



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Headteacher end of term update

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support so far this year, it has been a long but wonderful term! As we have approached the Christmas period it has been a privilege to welcome families to nativities, church services and decoration making sessions across the school. The children have made me so proud, visiting both Arnoldfield and Gregory House, sharing the joy of childhood through singing and chatting – making a huge impact on many of the residents. The FSA are reporting over £1000 of fundraising which will go straight back to the children over the coming months.

When the ofsted inspector said, back in September, he would be happy to send his children to our school, it was the biggest compliment he could give. As a serving headteacher and parent he found everything he could want for his own family, in our family. I know as a staff our benchmark is always, 'is this good enough for our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews?' and if not, what can we do to improve. This level of love and commitment has become the very backbone of our culture and runs through our community.

We return to school on Wednesday 3rd January, welcoming Mr Joe Gunther to our team who will temporarily replace Mrs Daley who is out on secondment until the end of the academic year. We have also said goodbye to Mrs Liddiard and Miss Jessop over the last term and welcomed several staff in to support our children to achieve their full potential. Congratulations to Mrs Rhodes who has welcomed her beautiful baby daughter!

At this time of year, as always, I send our love to you all, I hope you have a peaceful and joyful holiday and have opportunity to be with family and loved ones over the break.

Merry Christmas.

Jayne Watson
Headteacher



KEY DIARY DATES

- **3 January - Start of term**
- **W/C 8 January - NHS Health and weight checks - all week**
- **9 January - New Reception intake stay and play - 1-2 pm**
- **18 January - Adventurers JS Class Assembly**
- **1 February - Adventurers SA Class Assembly**
- **6 February - Safer Internet Day**
- **9 February - End of term**
- **19 February - Start of term**



Governors end of term update

The passing of time can be a strange sensation – we can look back over a period of time and sometimes it can seem so quick, other times so slow. As I look back to the training day I attended in September, a lot seems to have happened, and the time has gone so quickly!

One of the things that we discussed on that training day was what our values look like in practice. This has been a focus for the school throughout the term, and we are pleased to see these becoming further embedded across the school.

The wonderful work our staff do was recognised in our Ofsted visit just before half term. A huge well done and thank you go to all our wonderful staff for their commitment to the school and the professionalism that they continually show.

Just before half term we were able to welcome Peter Grimwood to the Governing Board (GB). Peter is a former pupil at GHF and currently teaches in another school. We look forward to his contribution to our school over the next four years.

We were sorry to see Mrs Liddiard leave us at half term, but thankful for the many years of service she gave to our school. Both my own children (age 21 & 17 – how time flies!) can look back to having been taught by her. We wish her well in all that she does in the future. We also said goodbye to our Administrative Assistant, Miss Jessop, who will be missed by staff and children alike, and again, we wish her well.

The half term before Christmas is always a fun one – if rather busy! I enjoyed seeing our younger children do so well in their nativity plays, and joining some of them at Arnoldfield Court as they brought some Christmas joy to the residents there through their singing. The GB have begun their monitoring for the year with visits to look at SIAMS, RE and Collective Worship, and the teacher coaching that has helped identify small things that make a big difference in our classrooms.

At Christmas time and the turn of the year, I am always reminded of this part of the Bible: 'When the fulness of time had come, God sent forth His Son . . . to redeem (set free)', Galatians 4v4-5. At just the time God had set, Jesus came into the world to be the Saviour. There was no delay and no last-minute rush. As we head towards 2024 and the changes it will bring, how good to be reminded of a God who knows the end from the beginning, who invites us to find peace, freedom, and rest in the Saviour He sent at that 'first Christmas'.

On behalf of the GB, a very happy Christmas to you all and best wishes for 2024.

Michael Buckeridge



Year 1 and 2



Pathfinders

The Pathfinders classes had the best time exploring at Londonthorpe Woods. It was very muddy and messy but they all had so much fun. We built dens and discovered hidden wildlife, and enjoyed all the sounds and colours and textures of Autumn.



Year 3 and 4



Adventurers classes have been very busy over the autumn term! We had a visit from Roots to Food, who showed us how to prepare a meal from scratch, cutting and chopping our ingredients as part of a team. We had our autumn walk, discovering bugs and insects and collecting leaves and twigs. Our science topic is friction - we have been investigating what this means and how it creates movement. We also looked at different foods in class and described them to one another. We visited Gregory House care home and had a wonderful time making Christmas decorations with the residents.



Year 5 and 6



The Navigators classes had a fantastic group of trips to Woolsthorpe Manor. They explored the manor house, which was the home that Isaac Newton grew up in and where he made some of his most important discoveries. We also took part in a really fun workshop about forces and motion, making our own rockets and launching them.

The children have been learning about how volcanoes work by making their own models with paper mache and painting them. We had a day making positivity noticing gift tags, which we gave to our class mates to tell them what we feel makes them shine.





We were very lucky to have Joe Roebuck, one of Inspire+ Ambassadors, come in to talk to the children. Joe is an Olympic Champion Swimmer and spoke about his career and the importance of stretching your brain and working outside of your comfort zone.



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£368.28
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely
G. Thompson
Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) **£32,008.91**



Merry Christmas

FROM US ALL AT GHF

