



9 December 2022

Message from our Executive Head, Mrs. Brand: As a primary school teacher, I have always loved this time of year. Of course, it is incredibly busy, we seem to pack so much in, both in our school curriculum and in our reaching out to share our learning with our wider communities. The level of preparation that goes into all of this is quite something, and I'm grateful to all of our staff and volunteers who work very hard at making it look easy! The reason we all do this can be captured in one word, Joy. This is a very apt word for the third week of advent, often symbolised by a pink colored candle on the advent wreath. Children can help us to find joy in the simplest of moments and it is a great privilege to be able to share this with them at school. This week I have had children share their joy at receiving a Christmas card from friends, I have attended excellent play performances at our three schools, and joined in a Christingle service at one of our churches; The atmosphere at school is certainly joyful. I hope you have enjoyed sharing in that joy too in some of the Christmas events we have welcomed you to and I look forward to seeing many of you at our carol Service next week, Mrs Brand.

SKYLARKS A big thank-you to everyone who came to watch our Christmas performance, we hope you enjoyed it and are feeling the Christmassy spirit. Mrs White, Miss Holland and I are all so proud of Skylarks for learning all their lines and songs and giving such a confident performance! The first in 2 years! I am so impressed that children from AGE 4 were able to perform solo parts and dances, something which is very unique to our little school and something to commend them on! They have definitely earned their Christmas party! Outside of our performances we have spent the rest of this week consolidating learning from this half term... ready to get fully into all our Christmas activities next week!

MALLARDS The children have finished their Christmas Tree decorations as part of our textiles work and they all look amazing. We were so impressed with their independence when it came to sewing. I'm sure they'll be hanging on their Christmas trees for years to come. In English this week, the children have written adverts to try and tempt someone into buying a fantastic mythical pet. I'm sure people will be queuing up to buy fire eagles, glow horses, emerald dragons and flying rabbits. But do heed the warnings in the instruction manual! We finished our Geography topic this week on the Amazon basin and found out lots of facts about the Brazilian city of Manaus. Did you know that England played their first game of the 2014 World Cup at the Manaus Stadium? Fortunately, they seem to be doing a bit better in 2022.

SWANS In swans this week we have continued in both year 5 and 6 with our fraction journeys. Year 5 have been excellent at adding and subtracting fractions and using conversion to do this. Year 6 have been revising adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. All the children have been super at rising to the challenge in math this week. In English we have watched a short film about the Christmas Truce which took place during WW1. The children have written a letter home to a loved one about what has happened. They have all impressed me with how they have written with emotion and thought about their vocabulary.

UPCOMING DATES

10/12: Friends Elf Trail & Christmas Fair at The Wherry Inn, Geldeston, 4-8pm.

14/12: Y6 NCMP Weight & Height Screening.

14/12: Christmas Lunch.

15/12: Whole School to Pantomime.

16/12: Nelsons Journey Rudolph Run.

16/12: 2pm Christmas Carol Service at Geldeston Church.

16/12: Last Day of Autumn Term 2!

All dates can be viewed on our school calendar via our website:

<http://www.gillingham.dneat.org/calendar/>

WHO'S WHO

Name: Mrs Ward

Role: Caretaker & Midday Supervisor (Swans)

Favourite School Subjects: Making Christmas cake toppers.

Hobbies: Walking my dog, baking, reading and being a part of our community.





GILLINGHAM ST. MICHAELS PRIMARY ACADEMY



ATTENDANCE Many thanks for your support with attendance. This week our whole school attendance figure was **94.58 %**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:
TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS – SWANS CLASS
KINGFISHER WINGS READING – SKYLARKS CLASS

Dear God,
We thank you for this time of joyful waiting. Our joy is a gift. Flood our hearts with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. Show us how to have joy every day and how to rejoice in your love,
Amen.

