GUNTHORPE C OF E PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Welcome back to you all, it has been fab to catch up with lots of you over the last few days. We also give a big Gunthorpe welcome to all our new families and children that have joined the school. We have 4 new pre-schoolers, and 2 new children in reception, who did not attend pre-school, all joining Infant 1. In addition, we also welcome a new child in Year 6. I know all the children will be made to feel at home, it's what we do so well!

It has been brilliant to see the children in their smart uniforms, shiny shoes and new haircuts. I am sure they have all grown over the Summer! I have enjoyed hearing the stories about the children's adventures and I am very proud to say they have all come back to school with a positive attitude, ready to learn.

This half term in Collective Worship we will be looking at the value of respect. We ill be talking about the golden rule - treating others how you want to be treated.

A lovely opportunity to meet up with other parents and carers will be next Thursday when Friends of Gunthorpe School (FOGS) will be holding their annual meeting straight after drop off (Thurs 10th Sept) in the school hall. We would love to see old and new members, no experience necessary, we genuinely appreciate new faces and ideas.

Here's to another great year, thank you as always for your continued support.

Take care, Mrs Brown

BUILDING WORK

As previously shared, we secured funding for a significant upgrade to our heating and hot water distribution. The majority of the works were completed in the Summer holidays. Any remaining work will be finished during October half term. We now have lovely warm classrooms and an upgrade with air conditioning in the classrooms that did not previously have any.

We have also had upgrades to the fire alarm system and intruder alarm.

In addition, Mr Roberts has painted the Infant 1 climbing frame and jet washed the whole area. He has also put a sealant on the outdoor classroom.

GOSH

As many of you know, we offer wrap around care, from 7.30am in a morning before school and until 5.30pm after school. This does not currently run on Monday/Friday night. This is led by our staff and we feel it ensures that children feel known and cared for. If you would like to book your child in please contact the office. We do accept ad hoc bookings but if you have regular child care needs, please let us know as it helps with staffing.

There has been a small price rise as we have held costs for the last 2 years. Mornings are now £7.50, short afternoon (3.15pm-4.15pm) £6.50 and longer (until 5.30pm) £10. We offer a 5% discount if you are booking both AM and PM on the same day.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM (MHST)

Over the last few years we have worked successfully with the MHST. This year will be no exception, they will be in school regularly to support whole class sessions and work with small groups, where appropriate. MHST are an early intervention mental health and wellbeing service in schools aimed at providing support for children, young people and families around low-level emotional wellbeing needs, such as anxiety, low mood, managing emotions, and sleep. In addition, parents/carers or the school can make referrals if we think our young people would benefit. This has been beneficial to several children at the school already. To make a referral yourself for your child simply go to https://www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/camhs-mental-health-support-teams

This year we have already booked lots of fun and engaging workshops for the children (Infants and Juniors) on topics such as wellbeing, sleep, emotions, anxiety, resilience and self esteem.

Please always come and chat to me if you have any concerns and we will support your child and signpost if it is helpful.

SWIMMING UPDATE

Swimming remains an important part of the curriculum at Gunthorpe and we are committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to develop this valuable life skill during their time at school. Due to rising transport and pool hire costs, and the increasing pressure on school budgets, we have reviewed how we deliver our swimming programme. From this year, swimming will take place on a two-year cycle. This means that every child will continue to access swimming twice during their primary education: once in Infant 2 and once in Junior 2. We believe this approach allows us to maintain a high-quality swimming experience for all pupils while managing resources responsibly.

MOBILE PHONES AND E-SAFETY

All schools have updated their mobile phone policies in line with government guidelines and we have a consistent Trust-wide approach to mobile phones and other personal smart devices. It supports calm, safe and supportive schools in which pupils can learn, play and socialise without distraction. No phones or smart watches should be present in school unless specifically agreed with myself. The Trust policy is on the school website, if you need further guidance.

As the new school year begins, we would like to remind parents to regularly check the apps, games and websites their children are accessing. Many popular platforms are designed for older users and may not be suitable for primary-aged children. Taking time to talk about online activity, using parental controls and encouraging children to tell a trusted adult if they see something that worries them can make a significant difference. A reminder that WhatsApp has a minimum age of 13, and we encourage parents to carefully consider whether group chats are appropriate for primary-aged children.

During the first half of the Autumn term, we also always undertake a series of lessons on e-safety as part of our computing curriculum. Working together, we can help ensure all children enjoy the benefits of technology safely and responsibly.

Clubs

During the Autumn term, we will once again have clubs and events for children to attend. On Mondays, Mrs Bellamy will be running art club. If you would like your child to attend, payment is set up on Arbor. In addition, Robin (our sports coach) will also be running an after school tag rugby club for Juniors on Wednesdays. Mr Tyler will have Yr 5/6 Athletics after school later in the term, more details to follow on that. I am also currently in contact with Rattle and Roll, who provided our Summer club to see if there are further opportunites for clubs with them. We are currently waiting on Rushcliffe Schools Sports Partnership to give us the dates for after school events we can attend.

DIARY DATES

Autumn Term 2026

Thurs 10th Sept - FOGS Meeting in school after drop off (9am)
Thurs 17th Sept - Michelle Welsh (MP) visiting school
Tues 6th Oct - Individual School Photos
Thurs 8th Oct - Harvest Festival (in hall) @ 2.30pm, parents welcome
12th-15th Oct Wellbeing Week
Mon -12th Oct - Parents Evening
Tues - 13th Oct Parents Evening
Tues 13th Oct - Wellbeing Workshops for all classes (MHST)
Fri 16th Oct - Inset Day
Mon 2nd Nov - Children return to school
Thurs 5th Nov - Flu Vaccines
Fri 13th Nov - Children In Need
Mon 16th Nov-Fri 20th Nov - Anti Bullying week
Mon 16th Nov - Odd Sock Day
Wed 9th Dec - Infant Nativity @ 6pm
Mon 14th Dec - Whole School Panto - Newark Palace Theatre
Wed 16th Dec - KS2 Christmas Presentation @ 6pm
Thurs 17th Dec - Class Party Afternoon
Fri 18th Dec - Last day of term

Spring Term 2027

Mon 4th Jan - Children return to school
Fri 12th Feb - Last day of term
Mon 22nd Feb - children return to school
Thurs 25th March - Last day of term (Easter holidays)

Summer Term 2027

Mon 12th April - children return to school
Fri 28th May - Last day of term
Mon 7th June - children return to school
Fri 23rd July - Last day of term
Mon 26th July - Inset Day
Tues 27th July - Inset Day
Wed 28th July - Inset Day