



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

Monday 23rd February 2026

Welcome back Letter.

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely half-term holiday. This half term is a short one, but it is jam-packed with lots of exciting activities and special events, with the Year 3 & 4 residential trip being the headline event. We are really looking forward to sharing these experiences with the children and creating wonderful memories together.

Joy

As you know, each half term we focus on building positive mind-sets and key skills that children will need as they grow — for example resilience, responsibility and self-awareness. Last half term we looked at owning our own part: taking responsibility for our actions even when our behaviour has not been as it should be. Thank you to the parents who support this message — we have seen a noticeable difference in children owning their behaviour and offering sincere apologies without excuses.

This half term we will be focusing on positive mind-set, gratitude and the importance of finding joy in the world around us. Research from the field of positive psychology shows that practices like expressing gratitude and maintaining a positive outlook are linked with greater happiness, better emotional wellbeing and improved physical health. Higher levels of gratitude have also been associated with lower levels of anxiety and depression and even with healthier outcomes, such as lower heart rate and better sleep patterns.

We're excited to explore these ideas with the children and to give them tools they can use to build resilience, notice the good in their lives, and find joy in both big and small moments.

Electric Umbrella

We are delighted to share that our pupils will be visiting Mundford Primary School on the 1st June for a very special event with **Electric Umbrella**, following the fantastic experience of Mundford's Young Voices Choir earlier this year. We are also lucky enough to go to Mundford for that day and join in with the experience.

Electric Umbrella is an inclusive musical organisation that brings people together through creativity, acceptance, and community. They celebrate individuality and promote a strong



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message of belonging, ensuring that everyone feels valued and included. Their work combines live music, performance, and participation to create uplifting and memorable experiences for all involved. You may remember them from their performance on Britain's Got Talent, where they were given the Golden Buzzer.

We are thrilled that this will be a collaborative day, with pupils from Mundford Primary as we join them to celebrate creativity and community. During the visit, our pupils will take part in a range of creative musical activities designed to build teamwork, confidence, and the joy of celebrating what makes each of us unique.

It promises to be a joyful and inspiring experience, and we very much look forward to this memorable day!

Communication

At Gooderstone, our ethos is built on honesty, kindness, and respect — values we ask all members of our school community to uphold, including in their communication with staff. We are proud of our dedicated team, who work tirelessly every day to support and nurture our pupils.

To ensure our staff can focus on teaching and supporting pupils effectively, we ask parents and carers to:

- Communicate respectfully and constructively. Emails, messages, or calls that are abusive, threatening, or intended to intimidate will not be tolerated.
- Allow staff two working days to respond to emails. Teachers will not respond during teaching hours; if your matter is urgent, please contact the school office.
- Avoid questioning staff on personal matters or making unfounded comments about their professionalism.

These boundaries help maintain a safe, respectful environment for both pupils and staff. Supporting our staff also supports the children, ensuring they receive the best possible learning experience.

We are also mindful of the wider challenges in teaching today. Recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers is increasingly difficult due to workload pressures, rising behavioural challenges, and the increase in complaints that can create a hostile environment. As you



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may know, Mrs Buckley will be going on maternity leave at the end of this term, and we are currently advertising for cover. We are committed to recruiting the very best staff for our pupils and thank you for supporting them with kindness and understanding.

Together, we can continue to ensure Gooderstone remains a safe, respectful, and welcoming school for all.

Postcards

We are incredibly proud of the many wonderful ways we celebrate our children's behaviour, effort and achievement in school. From Sharing Worship, Wow of the Week, Star of the Week, house points, Gold Cards, Silver Cards and Tea with Mrs G, we place great value on recognising the positive contributions our pupils make each and every day.

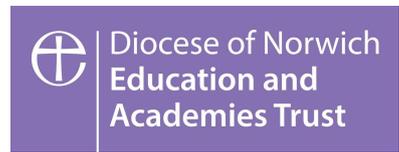
We are delighted to let you know that we are now adding to this with postcards home. Some of your children may already have received a postcard from their class teacher celebrating something they have done — whether that be excellent effort, kindness towards others, improved focus, resilience, or a fantastic piece of work.

We absolutely love this new way of celebrating success, as it creates a real moment of surprise and pride when the postcard drops through the letterbox at home. It allows us to share those special moments beyond the school gates and recognise our children in a personal and meaningful way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in celebrating the achievements of our wonderful pupils.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and for your ongoing support of our school community. As always, we ask that we continue to work together with kindness, respect, and understanding — modelling the values we hope to see in our children every day. Your partnership makes a real difference, and we look forward to a happy, positive and memorable half term ahead.

Best Wishes,



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