



16 February 2024

# Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy



**Message from our Executive Head** This week we acknowledged the start of Lent with a collective worship on Wednesday, many thanks to all who came to join us. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and is a period of 40 days during which many Christians remember the events leading up to Easter. It is a time of reflection and of asking for forgiveness, it is also a time when many Christians give up something (fasting), or to start something new, this is to represent Jesus Christ's sacrifice when he went into the desert to pray and fast for 40 days. One way of doing this is to challenge yourself to do a kind act for each day of lent, from something as simple as being a listening ear to a friend or helping someone to complete a task, it would be lovely to hear about any kind acts the children manage over half term!

Wishing you all a restful half term. We look forward to seeing you on 26th February. **Mrs Brand**

**SKYLARKS** This week we have been finishing off lots of our foundation topics. We have been testing balls to see which is the bounciest, the children were surprised to find out that the tiny ping pong ball bounced higher than the basketball! In computing we have been comparing and sorting and in art we used the collagraph blocks we made last week to create some beautiful prints. Thank-you for the responses to our 'grandparent questionnaire', we read them all out and were surprised that our grandparents had so few toys compared to children today. We found it strange that toys were only given on Christmas' and birthdays... on grandparent put that they only received 1 toy for their birthday and one for Christmas which shocked the whole class! **Mrs Carroll**

**MALLARDS** In the final week of this half term, Mallards have completed their instructional writing. We have looked at why people should never visit the moon, a pirate ship or a haunted house. I have been thoroughly convinced by their arguments and will certainly take their advice. Great writing everyone! Well done to all the Year 3's who represented our school at the Kwik Cricket tournament earlier in the week. Not only did you make it through to the semi-finals, you encouraged each other and showed real sporting behaviour. We continued our Anglo-Saxon work in History by learning about Alfred the Great's finest achievements.

Have a great half term all and see you in a week's time. **Mrs Munro**

**SWANS** It has been lovely to join swans again for the last week of this half term. This week we have finished writing our discussion texts and the children have impressed me with their balanced arguments on such a range of questions and issues. Our science unit this week finished by looking at the moon phases. Year 6 were able to watch a performance at Hobart High School as part of transition opportunities which they enjoyed. Year 5 looked at constellations and made beautiful pictures of these. This half term the class have earned 80 euros by working so hard so we will be enjoying playing Kahoot on the last afternoon as a reward. Enjoy half term everyone. **Mrs Sherwood**

# ATTENDANCE

Many thanks for your support with attendance. Our year-to-date attendance figure is **93.2%**. With **Skylarks** winning this weeks Attendance Teddy.



# Congratulations

TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS:  
KINGFISHER WINGS READING - MALLARDS



*Heavenly Father,  
Thank you that you are a  
generous God and that you give  
us so many good things.  
We are sorry that we are not  
always generous with others.  
Please help us this week to be  
kind, to do our very best, and to  
be generous when we are helping  
others.  
Amen.*

Source: 40acts.org.uk

## DATES FOR THE DIARY:

### February

- 26:** *First Day of Spring Term 2!*
- 28:** Parents Evening – In Person & Online.
- 29:** Mrs Adock (SENCO) Appointments in Person.

### 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: 'Once Upon a Time.....'.
- 8:** ~~\*POSTPONED\* Y6 to Hobart High Forensic Science Day.~~
- 8:** Bake Sale for the YMCA 'Sleep Easy Programme'.
- 8:** Mothers Day Messages in the Beccles & Bungay Journal.
- 12:** Tempest Photography Class Photos.
- 15:** Comic Relief's Red Nose Day.
- 15:** World Book Day Photos in Beccles & Bungay Journal.
- 21:** World Down Syndrome Day - our theme: 'Shining Bright'.
- 22:** 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/>*

## **\*SAVE THE DATE - 7 MARCH \***

Kingfisher Federation of

**World Book Day 2024**  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March  
Our theme this year is

**Once Upon a Time...**

This year we will have a day of book themed activities for all the whole school, celebrating the **World of Fairy Tales**. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite fairy tale or book character.