

## School Newsletter

15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### Headteacher News

Snow, snow, snow! Firstly, we would like to say thank you to everyone for their co-operation and support during a very challenging time. It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the first term of this academic year.

The Christmas season is always a very busy and frantic time in school and comes at the end of a very long term, we would like to thank all our staff for their hard work and dedication to the children and families at our school. At Great Kingshill we are blessed to have such dedicated and hardworking staff and supportive families.

We would like to wish all our children, families and staff a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

### Miss Garlick and Mrs Best

#### A special visitor

Yesterday the children in Reception and Key Stage 1 were treated to a visit from a very special visitor. Father Christmas took time out of his very busy schedule to chat to and deliver chocolates to our youngest pupils.

We were very fortunate to have had a personal visit from Father Christmas and would like to thank him for giving us his time.

### Church Service on Monday

On Monday, we will be celebrating our annual Christmas Service. The arrangements for Monday are as follows:

**Key Stage 2** Children should be dropped at the church from 8:30, the teaching staff will be there to greet and register the children. If you are able to join us for the service, you are very welcome. However, you are asked to park in the national trust carpark and **not** the church carpark.

**Parking is not permitted at the church on Monday morning.**

The Key Stage 2 children will then be walked back to school for their afternoon sessions and should be collected at normal time at the end of the day.

**Key Stage One** children will be walked to the church with their class teachers and should be collected by 2:45pm from the church. Parents are requested to park in the national trust carpark and **not** in the church.

**There will be no parking in the church carpark**

#### Advent week 3! – Waiting #godwithus

For a child, waiting for Christmas is part of the excitement. Many still enjoy the Advent calendar countdown, whether or not accompanied by chocolate!

Prayer is not an instant fix with immediate answers to your personal requests. It is much more like a kind of waiting, perhaps even a longing.

As we listen, watch and learn to wait, we become aware of our own deeper needs and, just as importantly, the longings of others.

#### Attendance

Congratulations to the 122 children who have achieved 100% attendance this term.

Well done to you all.

#### Christmas Dinner

On Thursday many of our children and staff enjoyed their Christmas dinner, we would like to say a huge thank you to Debs and her team for doing such a fantastic job.

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### Pre-School

Are there any 3 or 4 years old still looking for a pre-school place?

We have a few spaces in our pre-school for the Spring and Summer Term, these sessions are mainly afternoons. If you are interesting in having a stay and play session to see the setting, please email

[Preschool@greatkingnshill.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:Preschool@greatkingnshill.bucks.sch.uk)

### Early Finish

Please be reminded that we will be closing the school at 1:30 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Those parents wishing to collect their children early due to the panto please ensure that you have emailed the office to let them know.

### Awful Auntie – Wycombe Swan

Yesterday you should have received a flyer about the opportunity to see David Walliams Awful Auntie at the Wycombe Swan on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7pm. Tickets go on sale **4pm** today. Any questions please contact Lisa Curzon-Thomas via email

[Lisa.c269.lct@gamil.co.uk](mailto:Lisa.c269.lct@gamil.co.uk)

### Communicating with the office

A little plea from the office! If you are emailing into the office please can you put the name and class of your child on the email. As it helps them to identify where the email needs to go.

### School Dinners

Please make sure that lunches are ordered by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December for the following week, otherwise your child will need to bring a packed lunch

### Admissions Policy

The 2019/2020 admissions policy is on the website for consultation – please refer to our website for details

### Attachments

TSOD – all years

Awful Auntie Flyer – all years

Outdoor learning – RSE

Reception Curriculum – Reception

Spanish Explorers x 2 - years 1-6

Soccer Eds – years R-5

Reading Book – year 6

Friends at Play newsletter

**Future Dates all new dates are shown in**

### **RED**

#### December

18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Church Service

18<sup>th</sup> Key Stage 1 and Early Years Christingle

19<sup>th</sup> End of Term 1:30pm

#### January

3<sup>rd</sup> Inset Day

**4<sup>th</sup> Key Stage 2 Concert 6.30 pm**

30<sup>th</sup> Year R Interschool – Winter Olympics

#### February

12<sup>th</sup> HALF TERM

21<sup>st</sup> Year 3-6 Interschool Cross Country

#### March

2<sup>nd</sup> World Book Day Dress Up

6<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Interschool Football

12<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening 3:30- 5:30

14<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening 5:00 – 8:00

16<sup>th</sup> School Disco

19<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Isle of Wight

28<sup>th</sup> Easter Church Service KS2

29<sup>th</sup> End of term 1:30pm

#### April

6<sup>th</sup> Inset Day

25<sup>th</sup> Year 3 Interschool – Tennis

30<sup>th</sup> Class Photos

#### May

23<sup>rd</sup> Year 2 Interschool – Games

28<sup>th</sup> – HALF TERM

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### **June**

27th Year 6 Interschool – Games  
29th School Disco

### **July**

3rd Secondary Transfer Day / Move up day  
5th Bucks School Games  
6th INSET DAY  
9th Sports Day KS2 AM / KS1 PM Picnic Lunch for all  
11th Reserve Sports Day  
13th Reports out to parents  
24th July End of Term 1:30pm

### **Governor News**

As I write this, the scene outside is very much that of a Christmas snow scape, no doubt all our children are wishing it will last until the 25<sup>th</sup>, probably not quite so for all their Mum's & Dad's I rather suspect...

It has been quite a year of evolution at the school. The conversion to Multi Academy Trust (MAT), has been foremost in the minds of the governors, our guiding principles, and non-negotiables, have been from the very start, the school must retain both its ethos and Christian values...and so it will. To all intents & purposes, from both the inside and the outside, the school will remain unchanged. Why change then? Well, being a part of a MAT will open up funding sources for the school that only academies can tap into, it will help us grow and develop our staff, giving them opportunities to advance their careers within the MAT, when previously we would have lost them to others schools.

In addition, it will allow the school to draw from best practice of schools within the MAT and introduce them to GKCS - all of the above can only help improve the outcomes for the children of our school, which is the sole motivator in all we, the governors, strive to do.

The speed, following our decision to open a Nursery/Pre-School, with which the building was completed and opened its doors was almost breath taking. The facility itself and the setting are truly lovely, it will enable us to help prepare and grow the little ones who attend, so they are ready for a seamless transition to Reception, when the time comes. As this is one of the biggest transitional steps children take on their path in education, our Nursery will help ease them into 'big' school at GKCS enormously.

Sadly, for the first time in four years, the annual governors 'Santa Walk to School' had to be cancelled this week due to the weather, and advice from the elf police. However, we did manage to get Santa to interrupt his hectic Christmas schedule and visit the school instead, causing havoc as he went from class to class dispensing cheer and the odd chocolate to the children. Let's plan to make next year's Santa's Walk to School bigger than ever to make up, so please come along next year, the more the merrier, it's fun, the kids love it and they all get a Santa choc.

I love the school at this time of year, the Christmas Fayre, the decorations the children make for their classrooms and the school hall, the Nativity Play's and the carol services, all transform the school into quite a magical place filled with their excited anticipation. They say Christmas is all about the children, but it is also about how the children make us feel at Christmas too...quite magical. I truly love it, and I am sure you do too.

At this time of year too, I should like to thank all our wonderful staff who all do a great job and help make GKCS the special school that it is – I have said it before, but I would like to repeat it, we have over 400 pupils who come through our gates daily, they all do it willingly and they all do it with a smile on their faces, because the school staff make sure the school is a happy place, and that is a very large part of the key to education.

Thank you, to all of you too, the school relies heavily on the support of parents & guardians, if it is to be successful in its efforts in helping to mould the children and give them the very best start, as they progress in their education.

I could not let this opportunity pass without saying a huge thank you to Dad's Army, for all their efforts on behalf of the school, particularly with help in snow clearance this week, for all of which they should be elevated from a mere army, to a Legion de Guerre...thank you fellas for all you've done and continue to do.

On behalf of the whole Governing Body, I should like to wish you all – parents, guardians, staff and pupils – the very merriest of Christmases, and the happiest, healthiest and most prosperous of New Years.

With the very best wishes,  
Peter