

Gislingham C of E Primary School

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16th December 2022

December Newsletter

Message from Mr. Benstock

Dear Families,

Well...we all made it!

This term has been exciting, energetic, diverse and enthralling, with hard work from all children and adults. I have really enjoyed getting to know you all and look forward to continuing this journey next term.

One of the things we learnt during our collective worship theme of 'Journeys', is that, like Mary and Joseph, we are all on our own journey full of ups and downs, but remember that success is not measured by your destination, but by the attitude and resilience you show along the journey. The children in Gislingham Primary demonstrate daily how determined they are to achieve to their fullest potential, no matter what it takes. This is to be commended.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on **January 4th**.

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



Parent Workshops



Being a parent is hard work and we at Gislingham will do whatever we can to support you. However, from time to time we are asked to promote other parent workshops to help in all sorts of matters relating to the toughest job in the world! Please see the links below with opportunities for you to attend workshops.

[Parent Carer Workshop - Jan to Feb](#)

[Parent Carer Workshop - March](#)

Cost of Living



As we head into the very cold days, please remember that there is help out there for you if you ask for it. Please see the link below taking you to further support that you can receive.



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<https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/eligibility>

If you are a family on low income and currently do not claim [Free School Meals](#), please fill out the form in this link, as we can then access further funding for your child in school to help towards school trips, uniform, resources and school meals. Please complete this even if your child is in KS1 and receives free meals anyway, as there is so much more available to you if you are successful.

Junior Road Safety Officers

GISLINGHAM JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS (JRSOs)

WELCOME AND UPDATE

We, the Gislingham JRSOs (James, Issy, Amelia and Alice) have had a very busy start to the year. Our aim as JRSOs is to educate people about road safety and make the roads in and around our village of Gislingham safer.

We are very lucky to be working together with the Gislingham Speedwatch team. Back in October we completed our first speedwatch with Steve, Graham and Terry outside the new Lovell's development on Gislingham road.

In the 45 minutes we were there we recorded over 50 cars, and 5, (almost one in 10 vehicles) were breaking the 30 mph speed limit! We feel it is important that, as young people, we are involved in such vital work in our community. We will do another speedwatch in the spring and would like to thank Steve and his team for the fantastic work they do.

We are currently running a campaign and competition to encourage people to drive and park responsibly and safely around our school, particularly at pick up and drop off times. We have challenged pupils to design a poster and the winners will be put up around the village. We hope to change behaviour and work positively with everyone in our community.

We will keep you updated with our plans and successes throughout the year!

Many thanks to the Messenger magazine and all the readers for your support.

James, Issy, Amelia and Alice - JRSOs, Gislingham Primary School



Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who bought poppies and merchandise during the Remembrance

period. Together we raised £128.01 towards a local area total of £2441.

EYFS and KS1 Nativity

This year's Nativity 'Shine Star Shine' was a huge success, enjoyed by parents and grandparents alike. The children and staff all worked so hard to give everyone a festive start to the Christmas period! Well done everyone!



YOU SAID... WE DID!

This section is highlighting areas where we have listened to children and parent views



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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 - Could we start up parent visits to school to work with our children again?

We did - We have hosted a number of reading cafes this term.

For example - this report is from Year 4:



On Wednesday 30th November Class 4 were delighted to have a number of parents join us for a guided reading session. The children demonstrated how we read together and involved the adults in some of our tasks that help us understand the text. After a short 'brain break', fruit, squash and biscuits were served whilst the children shared their writing from this term including some particularly powerful poems. Thanks to everyone who was able to join us.



You said - Some of us do not appreciate receiving an attendance letter when our children have genuinely been off school due to sickness.

We did - I have spoken to Mrs Jones in the office and we have added more detailed commentary regarding the reasons for children being absent from school. This will be used when sending out notification of low attendance to reduce any worry caused. Please ensure you provide the school with medical evidence where available to add to our own records. Thank you.

You said - Will the school administer medication?

We did - We have adapted our policy and will give medication if parents are unable to attend school to give it in person. However, we do need you to complete paperwork and give a valid reason for you being unable to attend. With Strep A spreading, we do have a number of children on antibiotics and administering this is time consuming for our staff whose workload is already high. Obviously we will put the needs of each child first, but if you are able to come to school to administer medication yourself, this would help us greatly.

Adult Collection on Arbor

Please would you all check Arbor to see who is listed as being allowed to collect your child after school and amend if necessary. For safeguarding purposes we will not allow children to be collected by anyone other than those named on the system. If, however, you DO need someone different to collect your child, please inform the school office and ask that person to bring some ID with them. Please do not get angry with staff who ask you to wait, whilst we check our system... it is our duty of care to your children! Thank you.

Next Coffee Morning





Thursday 12th January – 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.

[School Website](#)

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

Healthy Lunchboxes

Please try to help your child with a healthier lifestyle. [This link](#) will guide you through what makes a healthy lunchbox. If we have any concerns, we will contact you directly and if we do not see healthy lunchboxes we may have to contact the school nurse team for advice. Thank you.

Are you packing a healthy lunch?



school
food

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:

January:

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

February:

7th - Safer Internet Day
9th - Coffee Morning
10th - Break up for half term
20th - Staff Training Day
21st - Pupils return to school
23rd - Coffee Morning

March:

2nd - World Book Day
9th - Coffee Morning
13th - Science Week
27th - Parents Evening 1
29th - Parents Evening 2
31st - Break up for Easter



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