



10 March 2023

Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



Message from our Executive Head I wonder how many of you are still sticking to your New Years Resolution or your commitment for Lent? It can be very hard to stick to a new routine or have the determination to keep working on something when we find it hard. This week I have been struck by the resilience our children have to try new things in their learning, and the pride they have in the improvement in their work when that have had the determination to stick at it. Well done to all of our children, but in particular our school council who spoke so clearly to me about their learning this week. **Mrs Brand**

SKYLARKS This week we seem to have done a lot of food testing in Skylarks. In Computing the children had the challenge of programming Mrs Carroll to make a sandwich by writing out clear algorithms. In R.E. we re-created the Last Supper and shared bread as the body of Jesus and 'wine' (blackcurrant squash) as the blood. Finally in D.T. we taste tested lots of different fruit and vegetables and used adjectives to describe their flavours, everyone was especially excited to try lemons! Other non-food related learning also took place in P.E. with a bit of tri-golf and dancing and in Science we planted our bean seeds and are eagerly awaiting their growth! **Mrs Carroll**

MALLARDS In History this week, we have been comparing the Ancient Egyptians to other civilisations at the time, including China, Indus Valley and Sumatra. We have made Power Points to explain the similarities that these ancient cultures had. In English, we have finished our balanced arguments on whether Egyptian artefacts should have been raided from tombs. The children have come up with lots of reasons for and against tomb-raiding. We continued with our Science topic on plants and looked at the function of roots. We were amazed to find out that when we eat a carrot, we are actually eating the root of a plant. In dance with Mrs White, the children have been creating a Hindu dance to represent the story of Rama and Sita. **Mrs Munro**

SWANS This week in swans they children have enjoyed making their muffins. On Monday next week they will be creating their final ones and will bring home for you to be their official taste tester as consumer. In science we are looking at life cycles and this week we compared the life cycle of a bird and amphibian. We have enjoyed writing our biographies this week and I have been really impressed with the effort they have made in their writing. In maths year 6 have been learning about area and perimeter of rectangles, triangles and parallelograms and year 5 have been learning about what a percentage is and matching fractions, decimals and percentages. **Mrs Sherwood**

OUR WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

Watch out for our photos in the Beccles & Bungay Journal, out today, and available for 1 week!!



We are so looking forward to seeing everyone's crazy hair for Red Nose Day next Friday 17 March! All donations to Comic Relief can be made on our JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gillingham-st-michael-s-primary-academy5>



Our School Council are also raising money for seeds and plants for our school wellbeing areas by holding a bake sale – everything sold for 50p each - any cake donations gratefully received 



ATTENDANCE Many thanks for your support with attendance. This week our whole school attendance figure is **95.54%**.

With **Skylarks** winning our Attendance Teddy with their class attendance of **97.9%**.



Congratulations

TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:

*TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS - SKYLARKS
KINGFISHER WINGS READING - MALLARDS*



****SAVE THE DATE****

All parents are invited to join us for Easter Crafts in our House Teams on Wednesday 29 April.



****SAVE THE DATE****



Gillingham St Michaels Movie Night

Friday 24th March

3.15-4.50pm

Peter Rabbit 2



Donut and Squash provided

£1 per child

**All proceeds going to the Bishops
Lent Appeal 2023**

The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2023 will help to raise money for the new Priscilla Bacon Lodge hospice building, which will increase capacity for end-of-life specialist care in Norfolk and Waveney.

National Education Union (NEU) Strikes Update

The dates planned for the strike in the Eastern region are: Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March

I have asked the teachers if they are able to tell me if they are being involved in the strikes or not, which they do not have to share with me until the day of the strikes itself. I have also been kept up to date by staff who may be affected due to their own childcare challenges. At present we plan to be fully open to all pupils. We will continue to consider the information available in our planning and are aware that it will be a changing picture with safety for all a primary concern. I ask for your patience and understanding as we do support teachers right to strike, but also maintain our commitment to doing what we can for our children. **Mrs Brand**



Heavenly Father, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we understand how your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

****SAVE THE DATE** EASTER BINGO **SATURDAY 25 MARCH****

We will be holding an *EASTER FAMILY BINGO* evening from 6-8pm on Saturday 25th March. Tickets will cost £5 each, this will include entrance to the event and six BINGO game cards for the evening. There will also be a **golden BINGO** round payable on the night (£1) to win the **TOP PRIZE!** Prizes awarded in each game for a line and for a full house. Tickets for the evening must be purchased in advance through ParentMail - there are limited spaces available so please do book as soon as you can!!

There will be delicious refreshments on the night to purchase.

*We will also be holding a **fantastic raffle** to be drawn on the night. Tickets can be purchased on the night or in advance*

*** Prizes will include a private boat trip for 10 people from Southwold for one hour worth £150.00, 1 x professional session voucher worth £175.00, £30 voucher for Geldeston Locks, £20 voucher for The Wherry Inn, Voucher for one-hour junior paddleboard hire from Three Rivers, Mandy's Pickles Prize, Waveney Valley Leisure Centre voucher and plenty more goodies to still be donated. Raffle tickets cost £1 each and will be sent home next week for you to purchase and sell to friends and family. Please send the raffle ticket stubs back with the money for each ticket to the school office ***

A colorful poster for 'Easter Family Bingo' at Gillingham St Michael's. The background is light purple with several large, stylized Easter eggs in various colors and patterns (orange, green, yellow, blue, red). The text is centered and reads: 'GILLINGHAM ST MICHAEL'S EASTER FAMILY BINGO Saturday 25th March 6-8pm at Gillingham School £5 per ticket, this includes 6 bingo games. Special Golden Bingo available on the night £1 per ticket. All welcome! Plenty of Prizes!!! Tickets available on ParentMail. Limited spaces so book soon to avoid disappointment! All proceeds to Gillingham School Refreshments and a raffle will be available'.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

March

- 10:** World Book Day Photo in the Beccles & Bungay Journal.
- 17:** Comic Relief Red Nose Day – *crazy hair, non-school uniform & bake sale.*
- 17:** Mothers Day Messages in the Beccles & Bungay Journal.
- 24:** Peter Rabbit 2 Movie Night at School – *all proceeds to the Bishops Lent Appeal.*
- 25:** Easter Family Bingo 6-8pm in the School Hall.
- 28:** Skylarks Trip to Adventure Island.
- 29:** 2.30pm Easter Crafts with Parents here at school.
- 30:** Y5 & Y6 to SJHLS Music Concert.
- 31:** 2.30pm Easter Service at school – *all families welcome!*
- 31:** ***Last Day of Spring Term 2!***

April

- 18:** ***First Day of Summer Term 1!***
- 21:** Reception Road Safety in the classroom.
- 21:** Y2 Road Safety out of school.

May:

- 2:** Mallards Class Bikeability Level 1
- 31:** Horstead full payment deadline.

All future dates can be viewed on our school calendar via our website: <http://www.gillingham.dneat.org/calendar/>