Gunthorpe C of E Primary

February

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a great start to 2025 in school. The children have impressed me with their work ethic, I have been undertaking observations in all classes and the behaviour in school is excellent. We are working hard to improve presentation in our written work and the children are showing increasing levels of stamina when writing extended pieces, which is really pleasing.

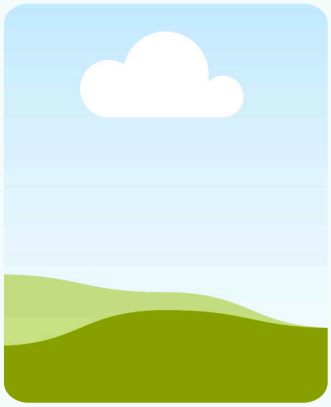
The hard work is complemented by some exciting learning opportunities. All the Infants took part in Chinese New Year celebrations, Junior 1 have LOVED their science, undertaking multiple experiments to find out about plants and their growth. They are eagerly anticipating the drama day this Friday, based on their topic. In Junior 2, the children have been very engaged with War Horse, creating some excellent pieces of writing. In science, they have been investigating properties of materials, with lots of hands on tasks, including separating mixtures.

This week marks Children's Mental Health week and as part of this the Mental Health support Team have delivered some workshops and teachers have planned lessons around this year's theme, 'know yourself, grow yourself'. The emphasis is on encouraging children to understand themselves and how this can help them build resilience, grow and develop.

Next week we will be taking 22 junior children to Sheffield for the Young Voices concert. All their hard work will be rewarded. We can't wait to share the experience with the parents, who will proudly support us!

Take care Mrs Brown





Welcome!

We have lots of 'new' welcomes to celebrate! We have 2 new friends in our Junior 2 class, we hope that Callan, Harvey and their families enjoy their time with us at Gunthorpe. We ask all parents to share how lovely our school is with your friends, we are happy to show prospective families around.

In addition, our Governing Body is growing too. We have a new Parent Governor, Laura Adak, who has children in Year 3 and Year R. We also welcome Chris Newton and Lesley Jeffery who will act as Foundation Governors. Chris is currently a parent, with many years of NHS experience and Lesley lives in the village, therefore strengthening our links with the local community.

Finally, we welcome Mia Jones, a 3rd year student at NTU who is completing a placement with us. She is predominantly working with Infant 2 and will be with the school until mid-March.

Poetry Competition

We will be starting our annual poetry activities, where all children in school choose a poem to recite. This is our 3rd year of taking part and we have definitely seen oracy levels improve in our children. It also improves confidence and is excellent for showing children what they can achieve, despite the nerves. Children will receive the poetry pack before half term and should decide which poem they would like to perform to their class. Winners will go through to a final and this year all Aspire schools will be taking part in a grand final. I will send out dates in the March newsletter. Please support your child at home by encouraging them to read their poem aloud.

FOGS (Friends of Gunthorpe School)

FOGS will be holding a Valentines cake sale/tuck shop on the last day of term. This will take place on the school playground after school on the 14th Feb. You can send you child with some money if they usually walk home on their own or meet them on the playground. Anyone wanting to bake for the event, please contact FOGS fogspta@yahoo.com.

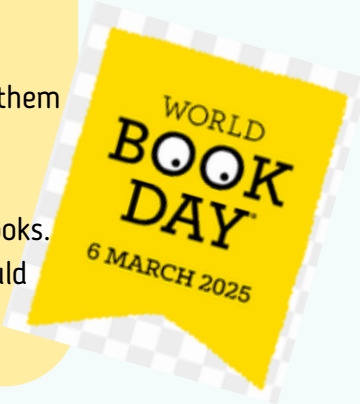
FOGS will also be supporting the school for World Book Day, which takes place this year on Thurs 6th March. There will be a pre-loved book sale (adults and children's books available) and also a tombola. This will take place after school on World Book Day.

Please also be aware that the next FOGS meeting is planned for Thurs 20th March at 9am, in the school hall. As always, everyone is welcome.

World Book Day

We love to mark World Book Day at Gunthorpe and this year is no exception. All children are invited to join us on Thurs 6th March for a day of fun, quizzing and sharing a general love of books. All children will receive a token that will enable them to receive a brand new World Book Day text, free of charge. We have once again worked with Lowdham Bookcase to supply these books for the children.

Our theme for dressing up this year is *animals and fantastical creatures* from books. Perhaps we will see a Hungry Caterpillar, A Fantastic Mr Fox, maybe Junior 2 could attempt a Warhorse, or challenge your child to be Buckbeak! We look forward to seeing all our children in costume on the 6th of march.

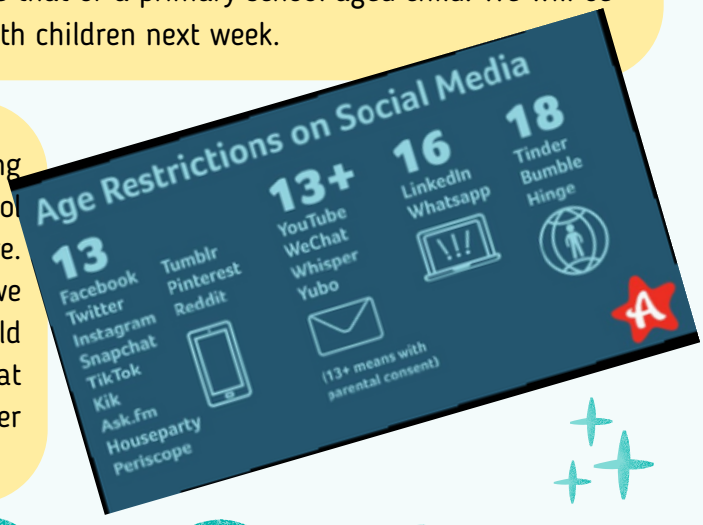


Safer Internet Day

Next Tuesday (11th Feb) marks Safer Internet Day. The aim of the day is to make the online world a safer space for children and young people. This day of celebration sees organisations getting involved to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children. During our computing and PSHE lessons we talk a lot about safe use of the internet and educate children on how to stay happy (and safe) whilst online. There are some good tips for parents on the saferinternet.org.uk website that can help you support your child. In addition, there are lots of useful tools and articles on the NSPCC website, covering topics such as talking to your child about online safety, advice on how to set up parental controls and guidance on different chat apps. It is worth remembering that all the apps below have an age rating above that of a primary school aged child. We will be sharing information in assemblies with children next week.

Mrs Palethorpe

We have some news to share about Mrs Palethorpe. After seeing both her children educated at Gunthorpe and working at the school for over 19 years, Mrs Palethorpe has decided it is time to retire. We will undoubtedly miss her knowledge and experience but we wish her well as she eagerly awaits the birth of her first grandchild and enjoys time with her family. She will be leaving Gunthorpe at the end of March and we all wish her every happiness in her retirement.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring term

7th Feb - Year 3/4 Drama (topic related) Workshop
13th Feb - Young Voices
14th Feb - After school Valentine cake sale/tuck shop
Break up for half term
24th Feb - Return to school
6th March - World Book Day, inc an after school book sale and tombola
11th March - Year 5/6 Body Image workshop
19th March - Achievement and Awards Assembly @ 9am
20th March - PSHE specialist workshops (all classes)
20th March - FOGS Meeting 9am in school hall
21st March - Comic Relief
24th March - Parents Evening (3.30-5.30)
25th March - Parents Evening (4-6)
26th March - After school Rugby Festival (Yr 1-4)
31st March - Year 5/6 - self esteem workshop
31st March - Rock Steady Easter Concert @ 2.30pm
3rd April - Easter Service (Time TBC)
4th April - Break up for Easter
22nd April - Return to school

Summer Term

5th May - Bank Holiday
12th-15th May - Year 6 SATs week
25th-26th June J1 Residential
27th June - INSET Day
1st July - Year 6 Transition to Secondary workshop
14th-18th July - J2 Activity Week
15th July - Sports Day
28th/29th July - INSET Days

Next academic year 2025-2026

2nd Sept 2025 - INSET Day
3rd Nov 2025 - INSET Day
3rd July 2026 - INSET Day
27th July 2026 - INSET Day