

Godmanchester Community Academy



School Newsletter - October 2018

Head of School: Tess Fielden
Executive Head of School: Rod Warsap

October has been another busy month at GCA. As always the children have worked hard and approached challenges with determination and perseverance. It is wonderful to see that our school values are so evident across the school and within the actions of the children.

Please take note of the following messaged from the Senior Leadership team.

Attendance

Since September, we have received numerous requests for child absence during term-time. We are only permitted (by law) to authorise absence in **exceptional circumstances** - examples of these can be found in our attendance policy on the GCA web-site. Many of the absence requests we receive are for holidays during term time - in the vast majority of cases, these cannot be approved since they do not meet the threshold of an exceptional circumstance. Your support in helping your children achieve the highest possible attendance is appreciated since it has a significant effect on their education and absence (especially over an extended period) also puts additional pressure on teaching staff to help your children catch up when they return.

Punctuality

Please note that children should arrive into classes (via the appropriate entrance) from **8.45am to 8.55am** at the latest. There has been an increased number of children arriving through the main entrance which is putting unnecessary pressure on our office staff during the busiest time of day. If you have made a specific arrangement with your child's teacher to come in through the main entrance, then this remains a reasonable exception. Again, your support in helping your child arrive punctually (especially if they travel alone) is appreciated.

PE kit

Please also note that if PE or swimming kit is not in school, office staff will no longer be making contact with parents to request it is brought in. We often have a queue of children outside the office requesting their kit be brought in which, again, adds to the administrative burden of office staff during their busiest time. Class teachers should be making parents aware of PE days (and if there are any changes) but please do contact them via Class Dojo if you are unsure.

Thank you for your understanding in all of these matters.

AR Millionaires

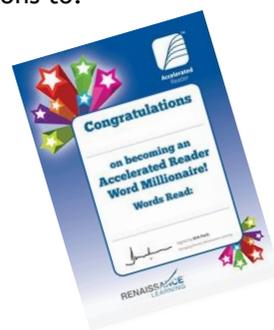
We are proud to announce of first word millionaires of this academic year. A huge congratulations to:

Sofia H-R

James H- R

Bella L

STAR Awards



KS1

Cherry: Liam, Ruby, Henry and Olivia

Juniper: Jack R, Maisie, James and Jack C

Magnolia: Reggie, Olivia, Harriet and James S

Maple: Oliver L, Emilia, Ethan and Ayla



KS2

Elm: Imogen and Edward

Sycamore: Freddie and Rebecca

Ash: Holly and Jacob

Beech: Ivy and Max

Poplar: James and Charlotte

Holly: Charlie W and Ashlee

Oak: Ryan and Freya

Willow: Ellis and Jacob



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Welcome to our year group sections of the Newsletter.

Year Two

Great Fire of London

Year 2 had a fantastic day, transporting ourselves back to London in 1666. We imagined ourselves on Pudding Lane and visited several shops, where we made items such as bread, candles and perfume. Everyone looked brilliant so thank you for your creative costumes! Also thank you to the adults who helped on the day - we really appreciated it.



Year Three

Stone Age Day

Year 3 had a brilliant day living as Stone Age people. The children not only dressed up as cave men and women but they practised their hunting skills and made jewellery out of 'bones'. A fantastic day was had by all.



Year Four

Great Fen



What is the Great Fen?

The Great Fen, near Ramsey was made in the 1700s and 1800s, when the land was drained of water. On Wednesday 3rd October, Year 4 took part in many outside activities: such as pond dipping and leaf rubbing. One of our favourites was den building because we all worked as a team and all had to fit inside the finished dens.

By Sofia H.-R. and Sofia J. in Beech Class

JTAs

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to introduce ourselves to you. We are a new club of nineteen Year 4 and 5s who are the Junior Travel Ambassadors or JTAs for our school.

It is our job to make travelling to school safer and more active but fun at the same time. By holding competitions, running events and presenting assemblies we will also encourage. We are a bit more than a walking club.

Thank you

The JTAs



Macmillan Cake Sale

Year 4 (Ash and Beech) had a cake sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and raised an amazing amount of money **£173. 33**

We sold lots of cakes and squash to Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. It was really fun, including working out the change.

by Noah H and Daniel in Beech Class



Year 6

English Challenge

We are thrilled to announce that four of our Year 6 pupils have made it through to the final of the Cambridgeshire English Challenge.

The final will take place in early December at Ely Cathedral.

Well done to James H-R, Ruby J, Emily C and Megan W we are incredibly proud of all of you.

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PTA News

Next meeting: Wednesday 21st November

School Disco : Friday 9th November

EYFS/KS1:5.15-6.15pm KS2:6.30-7.30pm.

Disco tickets cost £1.50 and are available from the school office. **Please note, all children must be collected from school. Children will not be allowed to walk home alone.**

Recycling = Money for GCA

Did you know that depositing items into the school's clothes bank earns us money? If you are having a clear out, please bring any unwanted clothes, shoes, towels and bedding to school and pop them into the recycling bank. A full list of accepted items can be found on the bank.

Christmas Cards

The children have already created their Christmas card designs with the help of their teachers. Later this month, each child will then receive a FREE sample of the card they designed and you will have the opportunity to order more as well as a host of other gifts. Orders will be despatched in the first week of December.

Dates for your Diary

Please note that all key dates are also added to the calendar on our website.

Friday 2nd November: KS2 Celebration Assembly (invite only)

Friday 9th November: KS1 Celebration Assembly (invite only)

Monday 12th November: 2019 New Intake Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 14th November: 2019 New Intake Meeting 9.15am; E-Safety Parent Workshop 6pm

Thursday 15th November: Year 3 trip to Flag Fen

Friday 16th November: Children in Need (non-school uniform)

Friday 23rd November: KS2 Celebration Assembly (invite only)

Monday 26th November: Talk and Write.

Friday 30th November: KS1 Celebration Assembly (invite only)

Governor News

I am pleased to welcome Ellie Green as our newest governor. Ellie is joining us as a community governor with a focus on Early Years Foundation Stage.

Should you have any questions about governance or want to contact Ian directly you can e-mail him on chair@godmanchestercommunity.co.uk.

Parent Workshops

**Parent E-Safety Workshop: Wednesday 14th November
6.00-7.00pm**



This workshop will be presented by The ICT Service. It will focus on safe use of technology and the internet. Information on parental settings, the legal age of use and monitoring your child's use of technology and the internet will be presented. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions.

Feedback and Marking Workshop: Thursday 22nd November 6.00-7.00pm



During this workshop we will explain the school's new approach to feedback and marking. We will explain the theory behind our change and discuss the different ways we have trialled this approach. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions.