November Newsletter

Gunthorpe C of E Primary School

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Welcome back, after what I hope was a lovely 2 week break with your families and friends. We now start to see darker nights, colder weather and the scent of Christmas in the air! This term really is such a fantastic one to be in a Primary school, seeing the magic that the anticipation of the coming weeks brings.

We always focus on our value of Service during this half term, it gives the children an opportunity to serve others at a special time time of year for many. On that note, we will be taking part in Alternative Advent in December, so please send in any spare shoe boxes and wrapping paper that you have in the next few weeks so we can create our annual display. In addition, look out for Service slips coming home with the children. You can help us celebrate their 'serving' at home and in the community.

Nov 16-20th marks the national campaign in schools for anti-bullying. This year their theme is 'break the silence', encouraging children to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen and take action together. As well as in-class activities we will also be enjoying odd sock day on Monday 16th Nov. Be sure to send children in with a miss match of socks so we can celebrate our uniqueness.

Take care
Mrs Brown

NEW CARETAKER

At the end of last half term we said a fond farewell to Neil Roberts as he moved on to pastures new. From Monday, we will have a new care taker. Her name is Helen Mills and she lives locally. If you have older children that attend Toot Hill they may already know Helen as she has worked there for many years, greeting the children as they arrive at school. I am sure you will make her welcome when you see her in the mornings on the gate!

FOGS UPDATE

Friends of Gunthorpe School (FOGS) will be having their next meeting on Monday 16th Nov. They are trying something new and meeting at The Unicorn in Gunthorpe at 6pm. The hope is that this will help to attract working parents who can not always attend in the mornings. If anyone fancies joining to give ideas and support the school and our children or find out more about what they do, you would be so welcome. Please remember you are all members of FOGS and any ideas or contributions you have will be warmly welcomed. To contact them please email gunthorpefogs@yahoo.com

FOGS plan to run a Christmas raffle this year supported by each class making a hamper as a prize. More details and themes to follow...

And don't forget, Yr R-Yr 6 are all going to the Panto in December to see Aladdin, oh yes we are! Thanks to FOGS who are funding the cost of the coach for this event.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

We have another assembly to celebrate all the wonderful things our children do **out of school**. This is scheduled for Thurs 26th Nov at 9am in the school hall. Parents are more than welcome, please send in any certificates/medals/trophies etc by Wed 25th so I can collate all the different awards that have been presented to the children. The awards should be anything that the children have achieved from June onwards. The achievements can range from sporting success to musical talents and everything in between!

ALTERNATIVE ADVENT

As many families will already know, this is a project we have supported at Gunthorpe for many years. It offers an opportunity for the children to give something at a time when they will inevitably be thinking about what they might soon be receiving! We work with the charity Framework to assist their projects to support homeless and vulnerable people, locally. It acts as an excellent platform for modelling to children that acts of kindness don't always have to be towards people we know. The idea is that the children/staff donate items on different days in the lead up to Christmas; this will culminate in a full 'calendar' by the end of term. You may remember from previous years that we had a large shoebox calendar displayed in the entrance area. Class teachers will send out your child's day for bringing in items, nearer the time. The letter will include information about suggestions to send in.



REMEMBRANCE

We will be recognising remembrance day in school on Tuesday, as part of collective worship and also during playtime when we will have a minute silence. Children can bring donations for the poppy appeal in cash, the suggested amount is £1. There are snap and normal wristbands, poppies and reflective poppies available

CHILDREN IN NEED

As well as supporting local charities, it is important to share with the children the challenges that people face further afield. On Nov Fri 13th it is Children in Need. We will be having a non-uniform day, children can feel free to wear anything Children In Need related if they have it (don't worry if they don't). Payment for the non-uniform day (min £1) can be sent in cash on the day, all funds will go straight to the charity. In addition, The Rotary have donated a giant Pudsey for us to raffle. I have asked Pupil Parliament to run this activity. They will be coming around on the friday morning and children can buy raffle tickets, priced at £1 each. Please send in additional funds for the children to buy tickets.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

As well as a visit to Newark Palace theatre the children will also be performing for our families. The Infants will share their Nativity, Whoops-a-Daisy Angel on Wednesday 9th December and the Juniors will present, 'Christmas, Did you know?' on Wednesday 16th December. Both events will be in the school hall and start at 6pm. We also entertain elderly members of the local community and grand-parents at our Senior Singalong. The children will perform Christmas songs and serve drinks and cakes. This event takes place on Thursday 10th Dec at 2pm. Please spread the word and invite our fantastic elderly friends and loved ones.

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF SCHOOL DINNERS

This November, we're delighted to be taking part in National School Meals Week 2026, organised by The School Food People (LACA). This year's celebration marks a fantastic milestone: 120 years of school meals. Since 1906, school lunches have played an important role in nurturing children and young people and supporting their learning and development in the classroom.

The theme for 2026 is 'One Big Celebration', providing an opportunity to recognise how school meals have developed over the past 120 years and, importantly, to celebrate the fantastic catering teams who prepare and serve meals to children every day (thanks Becs!). We have chosen to hold our special day on Tuesday 10th Novemeber and will be celebrating with two of our best-selling dishes, All Day Brunch followed by Butterscotch Tart. It would be great to see as many children as possible enjoying this lunch together.

YOUNG VOICES 2027 UPDATE

We are now in full preoaration mode for Young Voices next February. The children seem to know more of the songs than me, I'm not sure what that is a sign of! You can easily find the songs and lyrics on YouTube so children can share the songs with you at home too.

We have now ordered any T.shirts thst were requested and tickets for families to come and watch on the evening of Feb 26th 2027. We will keep the t-shirts in school once they arrive and give them to the children on the day. Tickets will be dispatched to you, once we have them.

The final payment of £25 is now ready to be made on Arbor, this includes the cost of the coach. Please make this payment by Mon 30th Nov.





HEATING UPDATE

Over half term we have had further work done in the school. Our new heating system is now fully operational and we have even tested out the air conditioning a couple of times. It is great to now have air conditioning in all the classrooms, whilst also knowing we will be lovely and warm during the winter months! Our ceiling tiles have been replaced in all the classrooms, making it lighter and the hall now has new heating too! In addition, we have had shiny new urinals installed in the Infants and Junior toilets and a wash basin in the Infant girls toilet. Great improvements that we are really pleased with.

Autumn Term

Fri 6th Nov - Open morning 10am-11.30am
Tues 10th Nov - Open evening 5pm-6pm
Tues 10th Nov - KS1 Multi skills festival (after school)
Wed 11th Nov - Remembrance in Collective Worship
Fri 13th Nov - Children in Need
Mon 16th Nov - Odd sock day (Anti Bullying week)
Mon 16th Nov - FOGS Meeting @ The Unicorn - 6pm
Wed 25th Nov - Yr 5/6 Rowing event after school
Thurs 26th Nov - Achievement Assembly @ 9am in school hall
Tues 1st Dec - Start of Alternative Advent
Tues 8th Dec - Christmas Dinner
Wed 9th Dec - Infant Nativity @ 6pm
Thurs 10th Dec - Senior Singalong @ 2pm
Fri 11th Dec - Village Lantern walk ** new date**
Mon 14th Dec - Panto @ Newark Palace Theatre
Wed 16th Dec - KS2 Christmas Production
Thurs 17th Dec - Party Afternoon
Fri 18th Dec - Last day of term

Spring Term

Mon 4th - Back to school
Wed 13th Jan - Rec/Yr 6 Heights and Weights @10.30am
Fri 15th Jan - Bikeability for Yr 3/4
Mon 18th Jan - MHST sleep workshop for Yr 5/6
Thurs 4th Feb - MHST Resilience workshops for all classes
Fri 12th Feb - Last day of term
Mon 22nd Feb - Back to school
Fri 26th Feb - Young Voices @ Sheffield Arena
Mon 22nd March - Parents Evening
Tues 23rd Match - Parents Evening
Thurs 25th March - Easter Service @ 2pm
Thurs 25th March - Last day of term

Summer Term

Mon 12th April - Back to school
Mon 10th May-Thurs 13th May - Year 6 SATS week
Fri 28th May - Last day of term
Mon 7th June - Back to school
Fri 23rd July - Last day of term
Mon 25th/Tues 26th/Wed 27th July - Inset Days