



12 January 2024

Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



Message from our Executive Head This half term we are exploring the value of peace. One of my favourite picture books is Five Minute's Peace by Jill Murphy, where a busy elephant tries to find a space to have just five minutes peace. As we get back into routines following the Christmas break, and life feels super busy, it strikes me as ever important to find those moments of peace in the day. In school we have a rich and varied curriculum that keeps all of the children stimulated in their lessons, many also attend clubs and enrichment activities around that. We have tried to create various places where children and staff can go and find time for quiet to be able to think and reflect on the things that are important to them. I hope you are all able to find those moments at home too. **Mrs Brand**

SKYLARKS In Skylarks we have been introducing all our new topics for this half term. On Monday the children began looking at different materials for Science, Reception children sorted materials and year 1's and 2's thought about their properties. In Art we are looking at printing, we have tried to direct printing and negative printing with primary colours. In R.E. our big question is 'where is belief around us?' We played a game where we had to decide if different buildings were churches or not... the children were surprised to learn that they were in fact ALL churches. **Mrs Carroll**

MALLARDS What a busy start we have had to the new year. We have some very exciting topics coming up.

We have started looking at warning stories in English and will use different techniques to engage the reader when we come to write our own.

In History, we are looking at what happened in Britain after the Romans left and the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons. Did you know that Gillingham was an Anglo-Saxon settlement?

In science we have begun to look at how our bodies work and this week we found out about different food groups. We thought about what would happen to our bodies if we didn't have a particular food group in our diets. **Mrs Munro**

SWANS It has been lovely to start our spring term curriculum with lots of new topics and learning. In PE this half term we will be doing gymnastics and badminton. In French we are learning about homes. We learnt this week how to say which type of home we lived in and where it was. In English this week, we have been reading the story Adventure at Sandy cove which is an example of a finding tale. The children have impressed me with their understanding of how we use alliteration, similes and repetition in description. We also made a tension graph. **Mrs Sherwood**



Parent Governor Vacancy



We have an exciting opportunity for parents!

- The local governing board of Kingfisher is looking to recruit 1 parent governor from each school.
- Being a governor of our 3 schools is a privilege, we support the school in its strategic direction, uphold our Christian foundation and ethos, hold leaders to account and celebrate success.
- We meet once per half term on a Thursday 4pm – 6pm. There is paperwork to read before meetings, visits to our schools and training.

Please contact your school office if you are interested and they can arrange a meeting with me to discuss more!!

- If you decide to move forward with your application, we shall hold an official election. Don't panic, this is not scary!
- Expected timeline: Official nomination by Friday 26th January, Ballot papers to parents Monday 29th January, elections on Monday 12th January.



• I look forward to hearing from you.

• Smile 😊 Caroline Hutton



ATTENDANCE

Many thanks for your support with attendance. Our year-to-date attendance figure is **93%**. With **Swans** winning this weeks Attendance Teddy.



Congratulations

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





Dear God

*Help us to find places where we can be
quiet, reflect and feel close to you.*

Amen

***Our special Census Day lunch
here at schoolno need to
pre-book, order as normal at
registration!!***



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

January

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

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

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