



Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

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Happy New Year!

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you had an amazing Christmas with your loved ones and want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead and have lots of exciting things planned.

An Attitude of Gratitude.

Tomorrow my assembly will be all about having an attitude of gratitude. We will talk about all the things we are grateful for and how to show this through the appreciation of everything we are surrounded with. In each class we will have a gratitude jar where children can add things that they are grateful for and at points during the week these will be shared with the whole class. There has been a wealth of studies that have been done into the positives effects this mind-set can have on both our mental and physical health. These are just two of many:

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_gratitude_changes_you_and_your_brain. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/what-the-wild-things-are/202212/attitude-gratitude#:~:text=Research%20by%20Jeffrey%20J.,better%20and%20get%20more%20exercise>.

In assembly we will talk about how just by replacing 'I have to' with 'I get to', can place a positive spin on what you are doing and can boost your wellbeing. We hope that this new approach helps to spread an attitude of gratitude far and wide.

Spelling

As part of our ongoing approach to school improvement we have been researching ways to improve the children's spelling of basic words. The English language is a tricky beast and likes to trick us at every turn with words that sound the same but are spelt differently (e.g.: homophones; their, they're & there) and sounds that can be made in a variety of ways (e.g: the 'a' sound; ay, a_e, ei, ey & ai). Navigating all of

this and using the correct spellings in our writing is tough work for all of us let alone children. We have noticed in our book looks and analysis of children's work that many of our children are spelling the basic words incorrectly. Being unable to spell these words can affect the fluency of writing and often limits the children reaching the expected/greater depth standard for their age. We will be working with the children on this through our new initiative 'Smashing Spellings'. Miss Stanley is our English Lead across the Federation and will be sharing more information about this approach in the upcoming newsletters and class teachers will also be sharing how it works in their Gooderstone Gatherings.

New Parent Governor

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newly appointed Parent Governor Mrs Slade to the Governing Body. We are looking forward to working with her over the coming years.

Finally, over the next coming week we will be sending out our annual parent survey for you to complete. Thank you all for your ongoing support, we look forward to 2024 being a fantastic year for us all.

Best wishes,



Mrs Godbold