



26 January 2024

# Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



**Message from our Executive Head** This week in our staff meeting, colleagues reflected on, amongst other things, what are we doing to support the children with developing their reading skills. Becoming a confident reader is something we aspire to for all of our children, it brings them the power to unlock many other aspects of the curriculum and the joy of exploring new worlds and ideas. We are very grateful for the support children are given at home with this, whether that's reading their school books at home, practising key words, reading different things when out and about or exploring the meaning of words. Thank you. We are very privileged that we get to celebrate the progress all children make. **Mrs Brand**

**SKYLARKS** We did a great science experiment on Monday testing the durability of different fabrics. We wrapped the fabric around rocks and tested how many times we could rub them on the floor before a hole appeared! In Art we used clay to make printing blocks and in history we looked at old toys and thought about how we knew they were old. We especially loved Tilly showing us her Dads old Cue-Ball computer game and his old cars. In R.E. we explored key features of a Synagogue. Did you know that when the doors of the Ark (a cupboard that holds the Torah) are open nobody is allowed to enter or leave the synagogue as a sign of respect to God? **Mrs Carroll**

**MALLARDS** Well Another very busy week for Mallards. We have started looking at length and perimeter in maths, and have measured a number of classroom objects using mm, cm and m. In Science we have looked at the different types of skeletons that animals have. Did you know that humans have endoskeletons? Can the children explain what this means to someone at home. There has been some very impressive printing going on in art and the children have created a range of different designs.

I'm really looking forward to reading the children's warning stories that should be finished early next week. We are all very excited about our trip to Norwich Castle to help our learning on the Anglo-Saxons on Monday.

**Mrs Munro**

**SWANS** This week in Swans has been assessment week for maths and English to see how much we have learnt since September. In geography this week we looked at the Mediterranean as a holiday destination in Europe. We wrote adverts persuading others why it is such a great choice. On a rainy January afternoon in Norfolk, we found writing this quite easy! In computing this half-term we are looking at databases. This week we enjoyed using one on the passengers of Titanic, the class were all interested in what they learnt about the age, names and boarding location of each passenger. **Mrs Sherwood**

## ATTENDANCE

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



## Congratulations

TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:  
KINGFISHER WINGS READING - SWANS



*We started this week with very sad local news of the death of four people in Norwich, including two school age children. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and community.  
Amen*

## DATES FOR THE DIARY:

### January

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

### February

- 2:** Swans Parent Share, 2.30-3.15pm, parents invited.
- 13:** Y6 to Hobart HS to see 'Beauty and the Beast Junior' performance.
- 14:** Y3 to Kwik Cricket at SJLHS.
- 16:** NSPCC Number Day - our theme: 'Dress up for Digits'.
- 16:** ***Last Day of Spring Term 1!***
- 26:** ***First Day of Spring Term 2!***

### March

- 1:** Y6 High School Offer Letters.
- 1:** Swan Class Cooking Italian Pizza's.
- 4:** Y1 & Y2 to Gymnastics Festival at Waveney Gymnastics.
- 7:** World Book Day – our theme: 'Fairy Tale'.
- 8:** Y6 to Hobart High Forensic Science Day.
- 8:** Mothers Day Messages in the Beccles & Bungay Journal.
- 12:** Tempest Photography Class Photos.
  
- 15:** Comic Relief's Red Nose Day.
- 21:** World Down Syndrome Day - our theme: 'Shining bright'.
- 26:** Y3 & Y4 to Adventure Island.
- 27:** ***Last Day of Spring Term 2!***

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