



8 December 2023

Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



Message from our Executive Head One of the things we talk about at this time of year is Christingle. Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings people together to think about the light that Jesus brought to the World. I have enjoyed many conversations with children this term, where their thoughtfulness and reflections on their hopes for peace in the world has been really impressive. It was lovely to join some local church Christingle services this week and share in that message.

This week we have been enjoying completing various aspects of our curriculum as well as enjoying some specific Christmas activities. Many thanks to all who have been in to support us. We look forward to welcoming you to join our carol service on Friday 15 December at 2.30pm in Geldeston Church, where we can celebrate and sing together.

- The orange represents the world.
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ.
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations.
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.



Mrs Brand

SKYLARKS WOW! I could not be more proud of everyone in Skylarks for an absolutely magical performance. A massive thank-you to Mrs White (a professional dancer) for choreographing all the songs, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Bennett for their support in rehearsals, to Lindsey (Sophies mum) for providing us with our wonderful 'prickly hay' and to everyone at home who helped to practice lines, provide costumes and for showing us all so much support! When I see the children share in such an incredibly successful moment it always makes me reflect on what a wonderful community we are here at Gillingham and how lucky we are to be a part of it. I hope you all enjoyed it! **Mrs Carroll**

MALLARDS Mallards have been writing poems in English this week entitled "A Recipe to Make Santa. Wow! The children have used the most beautiful vocabulary to create some wonderful imagery of Father Christmas. In Science we have been looking at how shadows are formed and can confidently use the term transparent, translucent and opaque. We considered the legacy of the Romans in Britain and thought of all the inventions that we still have today. We had to order them in order of how important we thought they were. We agreed that we were very impressed with central heating, bricks and roads, but we were less impressed by the fact that the Romans introduced stinging nettles to Britain. **Mrs Munro**

SWANS This week in Swans Maths has been all about fraction. Both year 5 and 6 have been learning about adding and subtracting fractions. In English we have been multiplying and dividing fractions. In English we have been writing formal letters to complain about plastic and air pollution or to praise humans for caring for animals. In RE this week we created posters on our lessons for learning for mankind. The whole class showed what mature and kind young people they are. *Having finished our DT games this week we would love you to join us on Monday 11th December to play them with us from 2.45pm.* Mrs Sherwood

Big REMINDER to please complete the permission / travel forms for the Christmas Carol Service at Geldeston Church (Fri 15 Dec) AND the trip to the Pantomime (Weds 20 Dec). Thanks ☺

EASYFUNDRAISING!

If you have a moment to please sign up to our Friends Easyfundraising platform where you can help us raise money for our school for free! If you scan this QR code, fill in a few details and then every time you shop online at most websites, our school will get a donation.



Over 7,500 brands including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will donate to Friends of Gillingham St Michael's Primary Academy for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them. This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything from decorations and festive food shopping to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more!
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-gillingham-smp/?utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=email&utm_medium=social&utm_content=christmas-email1

ATTENDANCE Many thanks for your support with attendance. This week our whole school attendance figure is **91.47%**.

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



Congratulations

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





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



Dear God

*Thank you for the light in our lives,
 for those who give us love and hope.
 Help us to always be a light shining in the
 darkness so that we can share the love of
 God with those around us.
 In the name of Jesus Christ,
 the light of the world,
 Amen*

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

December

- 11:** Swan Class parents invited to play games made in DT, 2.45pm.
- 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/>