# Gislingham C of E Primary School

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'Belong, Believe, Become'

17th November 2022

# November Newsletter

## Message from Mr. Benstock

Dear Families,

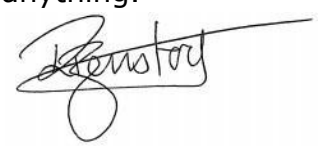
The second half term has started well and the children have been dodging the wind and rain, keeping their spirits high and continuing to work hard.

We are all looking forward to a busy end of term with Christmas on our doorstep and the excitement already starting to build. I hope you will join us for the KS1 nativity, Christmas carols round the tree, the FOGS Christmas fayre and, all being well, a KS2 Carol Service at the church.

Alongside Christmas fun, we are also finishing our design technology project with Thornham Estate, tree planting in Thornham Walks and finalising the Junior Road Safety Officers' poster competition.

Our collective worship theme this half term is "Trust". I have been impressed with the children's approach to discussions about who we trust, how we can be trustworthy and why trusting in God is a powerful, heartwarming emotion. What a fantastic group of children we have here at Gislingham.

Please remember to come and see me if you have any questions, concerns, comments or just need a bit of help with anything.



## Attendance



As part of our school improvement strategy, we are trying to support families with attendance in school.

I understand that from time to time, children will be poorly and they should not be in school. If this is the case with your child, please make sure you inform us by phone or email as soon as possible. If your child is a little under the weather, please consider bringing them into school and if they deteriorate, we will of course call you.

Schools have all been given an attendance target of 97% across the year. Schools are unable to authorise holidays and if your child has any illness that results in multiple days off, please provide us with a letter from a doctor, a screenshot of a doctor's appointment or a copy of a prescription. This is standard practice in collecting evidence to support us in acknowledging authorisation for illness related absences.

If your child drops below 90% attendance, for whatever reason, you will receive a letter to inform you of the attendance percentage and also an offer of support from the school. This is a supportive offer and not a criticism!

Please note, that the school will NOT provide work for children who are off sick. If a child is too unwell to be in school, they are too unwell to have to work at home. If parents wish to access any work at home during weekends and holidays, please remember the children have access to Purple Mash.

If you have any questions relating to attendance, please arrange to meet me in the school or catch me in the playground.

## Cost of Living



Our regular feature is just to direct you to another possible source of financial support: The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS) helps those experiencing financial hardship. There are lots of reasons why people may be in hardship and if you are eligible, we can provide financial help.
The scheme is not intended as emergency support and only one application can be made per household. LWAS is not intended as long-term support.
The quickest way to make an application is via the webform, using your smartphone, tablet or computer. If you have all the information required to make an application the webform will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
To make an application and find out whether you are eligible for support, please visit the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme webpage.
In the event you are not eligible, but would like to read more information about other support available, please visit Cost of living support | Suffolk County Council

## Uniform

Just to remind you that we have a collection of school uniforms in the front office. If you require any uniform, please feel free to ask to see what we have available. We do not expect any payment. Any offers of donations will be given to FOGS.

## Medication in School

From time to time we acknowledge that children may need medication whilst at school. We are following government guidance in encouraging parents to come to school to administer their child's medication. If this is not possible, please arrange an appointment to meet me (Mr Benstock) so we can discuss how your child can be best looked after. In exceptional circumstances, we can administer medication, following a meeting to write an individual health care plan. There is no obligation for school staff to take the responsibility for administering medication as there is a risk associated with this. However, we will always put the children's well-being first, so there will always be something we can do. Please see our policy for more information.

## Personal Star Points on Arbor

You may have recently noticed an extra section on Arbor called Personal Star Points. This is a reward system being used to encourage children to work hard and behave

well. Children receive a daily point for attendance (not for lateness however); they receive points for great work; great behaviour; receiving star of the week certificates; values awards etc… They can also **lose** points for disruption in class, lack of effort, failure to follow school rules etc… Each term I will publish the average point score for the whole school, so you can compare how well your child has achieved compared to the average.

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## YOU SAID… WE DID!

This section is highlighting areas where we have listened to children and parent views and made changes in school as a result of these conversations! Please keep talking to me and together we can adapt and change where necessary for the better.

**You said** - Children want more independence. Please could parents "drop and go" in the mornings?

**We did** - We asked parents to allow their children to wait in the mornings without them. This has been a huge success - thank you everyone!

**You said** - We would like dates to be updated on the newsletter.

**We did** - This section has been included.

**You said** - Will the school be supporting local people when the weather turns colder?

**We did** - Working with Rev Debbie Nicholls, we are intending to open the school for one or two mornings a week for local people who are struggling to keep warm to gather in a warm space and socialise.

**You said** - Can we have more music in school?



**We did** - Year 4 children are well underway with their whole class guitar lessons. I am also incorporating more music in collective worship. If anyone knows any music tutors, please let me know, as we have children asking for individual lessons.

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## Next Coffee Morning



Friday 1st December – Coffee Morning 9.00am – 10.30am.

You are all invited to join Mr Benstock and other school staff for a coffee and a biscuit. This is not formal, but offers you the chance to chat to the Headteacher about anything and everything, as well as just spending an hour or so in a warm building with friends.

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## School Website

Don't forget, you can get more information about school with links to policies, governance etc… on the school website.

## Dates for your Diaries

Here are some key dates for you, but remember, you can access all key dates on the home page of the school website:

**November:**
21st and 23rd - Parents Evenings Years R - 5
21st and 22nd - Parents Evenings Year 6
25th - School Photographer (individual photos)
26th - FOGS Christmas Fayre

**December:**
1st - Coffee Morning
8th and 9th - EYFS and KS1 Nativity Performances (mornings) more information to follow.
9th - Year 5 and 6 to go to Hartismere for Drama performance
14th - Tree Planting at Thornham Walks - all parent helpers welcome!
14th - School discos ( KS1 2-3pm / KS2 3.15-4.30pm )
15th - Christmas Spirit Day and Christmas Lunch ( please see the school's calendar)
16th - End of Term and carols round the tree.

**January:**
4th - Children return to school
12th - Coffee Morning
26th - Coffee Morning

## Year 5 History Trip

Year 5 visited Bury St. Edmunds recently as part of their History study on "The Measly Middle Ages". They all had a fantastic time and returned with a wealth of new knowledge. School visits really are one of the best sources of information to engage and motivate children!









