



21 April 2023

# Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

**Message from our Executive Head** This weekend a few of my friends will be making their way to London to either take part or to support people taking part in the London Marathon. This event is something I have always enjoyed watching (note, not actually running!); Hearing about people's stories of why they're taking part and the huge effort they have had to put in to their training is so inspiring. Seeing the joy on people's faces as they finish, is a great reminder that we can do anything we set our minds to. In many cases, people run this marathon as a way of giving back to others, for example raising money for charity. This half term, as we think about the upcoming Coronation we are exploring the Christian value of service in our collective worship. We are very impressed by how well the children demonstrate this value, already this academic year, our school community has raised money for a variety of causes and children have volunteered to help others within school. If you're running the London Marathon on Sunday, we wish you lots of luck! **Mrs Brand**

**SKYLARKS** What a busy first week back! We have jumped straight in with our new topic in Art by creating a giant Henry Matisse picture. In Geography we have begun our continents and oceans topic by thinking about the names of our village, city, county, country, continent and hemisphere which has linked very well with the Year 2's work on proper and common nouns in English. Please can I remind parents as stated in the last newsletter that our P.E. days are back to Monday and Wednesday. **Mrs Carroll**

**MALLARDS** What an amazing start to the new term. We have really enjoyed looking at pictograms and bar charts in Maths. Keep on learning those times tables at home, your accuracy and fluency in times tables is getting better and better. We have looked at a piece of writing in English based on the Hobbit. We will be using this to explore what makes a good quest story. We are continuing with our science topic on How does your garden grow? Mrs Edmunds and Mrs Ward have been working with Mallards to start planting vegetables and sunflowers in the raised beds. We're really looking forward to watching our plants grow. **Mrs Munro**

**SWANS** I have been so impressed with the attitude to learning of everyone in Swans on returning from their break. This week year 5 and 6 have been looking at angles. In English we have been writing descriptions of story settings and tried to use adventurous vocabulary with the help of a thesaurus. We have also started to learn about clothing in French. **Mrs Sherwood**

**ATTENDANCE** Many thanks for your support with attendance. This week our whole school attendance figure is **96.88%**.



With **Skylarks** winning our Attendance Teddy with their class attendance of **100%**.

## Congratulations

**TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:**  
KINGFISHER WINGS READING - SWANS  
TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS - SKYLARKS



### National Education Union (NEU) Strikes Update

The dates planned for the strike in the Eastern region are: **Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May.**

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**

### **EMERGENCY ALERT**

On Sunday 23 April 2023 at 3pm, there will be a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts service.

Your mobile phone or tablet may make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent, vibrate, or read out the alert. The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds.

More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/alerts>



*Dear God,  
We thank you for your teaching and example  
through Jesus,  
We pray for the King as he prepares for his  
Coronation.  
May you help him to be a peacemaker, pure in  
heart, merciful and hungry for righteousness,  
We pray that you will help us to shine brightly in the  
world around us and 'be' who you have called us to  
be as we all work together for a hopeful future in  
which all creation can flourish.  
Amen*

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

#### April

**27:** Reception NCMP, Vision & Hearing.

#### May:

**1:** **Bank Holiday.**

**2:** Mallards Class Bikeability Level 1

**8:** **Bank Holiday for His Majesty's Coronation.**

**9:** Y6 SATs Week (Tues 9 to Fri 12).

**23:** Y6 to Crucial Crew at The Space, Norwich.

**26:** **Last Day of Summer Term 1!**

**31:** Horstead full payment deadline.

#### June:

**5:** **First Day of Summer Term 2!**

**5&6:** Mallards on Ringsfield Residential.

**14:** Y6 Safe Travel Transition Prep with Sarah.

#### July:

**3-5:** Swan Class on Horstead Residential.

**7:** Y6 Leavers to Pleasurewood Hills.

**21:** **Last Day of School Year!**

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