



Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School

Gonerby Hill Foot, Grantham, Lincs NG31 8HQ

Tel: 01476 565800

Headteacher Mrs Jayne Watson

Email: enquiries@gonerbyhillfoot.lincs.sch.uk

Website: www.gonerbyhillfoot.co.uk



Newsletter *17th December 2020*

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all again for the support and wonderful warm welcome you have given me in my first full term at Gonerby Hill Foot. I have enjoyed every minute of it and feel that the strength and community spirit that holds the school together has grown stronger over the past term.

We have had a brilliant couple of weeks and I am sure that you have enjoyed receiving cards, calendars, Christingles and decorations along with tales of pantomimes and carol singing. We have been connecting with one another and the wider community to bring peace, joy and comfort to those we can.

Thank you for your generous donations to Foodbank, Save the Children and our own FSA collections, I do understand that many in our community are finding things difficult at the moment and I hope you see us as a place of support if you need us.

We are back to school on Monday 4th January. I am excited to announce that we are increasing the children's opportunity to take part in more physical activity to promote their wellbeing and fitness, whilst also offering teachers time to deliver small group interventions to address the gaps in the curriculum from lockdown. This will mean that PE days will change and your class teachers will announce on dojo the new days. As before we would like children to attend in their school PE kit on the days they have PE lessons, remembering to have warm jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt as they will be playing out during the day and hopefully many of the lessons will be outside. We will be working with Inspire+ to deliver these sessions and your children will benefit from specialist teachers which will hopefully lead to Mr Thompson starting up afterschool clubs and our participation in cross town competitions this summer.

Finally, we now have a twitter account which I will be using, along with other staff members, to share some of the great things that are happening in the school. We have already taken part in the #hymnflashmob and have had amazing responses from all across the country.
@GonerbyC for those who are already on twitter.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas holiday and hope that you find time to connect with the people you love, in whatever way you can and enjoy time as a family.

Merry Christmas
Jayne Watson



Message from Mr Buckeridge – Chair of Governors

As another year draws to a close, we are perhaps looking forward to the new year with even greater hopes that things will be different than we would normally. This time last year I was looking forward with some trepidation to the recruitment of a new headteacher (HT) with the expectation that there couldn't be anything much bigger that we would have to deal with during 2020. How wrong I was!

Although 2020 has been incredibly difficult on many fronts, it has been a privilege to be able to be part of a community that has risen to the circumstances that have been given us. Staff have gone above and beyond and proved once again their dedication to our children in being prepared to do whatever it takes to try and ensure some continuity of education and care. Mrs Garland rose to the occasion and led the school with the energy and enthusiasm to keep everyone going. Mrs Watson, arriving at a time when getting to know the school and its community could not be harder, has settled in well and led with sensitivity and strength. It has been heartening to hear of your support as parents – thank you, this makes things so much easier for our leaders. And while it has been difficult for our children, they have shown fantastic resilience and it has been

great to see the excellent attendance throughout this term.

It has been good to work with a committed group of governors who have had to put more of their time into the school this year than would usually be expected. Although we were sorry to see Amy Watts leave us in September, it was good to welcome Michael Kuflik-Thackery to the governors this term and we look forward to his contribution over the next 4 years (or more!). Among COVID - and other matters - we have been looking at ways to strengthen our links to subject areas and how to monitor the school effectively during a pandemic.

This autumn saw the retirement of Mrs Raistrick and, as this is my first newsletter contribution since then, I must say a huge thank you for the many years' service she gave GHF. Her skill, knowledge, dependability, and flexibility were great assets to the school and will be missed, but we wish her an enjoyable retirement. The turn of the year is always a good time to reflect and 2020 has brought these two wise sayings to mind:

- Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. (Proverbs 27v1)
- So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90v12)

As we end an unsettling year, it is good to be able to celebrate the birth of the one of whom it could be said that He is 'the same, yesterday, today and forever'.

I hope, despite the restrictions, you all have a happy (and restful?) Christmas and wish you well for whatever 2021 brings.

Mr Buckeridge

E-Safety at Christmas

During the Christmas holidays children may spend more time online or may receive an electronic device as a present. Please have a look at the information on the links below to support you with parental controls for apps such as YouTube, Netflix, Xbox, PlayStation and a variety of other popular services.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/resources/for-parents?lang=en&appLaunch=web> – this has info on how to 'pair' an account (to allow monitoring)

Christmas Decorations

We have been completely overwhelmed by the response of donations for the children's Christmas decorations. Thank you everyone for helping the FSA raise money which will help your child's future in our school. We are even more delighted to say that we have some very generous families and staff who, in the spirit of good will at Christmas, have made extra donations so that everyone can receive their Christmas

decoration to take home. Please treasure it and bring it out to hang up every year. Remember this difficult year and how our school came together to help each other in 2020.



Primary School applications

If you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 they will be due to start primary school in September 2021. Applications can be made online <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school-place> from 16th November 2020 until 12 noon 15th January 2021. Offers will be available on the 16th April 2021.

COVID-19

The main coronavirus symptoms:

a high temperature

a new, continuous cough

the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell

Coronavirus Contact Tracing at Christmas

During the first 6 days of the Christmas holiday (18th – 23rd December) if your child tests positive for coronavirus, having started with symptoms during 48 hours of being in school, you must inform us immediately. Please contact Mrs Watson, Headteacher, on ClassDojo. Mrs Watson will then inform any close contacts at school as necessary.

If your child tests positive after 23rd December there is no need to contact Mrs Watson, please follow the government guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance?priority-taxonomy=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

Key Dates For Your Diaries

January 2021 Happy New Year

Monday 4th Back to school

You can find all our term dates for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 academic year on our website

