SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
December 2025

Headteacher end of term update

This time of year is so magical when you are lucky enough to work with children, the nativities, Christingles, carol singing, Christmas lunch, Santa visits, craft making and general air of excitement. The children are so excited and it has definitely helped keep me positive as I face the end of my time at GHF.

When I started, in the middle of COVID with everyone in bubbles, no assemblies and not even being allowed into classrooms, I wondered what I had done, but very quickly the staff and children embraced me, my ideas, and dreams for the school, and together we have worked tirelessly to create the amazing culture that we enjoy today. As a community, GHF is warm, inviting and inclusive. A place where everyone is encouraged to be the best version of themselves, to take risks, have a go at new things and receive unconditional love.

I know these values will continue long after I am gone and that the children will continue to thrive as they grow and learn. We are also saying goodbye to Mr Leach who has worked with us in several different roles for a number of years now, I would like to thank him for his drive, determination and excellent teaching, we wish him well in the future.

I thank you all for the support, kindness and trust you have shown and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely holiday and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

All the best,

Jayne Watson

KEY DIARY DATES

- Tues 6 Jan - Start of term
- Weds 4 Feb - Year 2 and Year 6 - Fire safety workshops
- Fri 13 Feb - end of term
- Mon 23 Feb - Start of term
- Tues 24 March - Wrates class photos

Governor update

As we approach the Christmas break, it doesn't feel like there's been time for a whole big term since the summer! As I write this, I'm really looking forward to being at the school carol services, and I know that the school nativity performances have been really special for everyone involved, and for all who have seen them.

This year has seen the start of the SEND Hub, and it is brilliant to see how this has built on the idea of "Living, Loving, Learning" that underpins all that happens at the school. At every governors' meeting, in every visit to the school, we see that spirit coming through in all of the activities, and in everything that happens here.

That is only made possible by the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of all of the staff at the school. I would like to thank them for all they have done, and continue to do.

In the church, Advent is a time of waiting. That is also true of us here at GHF, where we await the arrival of a new headteacher. On behalf of all of the governors, I would like to welcome Mrs Crossland, who will be starting as Headteacher in the new year. But the good news of Mrs Crossland joining us means that there must be some sadder news, which is of Mrs Watson leaving not just Gonerby Hill Foot, but Grantham. Mrs Watson has been here just over 5 years, and we are incredibly grateful for all that she has done. We will miss her tremendously, and wish her and her family all the best in their move.

Advent is also the run-up to Christmas. As we wait once again for the revelation of God's great news, I keep coming back to the lines "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight".

However you are spending Christmas, whatever you are doing, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a truly Happy New Year.

On behalf of the governors
Paul Davie

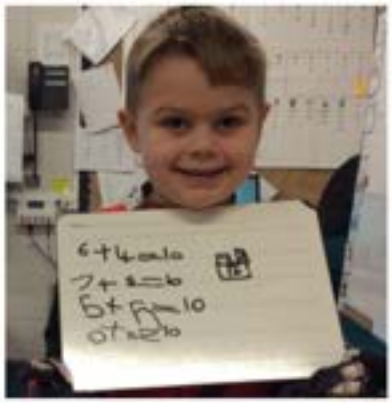
Reception

Explorers have had a busy Autum term!
The class started their new topic, 'Humpty and Friends', learning all about nursery rhymes. We had egg and spoon races and built walls to see if we could make a round object stay on top.
The children took part in Remembrance Day, and discovered what this means and why we wear poppies.
Bill the tortoise came to visit - he is 35 years old!
We planted bulbs with the whole school!

We have talked about the meaning of Advent, and we made our own advent wreath with candles.
Explorers had their very first Christmas performance, 'Christmas Counts'. The children performed beautifully, and we are very proud of them!

Year 1

For Children in Need, the children were invited to come to school dressed as their hero - it was wonderful to see who they all came as.
We helped our caretaker, Mr Brogan, plant bulbs with the rest of the school on the field.
In Maths we have been learning about number bonds with 10.
We made our own sparklers from crafts for Bonfire Night!
In Science, we have been learning about Mary Anning and how she recorded her discoveries - we have been very busy creating our own fossil sketches, and excavating 'fossils'.
In RE we have been learning the story of Jesus' birth, and who to say thank you to at Christmas time.
The children performed 'Prickly Hay' for their Christmas performance - we hoped you all enjoyed it as much as we did!



Year 2

What a busy Autum term, Pathfinders!
As part of our study of Mary Anning, the children went on a fossil hunt in the playground, documenting their findings.
We all took part in the bulb planting on the school field, organised by Mr Brogan, our caretaker. We had so much fun and they will look wonderful when the flowers bloom next year.
The children came to school dressed as their heroes for Children in Need day.

In Art, we have been learning about Christy Brown, an artist who painted with his feet.

We had an amazing time at our Christmas disco!
And we all enjoyed performing 'Prickly Hay', our Christmas production, for you all. The children all worked so hard rehearsing, and we are all so very proud of them.

Year 3 and 4

We launched our new unit ,'Come fly with me'. We asked the children to chose an African country and create a Pinterest style board about its culture. Look at the fantastic entries!
In Maths, we have been thinking about sharing and grouping in multiplication and division.
In Science, we have been looking at gravity and air, and conducting our own tests. We have also been looking at magnesium and how the north and south poles attract and repel each other.
In RE we learned about obstacles on our journey, and how being guided can help us.
Our new book is called 'My name is not Refugee'. The children explored how the main character would feel and showed empathy towards him.
We all planted bulbs on the school field so that we will have spring blooms next year.
Christmas craft time is fully in swing! The classrooms are full of cards and calendars and wonderful creations.

Year 5 and 6

Such a busy term!
Navigators have been learning about the earth and it's layers, earthquakes and volcanoes.
We joined the rest of the school, planting bulbs on the field for some welcome colour in the Spring.
The classes finished their unit on 'Birthday Boy' and the children wrote about the main character and their emotions.
We all had the best time on our trip to Magna, learning all about the elements with lots of scientific displays and interactive instalations.
Our new unit, 'Come Fly with me, America', saw us visiting the work of the expressionist artist, Jackson Pollock. The classes then created their own drip paintings in his style, and produced some wonderful pieces.
Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for Christmas crafts - we really enjoyed making them with you!

The Hub

We have all enjoyed the Autumn term and the preparations for Christmas!

All of the children took part in the Remembrance service and made poppies.

We have finished our unit called 'Jurassic Hunter', we investigated the Stone Age, and we made dinosaurs out of construction equipment. Our next unit is 'Zero to Hero'.

We studied the artist, Christy Brown, who taught himself to paint and draw with his feet. We explored this technique too, which was great fun but also showed us how to be resilient.

Our tortoise friend, Bill, came for a visit, and the children loved saying hello to him.
We even had a special visit from Santa!

Merry Christmas from us all at GHF!