

GUNTHORPE C OF E

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a very happy new year to you all! The children have made a great start back into school. The early morning wake ups might be taking their toll by Friday (and that is just the staff!).

We have another action packed term for Spring 2025 so be sure to look at the dates page at the end of this newsletter.

To make you aware, our office system, Scholarpack has moved over to Arbor during the Christmas break. We have been assured that everything has transferred over from a data point of view. There will be further updates from Mrs Sanders in the coming weeks as we will also be using Arbor for payments and not Parentpay. We will keep you posted!

Thanks again for attending all our Christmas events. It is always nice to see the children's extended family and friends visiting the school. There were some lovely comments about the Nativity and KS2 presentation and I know that the Senior Singalong is always a hit with those attending. The children really did us proud at all of the events, showcasing their talents to the maximum.

All staff would also like to say thank you for your kind gifts and cards sent in before Christmas. We were overwhelmed, so thank you! Here is to a happy and healthy 2025! Take care, Mrs Brown.

Break Time snacks

Thinking about new/good habits at the start of a new year is something we all do. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we promote healthy eating during break times and in packed lunches. We ask that you do not send sweets or chocolate based snacks or crisps for breaktimes. Infants are provided with a piece of fruit each morning break but if you feel the need to send something additional in this could include a cereal bar, fruit, squeezey yoghurt etc.

During J1's science lessons before Christmas they were surprised at just how little sugar should be in a child's diet. 6 teaspoons, the recommended daily amount, really isn't very much.

FOGS updates

The FOGS team were busy in the lead up to Christmas, supporting events in school. Thanks to those who served refreshments at the various events. We also had a successful Christmas raffle, which raised over £470. Thanks to all who contributed. Tom Browns were having a clear out and the Boon/Adak team had the idea that people from the school and village community might like to make a donation for anything they were taking. This has raised around £80 for FOGS. The next FOGS meeting is Thurs 16th Jan in the school hall at 9am. Please do come along if you are free.

PE Days

Alongside our staff teaching PE, we also have some specialist coaches in school during the Spring term so PE days may have changed. Lauren, our amazing dance teacher is back for the Spring and Josh from Premier Education will also be in school. PE is as follows:

Tues - Infant 1/2 & J1

Wed - J1/2

Thurs - J2

Fri - Infant 1/2



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Before Christmas, I undertook a short questionnaire with the Year 5 and 6 children called, 'Me and my feelings'. This was produced by the Nottinghamshire Mental Health support team (MHST). The findings were interesting and the children reported back that they all felt happy all or most of the time and 65% of children never worried at school and all children only worried sometimes. There was however 57% of the class that said they had problems sleeping. With this in mind I have enlisted the support of the MHST and they are providing a sleep workshop for the children. This will look at sleep health and strategies to help with getting to sleep.

The MHST are a service that also work in the home with families, if you think that sleep issues or anything else might be useful to talk over with the team then there is a letter attached in this email. It explains how you can make contact and what they offer.

Alternatively, you can come and talk to me and we can make a referral together.

Next month marks the annual Children's mental Health week. We will be working with the MHST during this week and also focussing on this in afternoon lessons that week.

AMAZING ATTENDANCE!

What a great start to 2025 the children have made! So far this week, the whole school is on 100% attendance. Long may that continue. Our year to date attendance stands at 96.4% which compares to the same period last academic year, when attendance stood at 94.4%.

Young Voices

A reminder that Young Voices is next month, Thurs 13th Feb. We have started lunchtime rehearsals again but please do encourage the children to look at the songs at home too as we don't have much time left. I will send a letter home directly to those children involved in the next couple of weeks, with more details about the day.

GOSH

Please don't forget that we have breakfast and after school club available every day except Fri after school. Whilst we appreciate repeat bookings to help with staffing, we do accept ad hoc bookings too. Ring the office to book your child's place.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES

Welcome to Vinz, who joins our ever growing gang of Year 5 children. We also have 2 new pre-school children, George and Jacob. We are really pleased to have you all at Gunthorpe, I know our school community will make all the families feel very welcome.

A reminder also that applications for Reception places for Sept 2025 close next Wednesday, 15th January. Please do promote our wonderful school with friends and family.

Parents Evening

We have now set the date for the Spring Parents Evening meetings. These will take place towards the end of the term so that we can share progress, next steps and end of term data with you. Please see the dates sheet on the next page for further information. If you are unable to make either date, please contact the class teacher on the class email address to arrange another appointment.

We set each appointment as a 10 minute slot, if you know you need to have further discussions with the class teacher please arrange this for a different time. Our aim is to always try and stay on time!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring term

16th Jan – FOGS meeting @ 9am (School Hall)

22nd Jan – Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics competition

28th Jan – Year 3/4 Basketball Festival (after school)

29th Jan – Year 5/6 Sleep Workshop

Week comm 3rd Feb – Children's Mental Health Week

3rd Feb – Year 1/2 & Year 3/4 Resilience Workshops

7th Feb – Year 3/4 Drama (topic related) Workshop

13th Feb – Young Voices

14th Feb – Break up for half term

24th Feb – Return to school

6th March – World Book Day

11th March – Year 5/6 Body Image workshop

20th March – PSHE specialist workshops (all classes)

21st March – Comic Relief

24th March – Parents Evening (3.30–5.30)

25th March – Parents Evening (4–6)

31st March – Year 5/6 – self esteem workshop

3rd April – Easter Service (Time TBC)

4th April – Break up for Easter

22nd April – Return to school

Summer Term

12th–15th May – Year 6 SATs week

27th June – INSET 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