

Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

The Street, Gooderstone, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE33 9BP

Tel: 01366 328280 Email: office@gooderstone.dneat.org Web: www.churchsidefederation.norfolk.sch.uk

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and joyful Christmas, spent with loved ones and creating special memories together. As we begin the new year, we do so with a shared resolution of kindness, collaboration and positivity — because research shows that when adults model caring, supportive and positive relationships, children are more likely to develop strong social-emotional skills like empathy, cooperation, confidence and resilience. Working together as a strong partnership between home and school, we can provide the very best for our children. The year ahead promises to be an exciting one, with lots of enriching learning opportunities, events and experiences planned, and we look forward to sharing these with you as we continue to support every child to thrive.

Weather

The current cold snap is set to continue, and we may experience further very low temperatures over the coming days. While we will do our best to keep the school open, extreme weather may sometimes make this impossible. If we do need to close, you will be notified as soon as possible via an Arbor in-app message and email, usually in the morning.

Half termly theme: Accountability

As you know, each half term we explore a different aspect of cognitive and personal development to help our pupils grow into the best versions of themselves. Over the past few years, we have focused on a range of important themes, from navigating the learning pit and building resilience, to recognising and managing those pesky ANTs (Automatic Negative Thoughts). This half term, our focus will be on accountability — understanding that we are responsible for our actions and that owning our part in what happens is an essential life skill. We are very clear with children that everyone makes mistakes; owning up to them can feel uncomfortable and challenging, but it is a vital part of learning and personal growth. This process does not end in childhood — learning to reflect, take responsibility and improve is something we continue to do throughout our lives.

Research shows that children who are encouraged to take responsibility for their choices and view mistakes as learning opportunities develop greater resilience, self-regulation and problem-solving skills. These children are more likely to persevere, adapt and grow, rather than avoid challenges or



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make excuses — qualities that support long-term success both in school and beyond. Parents can support this learning at home by helping children to own their part in situations without making excuses, reinforcing the message that mistakes are not failures but opportunities to learn. By working together, home and school can create a consistent culture that supports children to grow into accountable, confident and resilient individuals.

Sustainability.

Alongside this, we continue our drive to become a more sustainable school. This month's theme is **Rewilding Preparation**, during which pupils will be planning how we can rewild areas of the school field, identifying suitable locations for bird and bat boxes, and collecting natural and recycled resources so we are fully prepared for the spring sowing season. If you have any resources that could support this work, we would be very grateful to take them off your hands. As part of our wider focus on reducing waste, next week (beginning 12th January) will be a **NO PAPER WEEK**. During this time, children will take part in hands-on, creative learning projects that eliminate the use of paper wherever possible. This not only reduces waste and our carbon footprint, but also helps children understand the real-world impact of their choices, encouraging more sustainable habits that they can carry forward beyond school.

Clubs, Residential and Behaviour.

We would like to remind parents that participation in clubs and extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. As such, we expect all children to abide by the school's behaviour policy and home-school agreement at all times.

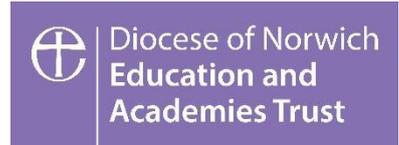
If a child is unable to maintain appropriate behaviour during a club, they will receive a warning. Should the behaviour continue, the child will be removed from the club and will no longer be able to attend.

Regarding the residential trip, it has already been communicated in previous letters that any child who consistently breaches the behaviour policy will be unable to attend the trip. Monies will be refunded, and the child will be educated in another class while their peers are away.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that all children can enjoy clubs and activities in a safe and positive environment.

Mrs Pitchers

We are sad to announce that Mrs Picher, our MSA, will be leaving us. We would like to thank her for all that she has done for the school; she will be greatly missed by both staff and children. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role.



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A job advert will be going out in the next couple of days, as we look for a replacement to join our team and start as soon as possible.

Looking Ahead

As we step into this new year, we are filled with excitement for all the learning, growth, and experiences that lie ahead. Together — as staff, children, and families — we can make this a year full of creativity, curiosity, and kindness. Let's embrace every opportunity, celebrate achievements big and small, and continue to support one another as we help our children thrive. Here's to making this the best year ever!

Best wishes,

Mrs Godbold

Executive Headteacher