Gislingham C of E Primary School

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'Belong, Believe, Become'

Children return to school on 31st October!

20th October 2022

October Newsletter

Please note: NO BREAKFAST CLUB on 31st OCTOBER

Message from Mr. Benstock

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the first half term (I cannot believe where the time has gone), I would like to thank all of you and your children for a fantastic start to the school year. I have been astounded by the quality of the learning that has taken place, the immense respect everyone has for each other within the school community and above all, the way the children follow our school Christian values on a daily basis. I have seen many examples of:

Kindness
Respect
Forgiveness
Honesty
Courage
Determination
Teamwork
Perseverance
Self-Belief

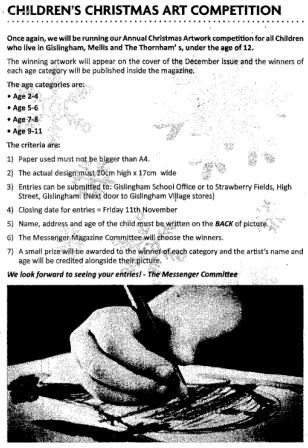
Next half term, I am hoping the children will continue with the super start they have all made!

I would just like to thank all the staff and governors for continuing to support me so effortlessly as I settle into my role, 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. Have a good half term and stay safe.

Christmas Art Competition

'The Messenger' magazine is running their Christmas Art competition again this year. If your child would like to enter, please see the flyer in the link here.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION

Once again, we will be running our Annual Christmas Artwork competition for all Children who live in Gislingham, Mellis and 'The Thornham' s, under the age of 12.

The winning artwork will appear on the cover of the December issue and the winners of each age category will be published inside the magazine.

The age categories are:
- Age 2-4
- Age 5-6
- Age 7-8
- Age 9-11

The criteria are:
1) Paper used must not be bigger than A4.
2) The actual design must 20cm high x 17cm wide
3) Entries can be submitted to: Gislingham School Office or to Strawberry Fields, High Street, Gislingham. (Next door to Gislingham Village stores)
4) Closing date for entries = Friday 11th November
5) Name, address and age of the child must be written on the ***BACK*** of picture.
6) The Messenger Magazine Committee will choose the winners.
7) A small prize will be awarded to the winner of each category and the artist's name and age will be credited alongside their picture.

We look forward to seeing your entries! - The Messenger Committee

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Cost of Living

I am again writing about this to reiterate the offer for support. Please come in to speak to me if you would benefit from some financial support at this difficult time. We can support you with Foodbank, Gislingham United Charities links and other places where help can be accessed. You should also have received a flyer giving further advice and support from Suffolk County Council.

As always, if you need anything, please come in and speak to me.

Bird Boxes - Eco Council Report

Written by Max in Year 6



Ben and his crew from Street Forge Workshop came into school the other day to donate £250 worth of bird boxes, sparrow houses, butterfly houses, hedgehog houses and insect houses. The Eco Team helped find suitable places to put them up and most of the places were very quiet so that birds and other animals would come and use them. We really enjoyed helping the team and learnt that birds come in many different shapes and sizes and that the bird boxes are designed for specific birds. The hedgehog houses were specifically designed to ensure that predators cannot access the hedgehogs' habitat. It was all very fascinating.

Ben works for Street Forge Workshop who make lots of natural objects, such as bird boxes etc… using wood and natural materials, which are environmentally friendly.

"Thank you so much for allowing us to meet your hugely enthusiastic eco council. It was a pleasure to help them start their eco careers which I'm sure will flourish. Will and Gareth really enjoyed helping and have spoken about how well behaved the council were." Ben Thurlow.

If you are interested to know more, please see the link below: STREET FORGE WORKSHOP

Annual Review of Pupil's Profile

A reminder to log onto Arbor and review your child's profile. Once reviewed please consent via the Notices Section. Full details sent via email 7 Oct 2022 from the School Office. Deadline is Fri 21st October.

PE kit days

After discussions with parents and staff we have decided to alter our position on school uniforms with regards to PE Kits. If your child is attending a sports club either before school or after school, they may come to school in PE kit and remain in PE kit all day. **We are removing the need to change clothes in school**.

The one proviso of this is that children MUST wear the winter uniform PE Kit, which is:

Blue T-Shirt (no football shirts); dark blue school jumper or matching tracksuit top (no sports logos), dark blue or black jogging bottoms (no light colours or logos)

I want to remind you that school uniform is compulsory, **but school logos are not**. As long as you are colour matching… that's fine with me.

Please see some good examples of suitable PE kit being wonderfully modelled by some of our Year R children:





Sporting Achievements

We have recently been successful in several sporting events including tag rugby, cross country and team building sports. Below are some photos of these events.

I would particularly like to congratulate the Year 6 children who were selected for the U13 Area Wide Cross Country Championship, which took place in Ipswich last week. These six children represented not only the school, but were also representing the whole of the 'High Suffolk School Sports Partnership' division. Just being selected is an achievement in itself, and to complete the course in respectable positions is fantastic.

Well done to all our recent sporting stars!



Tag Rugby Team Photo



Girls CC Team



Boys CC Team



Team Building Team

Year 4 Visit to Gressenhall

Class 4 travelled to Gressenhall Museum to experience a Neolithic Day. Activities included farming, hunting, shelter building and handling artefacts that are 6,000 years old. Mrs Schultheiss will be in touch with Class 4 parents after half term regarding an opportunity to see some more photos and enjoy the children's Stone Age writing.









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 - Pokemon is popular but it is causing some social issues in school every day. Can anything be done?

We did - We now have 'Pokemonday', where children can enjoy their Pokemon time, but for the rest of the week, children are encouraged to be more active at break and lunch times.

You said - We would like to be invited into school more often.

We did - We encourage volunteers to apply; we had a wonderful gathering at Harvest Festival; we have fortnightly coffee mornings; I will be introducing a Parent Forum after half term; staff will shortly be inviting you to come into school to enjoy some 'Learning Together' sessions with your children; open afternoons for potential parents are planned to be during the school day; parents evenings will be face-to-face in school.

You said - Will the school be venturing into social media soon?

We did - There will be a survey shortly to gauge a response from parents regarding social media before we make any decisions.

Harvest Assembly

Thank you for your kind donations and for joining us to celebrate this special occasion. Thank you to Rev. Debbie Nicholls for leading the worship. Thank you to Patrick Barker at E. J. Barker and Sons for supplying us with a tractor, straw bales and for helping to coordinate other display items. I hope you saw us in the East Anglian!





Next Coffee Morning



Thursday 17th November – 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.

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:

School Website

October:
31st - Children return to school
31st - NO BREAKFAST CLUB

November:
11th - Year 5 trip to Bury St Edmunds
14th - Anti-Bullying Week Starts
14th - Flu vaccinations Year 4 and catch up
17th - Coffee Morning
18th - Children in Need - SPOTacular Dress Up Day
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!
15th - Christmas Coffee and Mince Pie morning with staff
16th - End of Term

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