



19 January 2024

# Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



**Message from our Executive Head** I have been really impressed this week to hear about how hard all of the children are working. I get the privilege of walking around each school and hearing the hum of learning; It is a joy to observe the harmonious communities we have within, each class, each school, and our Federation. It would be easy to think that this happens by accident, but of course we know that this happens through the understanding of all that we need to have compassion and respect each other. In his sermon on the mount (Matt 5:9) Jesus said, 'Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God'. In part, this refers to the importance of reconciliation, in our Federation we discuss with the children what this is and ways to do this, they always impress us with the ideas and examples that they share. We pray that people around the world caught in conflict can find ways to make peace. **Mrs Brand**

**SKYLARKS** This week we were very excited to bring in our toys for History. We looked at the toys we play with and thought about other toys that may be more suitable for babies and toddlers. Next week we will start to look at toys from the past so if anybody at home has any toys from their childhood that they wouldn't mind sharing I promise to take extra special care of them. In Science we were thinking about the suitability of different materials for different objects. We discussed Glass jumpers and agreed that although they might be beautiful it's definitely not practical! In gymnastics we have made shapes and linked them together to make a short sequence and in our other P.E. lesson we have explored invasion games and the roles of defenders and attackers. **Mrs Carroll**

**MALLARDS** Well done Mallards. What a great week. We have become to good at long multiplication and division this week. in our warning stories, we have learned how to use a setting to create tension. The children have created their own printing blocks in art and have printed a range of designs. We were History detectives on Tuesday, and used a range of clues to work out who was probably buried at Sutton Hoo. We have continued learning about food groups and have used this knowledge to design a healthy dinner. **Mrs Munro**

**MALLARDS** In Mallards Class we are beginning to make stop-motion animation in our computing lessons. Today we tried to create our first animations using the imotion app (free to download if children would like to use it at home). Next Friday, the children have been asked to bring something in from home to use as their main character in their next stop frame animation. It may be a very small toy, some plasticene, a cartoon image.... Here are a few Youtube stop motion animation examples to help you think about what you might like to bring in on Friday 26th January.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HE\\_OkNCiLGc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HE_OkNCiLGc)

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/bd3TDSp6YpU>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/8Vvm1nRTK2c>

In music we are learning to play the recorder. If your child has a recorder at home, they may like to practice what we have been learning in class. To do this, please follow the instructions on the 'Yumu' letter that will arrive home today with your child. **Mrs Church**

**SWANS** This week in swans we have been writing our finding tales. I have been so impressed with their new settings and ideas for interesting objects they might find. We have started our guided reading this week. Year 5 are reading The boy at the back of class, year 6 are reading Cogheart. All the children have chapters to read for homework this week. In geography this week we used atlases to create a map of Europe. We looked at which countries border others and which are landlocked. **Mrs Sherwood**

## Emergency School Closures & Severe Weather Conditions Process



- In the event of an emergency school closure or in severe weather conditions we will contact you via our parent app 'MYEd'.
- Our Facebook page will also be updated.
- Please make sure that we have your correct mobile number.
- In addition to the above, the closure will be listed on Norfolk County Council's school closures website: [http://disruptions.norfolk.gov.uk/nccclosures\\_schools.html](http://disruptions.norfolk.gov.uk/nccclosures_schools.html)

*May we also remind families to please send children in with coats, hats, gloves and a spare pair of footwear for break times. Making sure everything is named – thank you!*

## ATTENDANCE

Many thanks for your support with attendance. Our year-to-date attendance figure is **92.8%**. With **Mallards** winning this weeks Attendance Teddy.



## Congratulations

TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:  
KINGFISHER WINGS READING - SWANS



## Pringles

*Please could we have an empty pringles tubes (with lids) for a classroom craft activity we are doing soon!*

*Thank you* 😊



Dear God,

*Thank you for guiding us to develop many friendships.  
Help us to try to find ways to make peace with one another when we disagree.*

*May there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
Amen*

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

### **January**

- 29:** \*NEW DATE\* Mallards Trip to Norwich Castle.
- 30:** \*NEW DATE\* Mallards Parent Share, 2.30-3.15pm.
- 31:** \*NEW DATE\* Skylarks Parent Share, 9-9.30am.
- 31:** Y6 Basketball at SJLHS.

### **February**

- 2:** \*NEW DATE\* Swans Parent Share, 2.30-3.15pm.
- 16:** *Last Day of Spring Term 1!*
- 26:** *First Day of Spring Term 2!*

### **March**

- 17:** Comic Relief's Red Nose Day.
- 27:** *Last Day of Spring Term 2!*

### **April**

- 15:** *First Day of Summer Term 1!*
- 24:** *Last Day of Summer Term 1!*

### **June**

- 3:** *First Day of Summer Term 2!*
- 17-19:** Swans to Horstead for Residential.
- 20, 21:** Mallards to Ringsfield Residential.

### **July**

- 19:** *Last Day of School Academic Year!*

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