



Guilden Morden Church of England (VC) School Newsletter

Friday 8th December 2017

Head teachers update

Visit from the Director for School Improvement for DEMAT

Owen Rhodes came to visit the school and provide a report on the effectiveness of specific aspects of our provision. This is a quote from his report:

"Behaviour and Welfare - Pupils demonstrated very good behaviour for learning throughout the visit. Their positive attitudes were reflected in engagement during lessons, transitions, including at the end of break time, and through the quality of work and presentation in their books."

He also recognised the "evidence of good leadership from the headteacher and good governance from the Local Governing Board".

He encouraged us to continue to develop:

- Middle leadership so that there is increased capacity for school development
- Governor visits so that different Governors have links to specific classes and can monitor the work of those classes with increased understanding and precision.
- Marking and Feedback so that the hard work teachers put into marking has the maximum effect on progress
- EYFS provision, particularly the outdoor environment.

I was re-assured by his comments and that the areas for development are ones we are already aware of and have already begun to focus on.

As we continue to develop the outdoor provision for Reception, please could parents be aware that at times the Reception area will already be set up before parents and children come through in the morning and we would greatly appreciate it if children are supported in resisting the temptation to touch, move or play with the resources.

School Development Plan focus this week.

Pupil Asset is the computer programme we use to keep track of each child's learning and progress. It is used by all DEMAT schools and this enables DEMAT to access data about how well children are progressing in each of its schools.

This week a trainer from the company came in to work with me and help me to develop a greater understanding of what the programme will do and how to use it to get all of the information I need to make judgements about standards and progress and help staff to prioritise

He then worked with the teachers after school on the following :

- How to add the different information from our assessments
- How to use the software to look for gaps in the curriculum
- How to use the software to prioritise next steps for children and groups
- How to access a range of reports about standards and progress

Collective Worship:

Thank you to Cannon Williams for sharing some of his knowledge about the church calendar and the specific colours that denote the different church seasons, particularly in relation to Nativity in a collective worship assembly. A group of children were very lucky to be able to model some of the gowns that Cannon Williams wears for particular services.



House System: As you know, as part of our reward and motivation approach, we have four different Houses. Over time the balance of the houses in terms of number

of children from different age groups has been lost. Having consulted the children, we are going to re-allocate children for a new start in the New Year. The House that finishes this term with the highest points will receive a treat in January, then we will all work towards the end of the Summer Term for the next reward.

Bad Weather: In the event that I have to close the school due to the weather, we will text all parents as early as possible, and put a notification on the website.

Uniform: As previously mentioned I will be increasing my focus on school uniform in the New Year. There is information on our website about the expectations. In addition, please could you make sure your child brings a water bottle to school every day.

Nativity



Emma has really enjoyed having the crib at home, and has used it to share some excellent Christmas stories with the family. There are still a few dates that are not allocated, so let Mr Fisher know if you

would like to enjoy having the St Mary's Church "Posada" in your home.

Cool School Club



The children have been making Christmas cards this week and we have been listening to Christmas songs to get everybody in a festive mood. In Spanish, the children have continued to practice their beautiful Spanish songs and have been learning Christmas greetings. ¡ Feliz Navidad! And ¡ Feliz Año 2018!

With thanks from Helen and all the staff

Guilden Morden Church

You are invited to attend the Guilden Morden Church:-

Sunday 10th December, 4.30pm:

Christingle service
(often enjoyed by children).

Sunday 17th December, 4.30pm: Christmas Carol Service.



PTFA Christmas Fayre

A MASSIVE thank you to the PTFA for their hard work and all of the parents who supported the Christmas Fayre and their donations. A fantastic profit of £358.34 was made, plus an additional £40 at the Church

Christmas market - a fabulous achievement!
Well done to everyone for your support

Recruiting

Guilden Morden are looking to fill these permanent positions:-

'Mid-day Supervisor' to work in our dining hall.

Working every day 12 - 1.15pm to set up and supervise lunch-time activities amongst helpful, friendly children.

'School Cook' &

'School Cleaner' Pre-School are seeking a part-time cleaner (3 x 1 hr per week, Tues/Wed/Fri, between 1pm-3pm).

Please contact office@guildenmorden.cambs.sch.uk



The **Christmas Post Box** is now at the back door if children would like to send cards to their friends.

Daily Collections and deliveries will commence on Monday 11th.

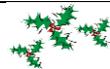
Last post collection: **Tuesday 19th December, 10.30am.**



There will be **NO Thursday morning Running Club** next week (14th) however Chloe will restart her Thursday club on 11th January in preparation for Hockey Training.

CUFC Multi-Sports Club will have last session next Friday (15th). Please do let the office know if your child wishes to continue next term (12th Jan). See attached form.

ParentPay: We would appreciate if you could please settle any remaining balances by the end of term.



Christmas Reminders



Class 2 & 3's Nativity Play will be performed on Tuesday 12th 1.30pm and Wednesday 13th at 6pm. Please reserve your seats

Christmas Church Service with Class 1's Nativity play on Tuesday 19th December at 9.30am. As usual we are happy for you to walk with us to the church.

Reminder



Don't forget to support our school playground project by shopping in Tesco in Royston and collecting as many tokens at the checkout to vote for Guilden Morden School. Voting is open through November & December.

AWARDS

This week our awards have been made to :-

| | Progress | Conduct & Values |
|------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pre-School | All of PreSchool | Ellie Brown |
| Class 1 | Ella-Louise Groom Josh Lans | Freddie Barnes Finley Pinnock |
| Class 2 | Scott Davis Roach Leo Kendall | Jersey Georgiades Leighton Green |
| Class 3 | Max Davis Roach Layla Gray | Millie Robinson Hannah Thompson |

Thought for the week:

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."
-- Calvin Coolidge --

Collective Worship Theme for the week

The Nativity

*The weekly newsletter will now be 'paperless'
Let us know you would still prefer to receive a paper version!*

Diary Updates and Reminders

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 12 December, | 1.30pm-School Nativity Play, Class 2&3 |
| 13 December | 6pm - School Nativity Play, Class 2&3 |
| 14 th December | Flu Immunisation: Reception-Year4 |
| 18 th December | Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day |
| 19 December | 9.30am Christmas Church Service & Class 1 Nativity Play 3.15pm End of Term |
| 4 January 2018 (Thursday) | Spring Term begins |

Guilden Morden C of E Primary School
Part of the Diocese of Ely
Multi-Academy Trust

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