



Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School

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Gonerby Gazette

December 2017

What a busy term we have had – especially in the build up to Christmas! With ClassDojo and the website it is so easy to share the news that we feel most parents are completely up to date, but here are links to the website for all this term's news stories which the children have been busy writing:

[Merry Christmas News Round Up - various reporters](#)

[Christingle Day – by Alicia, Y5](#)

[Remembrance and Children in Need – by Abigail and Alicia, Y5](#)

[Ben Smith Assembly – Isabel, Sian and Alicia, Y5](#)

[Y3/4 Collection Visit – by Mia, Y3](#)

[World Sight Day – by Abigail, Y5](#)

[Jonathon Broom-Edwards Assembly](#)

[Shona McCallin Assembly](#)

End of Term Awards

Last week we held our final Celebration assembly of the term and there was a lot to celebrate. On ClassDojo we shared photographs of the Golden Pen and Magic Pencil winners, along with a new award for avid Active Learn readers. We also shared a photo of the children who each class voted Child of the Term – click [here](#) to see the reasons each were chosen.

Thank You to the FSA

The FSA have been very busy this term. In addition to the Christmas Fair and all its preparation, they have had the Christmas Discos and have even served up tea and coffee between the infant performances. We are extremely grateful for all their support and the events they put on for the children and to raise money. This term, we have received money for the new library furniture, sweets and prizes for the Christmas parties and money for some new wet play and playground equipment. School budgets don't stretch to these luxuries so we really do appreciate this little boost. Thank you to everyone for supporting FSA events.

ClassDojo

We now have over 260 parents connected on ClassDojo which is brilliant. Through this brilliant tool, we can share news and information quickly and parents can find out what we are up to in school. Please contact the office if you would like to connect to our Dojo community. Please also note that you can switch off notifications if you do not want to receive an email every time we post on ClassDojo.

Library Launch and Arts' Week – A Love of Literature

In the first few days of our return back to school we will be having our annual Arts week. This year the theme is 'A love of Literature' to coincide with our official opening of the new library. We will focus particularly on Julia Donaldson stories and, while the children produce some wonderful sculpture and collage work on this theme, they will also be

visiting the library to 'borrow' their first library books. On Wednesday 17th January, we will be holding a special Open Night for parents to come and view the children's work, take a peek in the library and join the children in a special reading workshop. We send out more information at the beginning of the term.

Governor News

This term has seen some changes in the GB with Sarah Tinkler and Richard Davis leaving us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the time and work they have put into the school and wish them well for the future. You may have seen Rev. Nell Shallow at some of the Church services this term; she has moved to the Methodist Church in Great Gonerby and we are pleased that she has been willing and able to take up the vacant Foundation governor role.

As well as the regular meetings, various governors have been doing some training to deepen our understanding of Finance, Performance Management and Safer Recruitment. We have also been looking at our school development plan and are looking forward to seeing the impact that is made through the plans presented to us.

We were pleased to see the extension completed this term and it has been good to hear how the extra space is being used, as well as benefiting from it ourselves for meetings!

Collaboration with other schools continues and right at the beginning of the school year we were pleased to host all the staff, as well as some governors, from the other schools within the GRACE collaboration. It was a profitable time with much talking (I didn't appreciate before that a hall full of teachers could rival a hall full of children for noise!) and ideas suggested for the further strengthening of the group.

You can read our 2016/17 Impact Statement [here](#).

It is always a highlight to be able to join the children for the various event around this time. Unfortunately, I was unable to see KS1's nativity, but have been assured they did a fantastic job. I've been looking forward to the Sing-a-Long on Tuesday as well as Christmas dinner! It was good to pause a moment in the peacefulness of the Christingle Service to be reminded by the children that, with all the hustle and bustle of the season, the reason for this time is the entry into this world, on a dark night, of One who was to be described as the Light of the World; One who can bring hope even in the darkest times.

On behalf of the Governing Body, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and our best wishes for 2018.

Michael Buckeridge, Chair of Governors

Staff News

We are pleased to be welcoming Mrs Davidson back in January – her voice has improved a lot and she is excited to be working with the children again.

Mrs Child's, who has worked at GHF as a Kitchen Assistant and previously a Midday Supervisor for the past few years, will be leaving us today. We thank her for all she has done for the children of GHF and wish her all the best in her new job.

We have recently appointed a Learning and Pastoral Mentor to work with children and families who need a little extra support. We will tell you more about this role after Christmas.

We currently have a vacancy for a Kitchen Assistant. Please speak to Mrs Effield if you are interested in this role.

Important Diary Dates

- InSET Day – 20th December
- Children return to school on Wednesday 3rd January
- KS1 African Drumming Day - Wednesday 17th January
- 'Love of Literature' and Library launch open eve for parents - Wednesday 17th January
- Young Voices at Sheffield – Thursday 18th January
- Music for Schools Presentation – Pupils on Mon 22nd and Parents at 6pm on Thursday 25th January
- Rotary Club Swimarathon – Saturday 3rd February
- Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 6th February
- Break up for half term – Friday 9th February
- Children return to school on Monday 19th February
- Y4 at Church Schools' Festival – Tuesday 20th March

- Parents' Evening – 20th and 21st March
- Sport Relief – Friday 23rd March
- Easter Services – Wednesday 28th March
- Easter holiday – Thursday 29th March to Monday 16th April

Merry Christmas to Everyone – see you in 2018!