



1 December 2023

Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



Message from our Executive Head It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Today is the 1st of December, for many the day will have started with the excitement of opening the first door of the advent calendar. Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas Day, is a season of expectation and preparation to celebrate the coming of Christ. It is a time for reflection in darkness and for renewal of hope. In school, as we enjoy the appearance of Christmas lights and decorations and are busy practicing our carols for the service at the end of the year, we are also reflecting on the past year and our hopes for the future. **Mrs Brand**

SKYLARKS This week we finished off our History topic on Remembrance by re-creating the Tower of London poppy installation at school. As we looked at our art we reflected on everything we have learnt about remembrance and also thought about how what we learn can change and shape the future. In Science we have been making food chains for different habitats and we couldn't resist making some Christmas paper chains at the same time! In P.E. we have been doing fitness and we re-created our lungs and in PSHE we have been thinking about what makes a good friend. **Mrs Carroll**

MALLARDS In Science this week, Mallards have continued thinking about how shiny materials reflect more light. We have found out that drivers may not see us as easily if we wear dark clothes. We were then challenged to make a reflector that would help us be seen in the dark. We tested to see how successful we were by shining a torch on our designs.

In History, we found out a lot about what Roman towns were like in Britain. We worked closely in groups to try and design an accurate Roman town from a series of clues. Great teamwork Mallards. We have also been looking at a range of poems in English. We are looking forward to writing our own recipe poems next week.

Miss Church has also been teaching the children to play the cups in music! **Mrs Munro**

SWANS This week in Swans we have enjoyed playing our recorders again in Music. Mrs Sherwood has challenged us to play 'I Saw Three Ships' at the Christmas Service at Geldeston Church. In Science this week we tested how far we could stretch an elastic band. We were amazed that even 1kg of weight didn't break it. In PSHE our topic is safety and we have been looking at alcohol, smoking, drugs and solvents. **Mrs Sherwood**

REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK: we are welcoming Skylarks families into school next Wednesday 6 Dec at 2pm to watch their Christmas production of 'Prickly Hay'; on Friday 8 Dec it's a non-uniform day in exchange for chocolate, and, all parents are invited to our Christmas Craft Parent Share at 2.30pm.

ATTENDANCE Many thanks for your support with attendance. This week our whole school attendance figure is **84.41%**.

With **Swans** winning our Attendance Teddy with their class attendance of **93.23%**.



Congratulations

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



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

December

- 5: Immunisation Team in for flu immunisation.
- 5: Skylarks Christmas Production Dress Rehearsal.
- 6: 2pm, Skylarks Christmas Production 'Prickly Hay' - parents welcome.
- 8: 'Friends' Non-Uniform Day in exchange for chocolate.
- 8: 2.30pm Christmas Crafts, parents welcome.
- 12: Y6 & Reception NCMP.
- 13: Christmas Lunch.
- 15: Christmas Carol Service at 2.30pm, Geldeston Church, families welcome.
- 15: 'Friends' Christmas Raffle Deadline.
- 16: 'Friends' Christmas Fair with Elf Trail and Carol Singing, Geldeston Village Hall.
- 16: 'Friends' Christmas Raffle to be Drawn, 6pm.
- 18: Rudolph Run fundraising for Nelson's Journey. Everyone to school in Christmas clothing!
- 18: Christmas Cake Making.
- 19: Christmas Cake Making.
- 20: 'Friends' Whole school trip to Pantomime at Fisher Theatre, parents to collect from Theatre.
- 20: ***Last Day of Autumn Term 2!***

January

- 4: ***First Day of Spring Term 1!***
- 15: Deadline for Admission to Reception Class
2024 Closing Date.
- 18: The Happy Smiles Club.
- 31: Y6 Basketball at SJLHS.

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

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

Elf Trail & Christmas Fair

Saturday, 16th December
3.30-4.30 pm
Trail starts from
Geldeston Village Hall - Maps £1*

4.30-6.00 pm
After the trail come warm up with
Mulled wine and Mince pies,
Deans Beans Coffee, Home baked
goodies, Raffle, Christmas stalls,
Santa's grotto, Games and Gillingham
school children singing carols

6.00 pm
Enjoy music performed by
Great Yarmouth Brass Band

In aid of the Friends of
Gillingham St Michael's
Primary School

Find out more on Facebook



*Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Amen*