

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

December 2022 / January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families have all had a good start to the New Year. We have had a really productive start to 2023 in school and we are enthusiastic about the year to come.

As a school, we have started utilising 'Learning Walkthrus' by Tom Sherrington to support the children with their learning. We are really excited about the impact that this will have on each child's engagement with their learning and the progress that they will make as a result of this.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with our parent reps this term. The parent reps are a great way for you to feedback on things that the school is doing well but also ways in which we can develop the school further. I fully believe that collaboration is the way that we make this school the very best that it can possibly be. Please pass any feedback that you have to your parent rep.

I will be releasing a survey to parents shortly on our school uniform; developing a forum for parents of children with special educational needs; and, how we can safely close the school in case of an emergency. As I have stated, your feedback is invaluable to these surveys and will allow the school leaders to make decisions that are in everyone's best interest.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



NURSERY

Christmas in Nursery—December 2022

It was wonderful to celebrate Christmas in Nursery. The EYFS Christmas Special was the first time some of the children had performed in front of an audience. The children sang beautifully in their star headdresses. The children enjoyed reading and acting out the Nativity story in the classroom, especially in our stable with Dominic the donkey. Decoration Morning was extra special as we could welcome our families back to the classroom! The children designed their own Christmas dinners and the Christmas sensory tray provided the opportunity to use lots of creative vocabulary.



RECEPTION

Reception had a fantastic final few weeks of the autumn term! The Reception children started their Forest School sessions and each Monday they visit the Forest School site at the back of the school playing field. So far, the children have used palm drills to make holes in wooden disks to make Christmas tree decorations, made repeated patterns using natural resources, built dens and toasted sugared apple slices on the fire to have with a hot chocolate. They are all excited for more Forest School adventures this half-term!



As part of our bears topic, the children enjoyed reading the non-fiction book 'I Love Bears'. We used the contents page to locate pages of interest and then read great facts about bears from across the world.

Did you know?

- Kodiak bears are the biggest bear—they can weigh as much as a small car!
- Pandas are very rare and like to eat bamboo.
- Spectacled bears spend most of their time in trees.

At the end of last term, to celebrate Christmas, Nursery and Reception put on a fantastic 'EYFS Christmas Special'. In this, the Reception children told the story of the Nativity, performed several festive songs and played musical instruments. The children performed brilliantly; they loved using actions to perform 'Away in a Manger' and 'Pull a Cracker' and used the claves and triangles well to accompany the song, 'Little Donkey.'



YEAR 1 AND 2 NATIVITY

December 2022

Throughout the month of December, Year 1 and Year 2 worked hard to prepare for their Key Stage 1 Nativity – Are We Nearly There Yet?

The Nativity started with everyone busily preparing to make the journey to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph were loading up their things, the wise men were following the star, the shepherds were startled by the angels, and the Walker family were flustered with preparations, packing bags and bickering!

Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, wise men and everyone else all put on an excellent performance. The children in Years 1 and 2 made us so proud as they said their lines beautifully, sang enthusiastically and put on a fantastic show for their parents. It was a brilliant way to end a busy Autumn term!



YEAR 1

January 2023

Design and Technology

Over the course of this half term, the children have been busy making windmills. We have been working hard to follow instructions to tell us how to make them and we have been using different templates to help us to design



houses for the mice to live in. The children really enjoyed the challenge of this project!

History



In History, we have been learning all about Pompeii. The children have been looking at a mystery image that was used to show the love of art and poetry during this time. It has been great to see the children so engaged and enhancing their learning by asking some interesting questions.

Computing

In Computing, we have been learning to give instructions to a robot called a 'Beebot' in order for it to move around. We have been thinking about how important it is to give clear instructions so that it moves exactly where we would like it to. The children have shown great perseverance when engaging with this learning.



Science

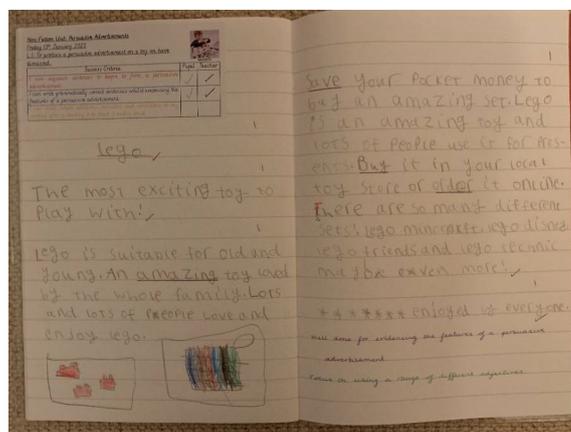
We have been learning about everyday materials and the children have really immersed themselves in this topic. They have looked at the materials that different objects are made from and thought about words to describe what different objects feel like within our learning environment.

YEAR 2

January 2023

Year 2 have shown great ambition and taken real pride in their learning so far this half-term.

In English, we have been looking at persuasive advertisements. The children spent time thinking about the audience and purpose of this particular text type before identifying and explaining the different features of an advertisement. With our half-termly topic focusing on toys, Year 2 have worked hard to produce their own persuasive advertisements to persuade and encourage both children and adults to buy a very popular toy – Lego! We were so impressed by the children's enthusiasm when engaging with this learning and they produced some fantastic advertisements that included lots of bossy verbs!



In DT, the children have been challenged to making 'moving monsters'. Before beginning their designing, the children learnt all about pivots, levers and linkages and how they are connected. Everyone created their own design criteria for their moving monster and after spending some time producing different designs, the children collected votes from the class to help them to decide which of their designs they should choose. It was fantastic to see the children showing reciprocity and resourcefulness when making their monsters and, once completed, reflectiveness when evaluating on the monster that they had made.



YEAR 3

December 2022

It was great to see how well Year 3 dived into their learning last half-term! The children were so enthusiastic and inquisitive when learning about earthquakes and this was clear to see through the fantastic work that they produced. In Geography, the children built upon their prior knowledge of maps and consolidated new learning about tectonic plates, how we measure earthquakes, where they occur and the destruction that they can cause. The children had so many great questions about earthquakes which led to some excellent class discussions. In English, the children were able to further show their interest in this learning by producing pieces of writing explaining the cause and effect of earthquakes.

Year 3 were also able to enjoy lots of festive activities at the end of the autumn term. They worked hard to learn their Christmas songs for the Christmas carol service at St Nicholas' Church. The songs proved to be very popular with the children and everyone was so proud of how well they performed. The children also had lots of fun at decoration morning where they produced some beautiful cards and door hangers for themselves and loved ones. It was lovely to have so many parents join us for this!



YEAR 3

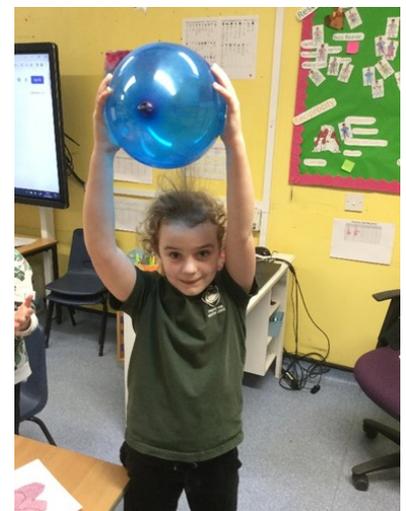
January 2023

What a fantastic start Year 3 have had to the New Year! The children have thoroughly enjoyed their fiction unit based around the story 'The Proudest Blue'. Year 3 have made some fantastic contributions to their discussions, particularly when planning effective expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to describe the setting of their writing in more detail.

In mathematics, the children have been looking at multiplication and division, thinking about multiplying and dividing two-digit by one-digit numbers. They have been very hands-on and made use of practical resources such as place value grids and counters to demonstrate what they have learnt. This hands-on learning has also been seen in their DT lessons, where the children have been experimenting with balloons to observe how static electricity works. The children have been given the challenge of designing and making their own games by the end of the term!

In PE, the children have been having a wonderful time incorporating their science unit of 'Forces and Magnets' into dance with Miss Madelaine. They have been experimenting the different ways in which they can move their bodies to represent forces and magnets in action.

Fantastic contributions were also made during our PSHE session on 'online relationships' as part of our online safety unit. The children discussed as a class what it means to know and trust someone online in contrast to the people they know in person. They also thought about when it is and when it isn't ok to share things online. Keep up the amazing learning Year 3!



YEAR 4

January 2023

Year 4 have had a very busy couple of months and have learned lots of interesting information. In English, we have been reading the story Malala's Magic Pencil. This is a semi-autobiographical story by Malala Yousafzai where she imagines she could use a magic pencil to make the world a better place. We wrote our own versions of the story where we imagined what we would do with a magic pencil and how we would improve the world.

In Maths, we have been studying multiplication and division and practising our times tables, which we have found has helped us in many different areas of maths.

In Geography, we studied our local area of Godstone and went on a field trip as part of our learning. Firstly, we came up with a list of criteria for what made a street attractive, such as there being no litter or lots of flowers and plants. Then, we walked around different streets and gave them a score out of 10 based on what we saw. Finally, we added up the totals to see which street scored highest.



In PE, we have practised our gymnastics and we have looked at different balances, jumps and ways of travelling. We made sure to show 'control' in all of our movements.



YEAR 5

January 2023

Year 5 have been busily creating stuffed toys over the last half-term and improving their sewing skills. Many of the children are now competent in blanket stitch and all children have shown proficiency in using running stitch to appliqué design elements to their stuffed toys.

To begin with, everyone designed a stuffed toy, considering the main component shapes of their toy and looking at examples to inspire their designs. Once they had decided on a final design, they created an appropriate template for their stuffed toy which they attached to their fabric and used scissors to neatly and carefully cut out their fabric. The next stage was to use appliqué or decorative stitching to decorate the front of their stuffed toy. After they were happy with the front of their stuffed toy, they joined their two pieces of fabric using a blanket stitch, repairing when needed. Finally, they stuffed the toys and stitched up the small gap they had left for stuffing. All the children were very proud of what they achieved and were able to identify what worked well and areas for improvement. Bravo Year 5!



YEAR 6

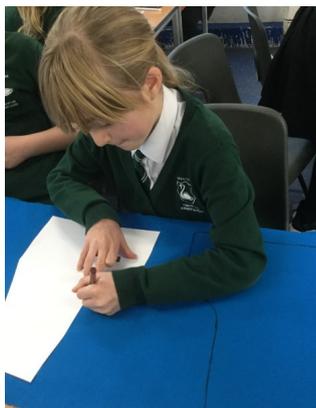
January 2023



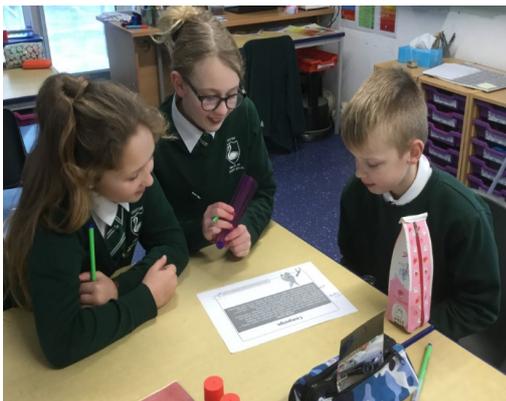
What a brilliant last couple of months for Year 6!

Year 6 worked hard to use their map skills in their Geography lessons to investigate how the container ship 'Marco Polo' travelled to Southampton every eleven weeks and where it docked. They were surprised to learn that it arrived at the port of Southampton carrying 16,020 containers full of commodities imported by the United Kingdom.

They have also been busy engaging with their DT learning as they were designing and creating their very own waistcoats. The children started by looking at a variety of waistcoats for inspiration before they began to design their own. Once the waistcoats had been designed, fabric was prepared and decorations were created. The final step involved using a neat running stitch along the prepared sewing lines. Great perseverance was shown as it turned out to be a fiddly job!



In English, Year 6 have spent time identifying the features of persuasive writing and looking at different types of persuasive texts. All children thought carefully about the intended audience, applied their knowledge on Ancient Greece and wrote fantastic visitor's guides.



PANTO TIME!

January 2023

The new term started with great excitement as we were treated to a live pantomime in our school hall. M&M Productions had a cancellation and offered us the opportunity to enjoy their pantomime for free!

Snow White and Prince Charming arrived with lots of their friends. The children were captivated by the amazing actors, the music and the set. There were lots of laughs, lots of songs to join in with and lots of great storytelling. It was a great treat for everyone and we loved watching Miss Dowson and Mrs Quarterman joining in on stage!

Oh yes we did!



ONLINE SAFETY



What children need to know about

ONLINE BULLYING



What is online bullying?

ONLINE BULLYING – ALSO KNOWN AS CYBERBULLYING – IS BULLYING THAT TAKES PLACE ON THE INTERNET OR VIA ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND MOBILE PHONES. IT CAN INCLUDE:

1. SENDING SOMEONE MEAN OR THREATENING EMAILS, DIRECT MESSAGES OR TEXT MESSAGES
2. HACKING INTO SOMEONE'S ONLINE ACCOUNT
3. BEING RUDE OR MEAN TO SOMEONE WHEN PLAYING ONLINE GAMES
4. POSTING PRIVATE OR EMBARRASSING PHOTOS ONLINE OR SENDING THEM TO OTHERS
5. CREATING FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS THAT MOCK SOMEONE OR TRICK THEM
6. EXCLUDING SOMEONE FROM AN ONLINE CONVERSATION OR BLOCKING THEM FOR NO REASON

BE KIND ONLINE

BEFORE PRESSING 'SEND' ON COMMENTS, ASK YOURSELF THESE 3 QUESTIONS...

1. WHY AM I POSTING THIS?
2. WOULD I SAY THIS IN REAL LIFE?
3. HOW WOULD I FEEL IF SOMEBODY SAID THIS TO ME?

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



Why does it happen?

GOING ONLINE MAKES IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO SAY AND DO THINGS THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO FACE TO FACE. ONLINE BULLIES DON'T GET TO SEE THEIR VICTIMS' REACTIONS IN REAL LIFE, SO THIS CAN COOON THEM FROM THE REAL DAMAGE THAT THEY ARE DOING. QUITE OFTEN, PEOPLE BULLY BECAUSE THEY ARE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING DIFFICULT THEMSELVES AND TAKING IT OUT ON OTHERS IS THE ONLY WAY THEY KNOW HOW TO GET CONTROL OF THEIR OWN EMOTIONS.

How does it feel to be bullied?

BEING BULLIED CAN IMPACT ON YOUR SELF-ESTEEM, CONFIDENCE AND SOCIAL SKILLS. BECAUSE IT HAPPENS ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR COMPUTER, IT CAN FEEL LIKE YOU ARE UNDER THREAT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS YOUR BEDROOM. DON'T FORGET...IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT IF YOU'RE BEING BULLIED.



Am I an online bully?

SOMETIMES IT ISN'T OBVIOUS THAT WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS WRONG, BUT IF YOU USE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO UPSET, ANGER OR EMBARRASS SOMEONE ON PURPOSE, THIS MEANS YOU'RE INVOLVED IN ONLINE BULLYING. IT MIGHT BE AS SIMPLE AS 'LIHNG' A MEAN POST, LAUGHING AT AN ONLINE VIDEO, OR SPREADING A RUMOUR. BUT THE PERSON BEING BULLIED COULD FEEL LIKE THEY ARE BEING GANGED UP ON. THINK ABOUT HOW IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL IF IT HAPPENED TO YOU. EVERYONE CAN MAKE MISTAKES, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO LEARN FROM THEM – GO BACK AND DELETE ANY UPSETTING OR NASTY POSTS, TWEETS OR COMMENTS YOU'VE WRITTEN.



Who do I tell?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BULLYING ON YOUR OWN. TALK TO AN ADULT THAT YOU TRUST – A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR TEACHER. MOST WEBSITES, SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES AND ONLINE GAMES OR MOBILE APPS LET YOU REPORT AND BLOCK PEOPLE WHO ARE BOTHERING YOU. YOU COULD ALSO CONTACT CHILDLINE (WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK), WHERE A TRAINED COUNSELLOR WILL LISTEN TO ANYTHING THAT'S WORRYING YOU – YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME.



How do I prove it?

WHEN CYBERBULLYING HAPPENS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DOCUMENT AND REPORT THE BEHAVIOUR, SO IT CAN BE ADDRESSED – RECORD THE DATES AND TIMES WHEN CYBERBULLYING HAS OCCURRED, AND SAVE AND PRINT SCREENSHOTS, EMAILS, AND TEXT MESSAGES.



How can I stay safe?

MAKE SURE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS ARE SET SO THAT ONLY PEOPLE YOU KNOW AND TRUST CAN SEE WHAT YOU POST. NEVER GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE, SUCH AS IN PUBLIC PROFILES, CHAT ROOMS OR BLOGS, AND AVOID FURTHER COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE SENDING THE MESSAGES. KEEP AWARE OF FAKE PROFILES AND INTERNET USERS PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE THAT THEY ARE NOT.





Friends of Godstone Primary and Nursery School

Friends of Godstone Primary and Nursery School
have had a busy and successful couple of weeks thanks to all your help and support.

The Christmas Fair on Friday 9th December raised a wonderful **£1,589**.

On Wednesday 13th December, we held a Wreath Making Workshop
for parents and carers which raised a further **£264**.

These fabulous Christmas events have helped to provide much needed funds which
will go towards improvements and additional resources for the on-site Forest School.
All children will be able to benefit from these valuable and enriching sessions.

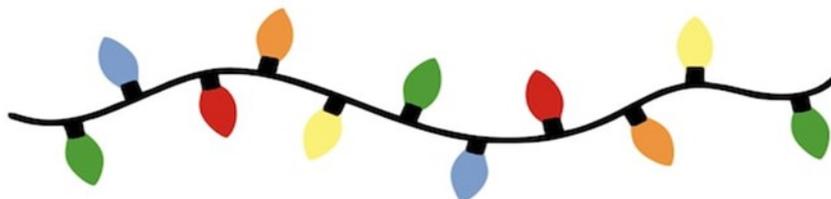
We are also able to fund resources for children to support with 'reading for pleasure'
which again is highly valuable to them and their education.

We are also hoping to redecorate the school hall in the very near future.
While this is not as fun as Forest School or reading, the children will benefit from their
hall being clean and bright and being able to display and celebrate their hard work
around it.

Thank you so much to the staff and volunteers of the school who have provided
their help and support at our events.

Thank you to all children, parents, carers and families who have attended one of our
events and helped us to raise these funds.

We are planning further events in 2023
so please look out for details nearer the time.



ATTENDANCE



Punctuality/Lateness

Punctuality to school is crucial and registration at the beginning of the day with the class teacher is one of the most important periods of the day. Lateness into school causes disruption to that individual's learning and to that of the other pupils in the class. It is paramount therefore that all children arrive at school on time.

As a reminder to parents:

- Please adhere to class drop off and pick up times.
- Pupils who arrive after 8:50am will be recorded as late.
- Registers close at 9:20 am. After this time, if no call is received by the parent as to why the child is absent, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.
- Persistent lateness is monitored by the school office and will be investigated and appropriate action is taken. If there is no further improvement, this may be referred to our Education Welfare Officer.

Attendance Panel School Meetings (failure to ensure regular school attendance)

The Local Authority retains control of the Education Welfare Service and every effort is made to maintain close links with the Education Welfare Officer attached to the school. Where school interventions have failed to secure regular attendance, an official referral may be made to the Education Welfare Officer.

PENALTY NOTICES

We would like to remind parents that The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice raising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28 day period, the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under Section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that each parent is liable to receive a penalty notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absence, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one penalty notice. If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two penalty notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

Mr N Usher
Headteacher

Mrs S Emmerson
Education Welfare Officer

GODSTONE NURSERY

APRIL 2023

FUNDED PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

We have places available for 3 and 4 year olds for April 2023.

Our Nursery class is led by a qualified teacher, supported by experienced staff to ensure every child is happy: because happy children learn best.

From the term after your child turns three they are entitled to either 15 or 30 hours free early education. To be eligible for funding after Easter your child must be three by 31st March.

We operate either a beginning of the week place (all day Monday, all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning) or end of the week place (Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and all day Friday). Full week places are available upon request for those who qualify for 30 funded hours.

We aim to provide an environment that enables the children to be:

- *Happy
- *Enthusiastic
- *Keen to learn
- *Sociable



MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

A gentle reminder, please be advised of the updated School Office opening and closing times:-

Monday to Thursday:-

8:30am—9:30am*

3:00pm—4:15pm

Friday:-

8:30am—9:30am*

3:00pm—4:00pm

*Phone calls will still be taken outside of these times.

Please may we remind you that children should arrive between **8:40am-8:50am**.
If your child comes in after 8:50am, this will be registered as a 'late mark'. This is an area that the Education Welfare Officer looks very closely at.

FOREST SCHOOL REQUEST

We are hoping to get a little second hand stock of clothing and footwear for children to use in the times that they forget kit/ need something extra to wear to Forest School.

If your child grows out of the following, we would be very grateful for any donations to school:

- All in one waterproof suits ages 4-5, 5-6, 6-7 (either the thin plastic ones or the thicker fleece suits)
- Fleeces/ warm jumpers
- Gloves
- Hats
- Wellington boots/ walking boots
- Jogging bottoms



Many thanks,

Mrs Hayley Lancashire

Reception Class Teacher

ADVERTISEMENTS

Skills School

February Half Term Camp



**Skills School Half Term
Camp**

DATES:

**14-16th
FEB**



**South Park FC
Whitehall Lane**



**Times / Ages / Price
9:00 - 15:00**

4-14 - All Abilities

****SPECIAL PRICE****

£25 Per Day / £60 For 3 Days

Sibling Discount

07428510384 / www.skillsschool.uk