

Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School

Diary Dates

4th Jan	Return to school
10th Jan	School tour for Sept 23 starters
11th Jan	EYFS phonics meeting for parents
17th Jan	Y1 Phonics for parents
19th Jan	Pathfinders RG parent assembly
26th Jan	Pathfinders SA parent assembly
2nd Feb	Pathfinders GB parent assembly
10th Feb	Break up for half term

For many people times are hard at the moment, with the cost of living crisis affecting decisions and putting pressure on Christmas and day to day living. At school we have been focused on culture, a culture of kindness of support and thinking about what we can offer to others, a smile, washing up, talking to an elderly or lonely relative or family friend. Doing so reminds us of the value of family and friendship which is at the centre of our vision of Learning, Loving, Living and reminds us that at Christmas, the focus is on the gifts of love, hope and rejoicing. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year!



There is an air of excitement and anticipation in EYFS! The magic of Christmas and all that this time of year brings fills our classrooms. This term, we have been working hard to learn new songs, actions, lines and stage directions as we rehearsed for our Nativity, Whoops-A-Daisy Angel. We loved performing for our audiences and I'm sure you will agree that the children made us all feel so proud!

Through the Christmas Story, we have explored why Christians celebrate Christmas around the world, relating to our own Nativity story. Our topic, 'Come Fly with me!' has led us exploring other countries and their culture too, visiting India and learning about customs and traditions. We are sharing our family customs and traditions at this time of year as we create calendars, Christmas cards and decorations.

As we count down the sleeps, we are reflecting on the importance of giving, sharing and being thankful. From all of the EYFS Team, we wish you a magical Christmas!



As we come to the end of term, I find myself reflecting on what has been achieved. Parental engagement and support is such a strength here in school with high numbers of parents attending the wide range of opportunities we offer. This year we have again offered Chance to Share which is a huge success, as well as class assemblies, parents evenings, phonics reading sessions, curriculum information evenings, SEND support sessions, harvest celebrations and of course our Christmas Craft afternoon, Nativities and services.

We continue to be supported by our amazing FSA who have offered discos, Christmas Craft, raffles and I would like to thank them for their continued support. Remember - they need your help!

Thank you all for your continued support of the school and your children. The questionnaire that over 200 of you completed earlier this term shows 99% of you report your child feeling safe at school and 98% that they are happy. With 99% also saying that they feel there is a good range of subjects available to their child at the school, it felt like a real celebration of the hard work and dedication of the staff across school.



We were so pleased to finally go to our Zoo visits from last term, it was most definitely worth waiting for and we showed real resilience in making it happen. The children had a fantastic experience and loved the day out which consolidated their learning from the end of last year.



This term we haven't been so fortunate and despite our best efforts have not been able to afford some of the experiences we would have liked for the children. Just like all of you, our bills are going up and up but as yet the government have not given us any more money and we have been unable to find the shortfall. We have done everything we can to ensure that despite not going out we have made our curriculum engaging and interesting for the children.



Choir enjoyed singing at St Wulfram's



Pathfinders RG. We sung a range of songs from our nativity and traditional Christmas carols. We were treated to a biscuit and juice afterwards and handed out cards for the residents made by Y3/4.



To support our pupils wider personal development, we have:

- Hosted friendship workshops in KS1
- Hosted Police delivered sessions in KS2
- Invited LIVES in to train all children in first aid and lifesaving strategies
- Hosted visits from inspirational people such as Dai Greene
- Raised money for a range of charities



Across Pathfinders, we have been learning all about colour pop and collage textures.

The children created tints and shades before apply those to some drawings they did. The collages were to reflect a mood using different textures.



Mini Police/ Anti-bullying Ambassadors/ School Council:

Dozens of children put themselves forward for the Mini Police elections demonstrating what a servant-heart bunch of children we have in Y5! Four new Mini Police were chosen and they have been busy looking after all the children on the playground. So have the Anti-bullying Ambassadors who did a great job of raising everyone's awareness of bullying and how to stop it during Anti-bullying Week. They continue to deliver messages of kindness from the children around the school. The School Council were very excited to receive some money that was kindly raised by two pupils organising a lantern walk. They have decided to spend this on some more playground equipment for all the children to use at lunchtimes.

Notes from the Chair of Governors

As we come to the end of a busy term and head towards what for many families can often be a very busy holiday, I was reminded of some words of the One whose birthday we are supposed to be celebrating: 'Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest', (Matthew ch 11 v 28). Words of hope in a world where many seem to be struggling in varying ways.

We are thankful for our staff who have worked hard over the past weeks to give our children a great start to this academic year. It has been especially exciting to hear and see of the impact of our phonics program and we look forward to seeing the long-term benefits of this. We have heard about changes to further improve the quality of teaching in the school and will be monitoring the impact of this into the spring and summer terms. We were pleased to see the positivity about the school from the results of the survey parents did. Thank you to all those who participated as it is of great help in understanding how you perceive the school and what needs to be developed.

We were sorry to see the following staff members leave: Mrs Shelton our Pastoral Support Mentor, Mrs Greenhall our Midday Supervisory Assistant and Mrs Clements our Administrative Assistant. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Plummer and Miss Jessop to the staff and look forward to working with them.

Governing Board changes: we thank Mrs Garland for all she did during her time as staff governor and welcome Miss Marshall as her replacement. We are also glad that Maria Kordowicz has volunteered to continue as a parent governor for another 4 years. If you have an interest in supporting the school in the role of the governor, please get in touch via the office as there are currently positions available.

As always, it has been lovely to end the term by attending some of the Christmas activities - including a very cold trip to Lincoln Cathedral with the choir! I hope that they have put you into the spirit of the season and I wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2023.

