responsibility I have been given in helping them all along their way.

I will also miss the wonderful GHF staff – they are an incredibly hard working, dedicated team, enabling the children to benefit from a well-rounded education and to strive for excellence. From the excellent teachers, terrific teaching assistants, superb office staff and marvellous cooks and site staff, everyone does their very best for every child in school – including my own!

I would like to say a massive thank you to every pupil, member of staff, parent, governor and member of the GHF community, for their support and partnership over the years. I have felt immensely welcome and I am incredibly proud of all we have achieved together. Thank you also for the many kind words, well wishes and gifts bestowed upon me these past few weeks too.

As I hand over the reins to Mrs Garland (an excellent teacher and dedicated and reflective leader), I am certain GHF will be in safe hands and will continue to grow. Now the governors have begun the recruitment process for my permanent replacement, next term will be an exciting one and I wish everyone the best through this.

So, this is my final farewell, my thoughts will be forever with you, and I hope you have a joyful Christmas and wonderful New Year too.

Claire Stylianides

Anti-Bullying Week by Annie and Lydia, Year 5

GHF focus on ABW and Change Starts With Us

<https://www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk/news/?pid=8&nid=1&storyid=168>

Old and New Games

Y1/2 have been finding out if their toys are better than their grandparents' toys.

<https://www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk/news/?pid=8&nid=1&storyid=167>

Children in Need Day by Freya, Ruby and Isla, Year 5

GHF do lots of exercise and fun activities to raise £446 for Children in Need.

<https://www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk/news/?pid=8&nid=1&storyid=169>

Awesome Ancient Egyptians by Sophia and Olivia, Year 4

Y3/4 pupils enjoy a visit to the Leicester museum to find out more.

<https://www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk/news/?pid=8&nid=1&storyid=170>

Christmas Round-up

The children have written all about our Christmas events.

<https://www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk/news/?pid=8&nid=1&storyid=171>

Infant Pupils Dazzle in their Christmas Performances

Our Reception pupils put on a fantastic performance of 'Whoops A Daisy Angel' and everyone was very proud of them. Despite many children being off ill before and during the performances, their singing and dancing were excellent and they worked really well together as a team. The actors and speakers were very clear and right on cue each time. It is hard to believe that we are only just coming to the end of their first term in school.

<https://www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk/gallery/?pid=8&gcatid=1&albumid=50>

What a pleasure it was to see the Year 1 & 2 pupils in their performance of 'Jesus's Christmas Party'. The singing was exceptional and, even though they were also plagued by illness, every child gave at least 110%. The children acted and danced brilliantly too. It is amazing how well so many worked so well together and they all should be very proud. The Arnoldfield residents were also treated to songs from the performance by some of our Year 2 pupils. Once again, the children sang beautifully. Every term we go down to Arnoldfield to give residents a taster of our performances and both children and residents love it!

See Y1/2 Photo Gallery <https://www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk/gallery/?pid=8&gcatid=1&albumid=49>

Thank you to parents for help with the super costumes – the children really looked the part – and well done to the hardworking staff who pulled the performances together too.

Christingle Services

We loved Christingle Day this week. During the morning, all the children made their Christingles and the whole school smelled of sweets and oranges! Then in the afternoon the KS2 children held a moving service in St Sebastian's. It was particularly special when we lit some Christingles and the children sang 'Love Shone Down', reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world and by showing love we can make this world a good place. The Young Voices choir also gave a stunning performance of 'When Christmas Comes to Town' and the compere and readers spoke eloquently. The church was absolutely packed and we are delighted that so many parents and grandparents joined us.

The next day, the infants held their Christingle service in school and were kindly supported by the KS2 readers. Again, parents and grandparents were thoroughly impressed with the wonderful singing, with even the Reception children joining in with every song.

Through the performances this month, we have been raising money for the Children's Society who kindly provided us with candles and ribbon. We are pleased to support children who are much less fortunate than us, especially at Christmas when we get so much. Thank you to Mr Buckeridge and Jennie

Fytche for their contributions to the services and also to the very kind parents and grandparents who helped with Christingle making and walking up to church.

KS2 Christmas Singalong

We all love a good sing-along, especially if it involves our favourite Christmas tune! KS2 pupils gave infants and parents a real musical treat this morning, along with sharing their favourite Christmas poems. We had another Young Voices taster and can see that they are going to do a brilliant job in Sheffield next month. After a hearty Christmas lunch, the KS2 pupils performed again for lots more parents – it was brilliant to end the Christmas term on such a high note.

End of Term Awards

Last week we held our final Celebration assembly of the term and, as usual, there was a lot to celebrate. On ClassDojo we shared photographs of the Golden Pen and Magic Pencil winners. The children's wonderful writing is on display and reflects their hard work and determination to improve. We also shared a photo of the children who each class voted Child of the Term. Everyone loves this award because the children vote for these children for very good reasons. They often vote for children who are always super role models, always work hard, always use their GHF BRAIN and are always great friends to everyone too – 'always' being the key word here. Click [here](#) to see the specific reasons for each class winner.

Christmas Fair

Thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair. The children made some super items to sell and, in addition to all the other activities and stalls, we raised about £1400 overall. Thank you to the staff and the FSA for all their hard work, especially chairperson Sarah Marshall who did a fantastic job organising everything. The children really do get excited for the fair and all the other FSA events, like the discos held earlier this month. However, the FSA are really struggling to get enough helpers to run these events and they really need more support in order to continue. It would be a real shame if events did not go ahead or if the FSA could not continue so please try to offer any support you can, no matter how little.

Class Assemblies

We all look forward to our class assemblies and parents of pupils in the class leading are very welcome to join us. Below are the dates for this term.

- Defoe – 16th January
- Carroll – 23rd January
- Blyton – 30th January
- Dahl – 6th February
- Lewis – 13th February
- King-Smith – 5th March
- Ahlberg – 12th March
- Sendak – 19th March
- Potter – 26th March

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

Governor News

Another term, another year and, as my son keeps reminding me, another decade, comes towards its end!

For governors, the term started with an extra-ordinary meeting to accept Mrs Stylianides resignation and then we had the parent governor election. We were grateful to have two candidates and for all of you who voted. We were pleased to welcome Amy Watts as our new parent governor. Early next year we will also welcome Luckwinder Goulsbra as a new co-opted governor.

Along with our usual meetings we have been busy beginning the recruitment process for a new HT who will start from September 2020. The advertisement went live last week with the closing date for applications the 24th January. Interviews are planned for the 12th February so hopefully we will be in a position to update you with what is going to happen soon after this.

It was a pleasure to be at the children's farewell assembly for Mrs Stylianides on Tuesday. We say goodbye with much appreciation for all that she has done for the school since 2012 and wish her and her family well for the future. I am sure we can all look back and reflect on some impact she has made upon us - Thank you Mrs S! (BTW - do we need a new HT with an easier name this time!!)

As always it is great fun to be part of the school at Christmas time. The children have done a great job at Christingle services, school plays and sing-a-longs and well done to all those who have had a part in making them happen. I wish you all – children, staff and families - a fantastic Christmas break where, hopefully, among the excitement you will be able to find time to rest and perhaps also to reflect upon the events of that first Christmas. (Perhaps tell someone the story of the candy cane – for those to whom that comment makes no sense ask a KS2 child!!)

*With best wishes,
Michael Buckeridge*

Do you have a child ready to start school next September?

Just a quick reminder that if you have a child due to start school in Reception in September 2020, you need to [complete the application online](#) by **12 noon, 15 January 2020**. Offers will be available on the 16th April 2020. There is more information about our arrangements for starting school on our [website](#).

GHF Consultation to Reduce Pupil Admission Number (PAN)

Lincolnshire County Council are currently consulting to reduce our PAN from September 2021. The consultation is to reduce the admissions number from 50 to 40. This is at our request following lower intakes in recent years and will enable us to operate a more efficient class structure across 4 infant classes instead of 5. It will provide us with the opportunity to explore the possibility of nursery provision in the spare classroom. Sufficiency studies indicate that there will still be enough school places to meet local need, and class sizes will remain with the required national infant class size limit of 30 per class at Key Stage 1. If there is an increase in birth rates and demand in the area in the future then there is the potential to increase the intake again if required. The reduction in PAN will not affect the current pupils or the numbers in their year groups. Should you wish to, you can share your response to the consultation via this [link](#). It will close on 3rd January 2020.

Important Diary Dates

- Break up for Christmas – Thursday 19th December
- Staff InSET Day – Friday 20th December
- Pupils return to school on Monday 6th January 2020
- Young Voices performance in Sheffield – Friday 10th January
- Y3/4 Visits to Bomber Command – Thurs 16th (Blyton & King-Smith), Fri 17th January (Dahl)
- Break up for Half Term – Thursday 13th February
- Staff InSET Day – Friday 14th February
- Pupils return to school on Monday 24th February
- Parents' Evening – Tues 17th March, 5:00-7:30pm and Wednesday 18th March, 3:30-6:00pm
- Y3/4 Performance – Monday 30th March, 1:45pm and 5:30pm TBC
- Easter Services – Thursday 2nd April, KS2 at 9:30am in St. Sebs, Infants at 11am in school
- Break up for Easter – Thursday 2nd April

- Pupils return to school on Monday 20th April
- Year 6 SATs week – w/c Monday 11th May
- Year 5 Bikeability – w/c Monday 11th May
- Class Photographs – Wednesday 20th May
- FSA Summer Discos – Thursday 21st May
- Break up for Half Term – Friday 22nd May
- Pupils return to school on Monday 1st June
- Y5/6 Lincoln Visits – Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June
- Year 1 Phonics Screening – w/c 8th June
- Year 4 Kingswood Residential – Wednesday 17th June
- Sports Days – Infants on Thurs 25th June, KS2 on Friday 26th June
- Summer Fair – Friday 10th July
- Transition Day – Monday 13th July
- Year 5/6 Performances – Wednesday 15th July, 1:45pm and 6pm TBC
- Year 6 Gala Dinner for Parents – Monday 20th July, 6:00pm
- Year 6 Leavers' Service – Tuesday 21st July, 9:30am in St. Sebs.
- Break up for Summer – Tuesday 21st July
- Staff InSET Day – Wednesday 2nd September 2020
- Pupils return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020

You can find all our term dates for the 2019/20 and for the 2020/21 academic years on our website via this link: <https://www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1555&type=pdf>

We hope you have a lovely, peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in 2020!