



# Gooderstone Gazette

The newsletter from **Gooderstone C of E Primary Academy** - Your school, your news!

## Worship theme:

**Right and Wrong**

## Stars of the week:

**Owls:** Lilly, for always giving 100% in all areas of learning.

**Skylarks:** Connor, for making improvements in all areas.

**Kestrels:** Rio, for challenging himself all week.

## Writers of the week:

**Owls:** Emilia

**Skylarks:** Clara

**Kestrels:** Jake

**Weekly Attendance Award:** Owls

## Winners!!

**Curie (blue house) have won a non-school uniform day on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.**

## Clubs

*The staff will be running lunchtime clubs from the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> March. Please return your slip by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, places are limited.*

### **Monday lunchtimes- Lego club with Mrs Godbold**

*This club will be open to all year groups. They will need a box of their own Lego and will be given build challenges each week. Maximum of 15 children.*

### **Tuesday lunchtimes- Recorders with Ms Jarrett**

*This club will be open to Year 2 and above.*

*Maximum of 10 (please bring your own recorder if you have one)*

### **Wednesday lunchtimes- Photography with Miss Stanley**

*This club will be open to KS1 and KS2 children.*

*Maximum of 8 children.*

## Go, Go Hare

***Nibbles** the hare is here. We will start our decoration next week.*

*We are sure ours will be the best on the trail! To raise money for the Break Charity we will be having a crazy hair day on **Friday***

***23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**. Children can come to school in uniform with*

*crazy hair and pay a £1 donation to go towards this great cause.*

## Parents evening

*Parents evening will be taking place on **1<sup>st</sup> March 3.20-7pm**.*

*The sign-up sheets are on the classroom doors for you to sign up to see your child's teacher. If you cannot attend on this date, please see your child's class teacher to arrange a different time.*

## Dates for your diary.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March:** Federation day & Parents evening.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** World book day- dress up as your favourite book character.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March: Bags2school drop off. Please keep filling your Bag2school sacks with any used textile donations. Every little helps!**

### **Sports for schools**

Thank you to those of you that have been collecting the vouchers from the newspapers. We are hoping to be able to claim a portion of the £20,000 worth of free sports equipment for schools. Please keep an eye out in the papers for these tokens.

### **World book day.**

Next Thursday is the official world book day but due to the Federation day we will be celebrating it on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** instead. The school council would like the children to come dressed as a book character and bring in the relevant book and a pound donation. They would also like to have a second hand book sale on the same day to raise funds to buy books for the school. If you have any books that are in good condition that you no longer want, we would be happy to take them off your hands. The book sale will take place after school so don't forget your pennies. The children that go home on the bus will be given a chance to go to the book sale before the end of the day. The children will be bringing home the book tokens today, happy reading!

### **Menu Change**

In order to celebrate the world book day on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March the menu has changed. The children will have the choice between:

*Harry Potter's chicken and tomato pasta with Gryffindor garlic toast.*

**Or**

*Winnie witch's swirly whirly tomato pizza with Jolly Roger jacket wedges and daisy butter's peas and carrots.*

**For dessert:** *Willy Wonka's scrumdiddlyumptious chocolate cake or fresh fruit.*

### **The Next Improvement Focus**

Our inference improvement focus has been a success and most children have improved from their baseline starting points. I will be presenting the project results to DNEAT and HMI on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March**. We will continue to improve these skills throughout the year. I have attached the results of the parent's questionnaire to this letter, a big thank you to those of you that took the time to fill it in.

This half terms focus is **handwriting**. It has been flagged up as an area of development across the school. We want all children to join up their writing from Reception to Year Six. In order for children to be given exceeding in year 2 and expected in year 6 for writing, they need to show they can write using neat, fluent and well-formed joined up handwriting. To address this in school we will be having daily 20 minute handwriting sessions in each class. We will be choosing our writers of the week based on their handwriting and the progress they have made. We have set the expectation for the children and staff that all writing is to be joined. We would really like your support at home, we are asking you to practise with your children as much as possible using our handwriting programme Letter-Join. I have attached all the log in details to the newsletter.

## **Parent Reading Questionnaire -results**

### **How often do you hear your child read during the week?**

Answers ranged from once a week to every night. Parents of the older children stated they don't listen to them as much once they become free readers. Parents tend to hear the younger children read more often than the older ones.

### **Have you had to explore/explain the meaning of words that your children didn't understand? Can you give any examples of these?**

Parent gave a good range of strategies they used with their children to understand what they have read:

- 'We look it up in a dictionary and then think of a sentence with it in.'
- 'Words are often concepts that promote wider conversations.'
- 'We discuss the meaning of words as a family over dinner.'
- 'We discuss words they hear on T.V and in their books.'

### **Examples of words:**

- Empathy
- Respectful
- Donate
- Thoughtful
- Solo
- Tutu
- Frantically

### **How do you check that your children have understood what they have read?**

Most parents indicated they asked their children questions about what they have read at the end of the book. A few ask questions during the reading of the book to ensure understanding. Some parents wrote that they don't actively do this or only if the child asks.

### **Do you use Bug Club? (If yes is it useful in supporting your child? If no why?)**

The answers here were mostly yes to varying degrees of frequency. A lot of parents indicated they preferred real book as this cuts down on screen time. One parent said they had never heard of it. Others suggested that the children were engaged at the beginning but have lost interest due to:

- Lack of teacher feedback
- Moving class and not having login details
- No books being issued on the account
- Books chosen not stimulating enough

### **Would you like more information about the teaching of reading in school?**

Most parents indicated yes to this question.

## **Parent Reading Questionnaire - results**

### **Are they any other comments or observation you have about reading?**

- *'Perhaps more comprehension passages with questions.'*
- *'I can't recommend audio books enough for struggling readers. They are great for enriching vocab.'*
- *'The Biff, Chip & Kipper books are quite monotonous in their vocabulary, factual books would be a nice change.'*
- *'Both our children are enjoying reading and show good progress.'*
- *'We are excited to start using bug club.'*
- *'Our children enjoy reading and bring a variety of books home. They read regularly in school and have made good progress. Thank you.'*
- *We are happy with the progress they are making.'*
- *'More regular book changes and an occasional 'hard' reading choice to challenge them.'*
- *'More communication between parent and teacher on child's progress, what stage they are on and what stage they should be at.'*
- *'It is difficult to keep my child engaged in a book.'*
- *'I am amazed at the level of reading such young children are at. Wonderful job.'*
- *'I would welcome more opportunities for advanced readers, maybe a book group or a chance to meet with more people involved in writing.'*
- *'I would like some recommended texts for the child's age group as we run out of ideas.'*

### **Summation.**

*As a staff we have been looking at your suggestions and comments. We will ensure that there are books on Bug Club for your children to use and that the children are given regular feedback about their online reading. We will discuss starting a book club in Kestrels so the children can pick a book to read and discuss what they have read.*

*Regular reading and book changing at school is something we strive hard to do. The school day is very busy so we welcome helpers to hear readers. Where possible we try to give you a class that your children are not in so you can see the range of readers we have in the school. If your child's book has not been changed and you would like a new one you are welcome to come and get a new one from the reading scheme, it is located outside Skylarks classroom. Please ensure you take one from the correct colour box.*

*Next week I will attach the results from the pupil questionnaire. It is interesting to read about their thoughts and feelings on reading.*



## How to log in to Letter-join

### DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN

Simply go to [www.letterjoin.co.uk](http://www.letterjoin.co.uk) and log in, using the Desktop log-in boxes, with these details:

User name: gooder

Password: stone

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs:

- Google Chrome
- Firefox
- Safari
- Opera

We cannot recommend using Internet Explorer for Letter-join.

### IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN

Go to [www.letterjoin.co.uk](http://www.letterjoin.co.uk), select the Tablet Login button and log in using these details:

User name: gooder

Swipe code (starting at top left):



Once logged-in, you will be able to watch how to form all the letters of the alphabet using the same style that we use at school. You can then trace over the letters and words on your tablet and print out the worksheets from your PC for real handwriting practice. I have attached a sheet showing you what the letters look like.

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## Clubs reply slip

**Name :**

*Please circle the club(s) your child wishes to attend*

**Recorders / Lego Club / photography**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Let every light shine