

FEBRUARY **NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents/Carers

After what feels like a lot longer than 31 days, we have finally entered February and the days seem to be getting slightly longer, which is lovely!

We are almost at the end of this half term and the children have had some great times to reflect on. Junior 1 came back from the Christmas holidays and enjoyed a 2 day drama workshop, performing 'The Egyptian Princess' for us all. We were very impressed with their acting skills. The Mental Health Support Team have once again been in school, delivering sessions to Junior 2 and the Infants and Junior 2 are also now well into their DAART Programme. In addition, 21 of our Junior children attended the Young Voices concert last Friday. It was a long day (and a late night) but we all sung our hearts out and danced like no one was looking (or was that just me!). I really would encourage you to think about signing your child up next year, if they enjoy this sort of thing. The experience is like nothing else we offer and always brings joy to those that attend.

Finally, we have some new children and families that have joined the school since Christmas. Gabriel has joined Year 2 and brothers Leo and Nico have joined Reception and Year 3. We hope you are very happy at Gunthorpe, it is great to have you with us.

Take Care
Mrs Brown

Break Time snacks

A reminder that children are welcome to bring in a healthy snack for morning break. Please can I ask that this does NOT include items such as crisps, sweets or chocolate. A cereal bar or fruit are perfect. Thanks for your support with this.

Comic Relief

We will be supporting Comic Relief this year, with a bake sale. This will take place on Fri 20th March. It will also form part of the Junior Masterchef judging (please see on the next page). Juniors can bake and send in their home made cakes/biscuits to be judged and then sold off for charity. More details next month.

Mobile Phones

There has been a lot in the press recently about mobile phones in schools. While this does not affect most primary schools, we would like to remind parents that mobile phones are not allowed in school.

In very rare cases, a parent may request permission for their child to bring a phone to school. If agreed, it will be stored securely in the school safe during the day and collected by the child at home time. Permission must be requested in advance by emailing the school office.

Poetry Competition

We will be starting our annual poetry activities, where all children in school choose a poem to recite. This is our 4th 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 school final and this year, Aspire schools will be taking part in a celebration of poetry. Each school will take their winners to Langar school to celebrate all things poetry! Please support your child at home by encouraging them to read their poem aloud. Class judging will take place on the week comm 9th March and the school final will be on Fri 20th March. The Aspire Poetry Celebration at Langar is planned for Fri 24th April.

World Book Day 2026

We love to mark World Book Day at Gunthorpe and this year is no exception. All children are invited to join us on Thurs 5th 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 this year is reading for pleasure. We are inviting all children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas as we want to focus on reading at bedtime. We ask that you also send your child in with their favourite or current bedtime story. During the day, the children will have the opportunity to share their books and enjoy reading together with their classmates. We look forward to seeing all our children ready for bed on Thurs 5th March!

Mental Health Updates

Next week marks Children's Mental Health week and Safer Internet Day. We know that children's mental health can be adversely affected by the use of technology. As a result, we will be providing a session to the children based on AI and how to explore this safely. Top tips for parents are included on the Safer Internet website.
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>
In addition, we will also be inviting the MHST in to deliver sessions on Resilience as part of Children's Mental Health week.

Masterchef

Many of you will be aware that for quite a few years we have had a Junior Masterchef competition at Gunthorpe. We undertake this every 2 years and the excellent culinary skills that the children possess always impresses us.

We will start the competition with all the Junior children involved. They will make pizzas during lessons, using a wide variety of toppings. This will then be judged by the teachers. This score will be added together with part 2. For part 2 we would like children in the Juniors to make something at home for the Comic Relief bake sale, it will be tasted (and judged) by our lovely cook, Becs and then sold to raise money. The scores will then be added together and 8-10 children will make it through to the next round, planned for early summer.

Dates for your diary

Thurs 5th Feb – PINS meeting for parents in school hall @ 9am

Thurs 5th Feb – Richard Townsley (Sheriff of Nottingham) visiting

Fri 6th Feb – Year 6 Pupil Parliament visit to County Hall

9th Feb–13th Feb – Children's Mental Health Week

Tues 10th Feb – MHST sessions for Infants/J1/J2

Tues 10th Feb – Safer Internet Day

Wed 11th Feb – After school Rugby starts (Yr 3/4/5)

Fri 13th Feb – Last day of term

Mon 23rd Feb – Children return to school

4th March – After school Tag Rugby Festival

Thurs 5th March – World Book Day

Wk comm 9th March – Year group Poetry judging

Wed 11th March – Awards and Achievement Assembly

Thurs 12th March – MHST session for J2

Mon 16th March – Parents Evening

Wed 18th March – Parents Evening

Thurs 19th March – Flood Risk Workshop J2

Fri 20th March – Comic Relief/Cake Sale

Fri 20th March – Poetry Finals

Mon 23rd March – Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm

Thurs 26th March – Easter Service (Time TBC)

Fri 27th March – DAaRT Graduation Yr 5/6

Fri 27th March – Last day of term

Mon 13th April – Children return to school

Thurs 7th May – Junior 1 Trip (Sherwood Forest)

11th–14th May – Year 6 SATs week

Wed 20th May – Rec/Y1/Yr2 Trip (Yorkshire Wildlife Park)

Wed 20th May – MHST Body Image Workshop (Yr5/6)

Fri 22nd May – Last Day of Term

Tues 16th June – Sports Day

Wed 24th–Fri 26th June – Junior 2 Residential

Wed 1st July – MHST Transition to Secondary (Yr 6)

Fri 3rd July – INSET Day

Mon 20th July – Junior 1 Arts Award

Thurs – 23rd July Leavers Service

Fri 24th July – Last day of term

27th July – INSET Days

Tues 1st Sept – INSET Day

Wed 2nd Sept – Children return to school