



9 February 2024

Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

Message from our Executive Head This week it has been safer internet day and children's mental health week, so we have explored themes relating to this alongside our usual curriculum. The theme for safer internet day was, 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. As well as reminding ourselves of how to keep safe online, we also considered the changes that have been seen in technology, and how the internet can be used to make change for the better.



For children's mental health week, the theme was, 'My Voice Matters'. Across the week we have considered that we're all different – we all have different things that make us tick and that bring a smile to our face and make us feel loved, trusted and supported. We all have a voice, and it is important that we feel supported to share it; It is important that we all feel confident that we will be listened to. We have explored ways in which the children feel supported in home and school. We also explored ways in which they would like to be supported and how they could support others.

Themes like these are so important to us to explore in school. We hope to inspire all within our school community that their voice matters, they can be the change makers, both now and in the future. **Mrs Brand**

SKYLARKS We started this week with a bit of science and by tested different materials to find out which would make the best teabag! In maths this week we have all looked at doubling numbers. The year 2's have also been looking at their 2's, 5's and 10 timetables facts. In R.E. we had a virtual tour of a mosque, it was surprising to see that there are no pews inside a mosque and that men and women pray separately. Finally in History we thought of some questions we could ask our Grandparents to find out about what their toys used to be like. We really look forward to reading out all the responses we get back next week. **Mrs Carroll**

MALLARDS It has been test week in Mallards this week. Well done everyone. You approached all these tests with a smile and resilience.

The children finished off their printing in Art this week. wow, your designs are amazing.

In history, we learned about the lives of Anglo-Saxon monks. We became scribes and produced our own Bible passages, using illuminated lessons. Just like the monks of the past, we had to do this in silence. Bliss!

In science we created a fair test to determine whether the children who were tallest could jump the furthest. We had some interesting results. Can the children explain to an adult what they found out? **Mrs Munro**

SWANS It has been a very busy week in Swan Class. In Maths, Year 6 have been working with fractions, decimals and percentages whilst Year 5 have been doing all sorts of different arithmetic using fractions. In English, we have explored discussion texts and considered whether 'Honesty really is the best policy.' The students have begun to write their own discussion texts on a range of issues such as 'Should children be able to keep dangerous animals as pets?' 'Should people have to pay for parking?', 'Should children have to go to school?' 'Should primary school children always be allowed out unaccompanied?'

In our wider curriculum we have covered a vast range of learning. In Geography we have been investigating Greece- the topography, industry and climate. We then all individually created a map of Greece that included mountain ranges, names of seas, key cities and other physical features. In RE we discussed Christianity around the world and looked at the percentage of Christians in a variety of countries.

Thank you Swan Class for a super week of learning! **Mrs Church**

ATTENDANCE

Many thanks for your support with attendance. Our year-to-date attendance figure is **93.1%**. With **Skylarks** winning this weeks Attendance Teddy.



Congratulations

TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:
KINGFISHER WINGS READING - SWANS



*Dear God,
We thank you that we are wonderfully created in your image, and we thank you that you have given us our voices. We pray that we are given the space and support to raise worries, thoughts and ideas about the world. We pray that you give us the confidence to know that our voice matters and give us the courage inspire change.
Amen*

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

February

- 13:** Y6 to Hobart HS to see 'Beauty and the Beast Junior' performance.
- 14:** Y3 to Kwik Cricket at SJLHS.
- 14:** ***NEW DATE*** Ash Wednesday Collective Worship, 9am in the School Hall, families welcome.
- 16:** NSPCC Number Day - our theme: 'Dress up for Digits'.
- 16:** **Last Day of Spring Term 1!**
- 26:** **First Day of Spring Term 2!**
- 28:** Parents Evening – In Person & Online.

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'.
- 22:** ***NEW DATE*** Easter Service at 2.30pm, Geldeston Church, families welcome.
- 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/>