



28 April 2023

# Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



 Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

**Message from our Executive Head** I have been really impressed this week by the progress that I can see in the children's books. I have spent some time talking to school council, who have been really proud to show their work and share the favourite parts of their school day.

As staff we have been spending some time exploring how we can make sure that all children are able to shine through the curriculum and activities and experiences we offer. We are looking forward to some different experiences over the summer term, please look out for dates.

We are also exploring clubs that we can offer next academic year, please do share any ideas you have, especially if you know of any person or organisation that might be interested in running something (all adults in school will be subject to our safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures).

Enjoy the longer bank holiday weekend, **Mrs Brand**

**SKYLARKS** A busy week, as always, in Skylarks. In Geography we have been learning the continents; Reception have been recognising, matching then, year 1 learning their names and year 2 have been using a compass to talk about their directions in relation to each other. In Computing we are focussing on 'typing' this term and have begun to practise writing our names on word processor. In Science we have needed to become plant doctors as some of our plants are looking a little unhealthy and in PSHE we are looking at growth mindsets. Year 2 children are also being given weekly spellings every Friday to be tested the following Friday so please check you Reading Records. **Mrs Carroll**

**MALLARDS** In English this week, the children have been learning how to create tension in stories. I'm looking forward to seeing how they use this when they come to writing their own quest stories next week. We have been looking at the USA in Geography this week. We have learned the names of some of the states and have been finding out about the Rocky Mountains. We all agreed it is definitely a place we'd like to visit. In Science we have found out about the functions of a flower. We carefully dissected a lily and found the sepal, petals, stamen, carpel and pollen. We had the best game of cricket on Thursday afternoon. The children have really improved in their fielding and batting skills, and can think strategically about how to get the batter out. Well done Mallards for a great week. **Mrs Munro**

**SWANS** This week in swans we have been learning about cities in the UK. We have watched aerial footage comparing the four capital cities of the UK. The children have enjoyed sharing cities they have been to and what they were like. In art this week we started our collage project. The children were tasked with using a number of different collage techniques and did very well with these including taring, offcuts and squares. We had a relaxing meditation session in RE this week, looking for our inner peace. **Mrs Sherwood**

**ATTENDANCE** Many thanks for your support with attendance. This week our whole school attendance figure is **96.83%**.



With **Skylarks** winning our Attendance Teddy with their class attendance of **97.92%**.

## Congratulations

TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:

KINGFISHER WINGS READING - MALLARDS

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS - MALLARDS



### THURSDAY 4 MAY

Egg & Cress Sandwich  
or  
Ham & Cucumber Sandwich  
Mini Homemade Sausage Roll  
Veggie Sticks  
Celebration Cupcake



### National Education Union (NEU) Strikes Update

The date planned for the strike in the Eastern region is: **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**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY:

### April

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

### May:

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

**2:** Mallards Class Bikeability Level 1

**4:** Kings Coronation Lunch Menu

**5:** Non-Uniform Day for the Kings Coronation.

**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/>



*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*