



**Goring Church of England  
(Aided) Primary School**

**Faith, Love and Learning**

25 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the half term point I would like to celebrate all that the children have achieved in the past few weeks from learning to sing in another language to developing resilience and teamwork at our Lodge Hill residential, as well as making a smooth transition to school life at Goring for those who have joined us this term. Positive parental comments during consultation meetings indicate a joint endeavor to help our children become strong independent learners.

Thank you to Year 3 who led our Harvest Service, in which they reminded us of the importance of sharing all we have. Your kind donations of food etc. were very much appreciated by the local charity Turning Tides and Dambala Road Primary School in Sierra Leone will receive an additional £192 thanks to your generosity after the church service.

### **Attendance**

Research has shown that children who attend school regularly and consistently during their primary school years achieve better outcomes and results in GCSEs at secondary school. Good habits and resilience need to be established early and can have lasting, positive effects. I would strongly encourage you to ensure your child has the best opportunity to learn by arriving at school on time and by attending every day. Taking your child out of school for holidays during term time disrupts their education and can be detrimental to their progress and should therefore be avoided. Fifteen minutes late each day equates to nine lost days learning each year. If you need support in ensuring an improvement in your child's attendance please contact Mrs Whittaker (Attendance Lead) via the school office without delay.

### **School Improvement**

Since September school leaders have reviewed the progress made during the last academic year towards agreed priorities and national standards.

Standards for Early Years, Phonics and Y2 and Y6 in Reading, Writing and Maths were mostly in line or above national standards. More detail can be found on the school website.

A focus during 2018-19 on developing:

- children's mathematical understanding and reasoning skills resulted in more children achieving the great depth standard in Maths.
- parental understanding of the importance of consistent, regular attendance has led to a reduction in the number of children who are persistently absent.
- improved outcomes for children eligible for Pupil premium funding resulted in greater access to enhanced learning experiences, an increased number of children achieving Good level of development in Early Years, Year 1 Phonics screening standard and expected standard in writing

Our priorities for 2019-20 include:

1. To continue to improve whole school and identified group attendance
2. To continue to improve the attainment and progress of children eligible for Pupil premium funding
3. To increase % of children achieving Expected Standard and Greater Depth in reading and writing by developing and enhancing the English curriculum.

4. To enable learners to develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and achieve well.
5. To develop a 'statutory-ready' curriculum (including Relationships Sex Education) which supports learners to develop their character and help them know how to keep mentally and physically healthy

### **Bikeability**

Year 6 children worked hard to develop important life skills to keep safe on the roads while out and about on their bicycles. Many of these children achieved Level 2 showing confidence and competence to ride independently. Those children who would benefit from further instruction and practice will have an additional opportunity in the Easter break. I would recommend that in order to ensure the children's safety, any child riding independently to school on their bicycle should be wearing a helmet and should have achieved their Level 2 Bikeability qualification.

### **Personal Social Health Education**

During the coming weeks your child will be involved in a variety of activities which will help them understand and explore aspects of equality, safety and positive social interactions. You will receive an overview of your child's Feeling Good Feeling Safe Sessions as well as other helpful information to enable you to be actively involved in your child's learning. There are also details of the content of this programme on the school website for your reference, which I would encourage you to read so that you can support your child effectively in this area.

### **Uniform**

From the beginning of November children will be expected to wear winter uniform to school and bring a coat to school on a daily basis.

### **RECEPTION CHILDREN**

#### **Girls**

Navy blue tunic, skirt or trousers/culottes  
School cardigan or pullover (navy blue with red stripe)  
White polo shirt  
White socks **or navy tights**  
Sensible black shoes (**not trainers, boots or high heeled shoes**)

#### **Boys**

Grey trousers  
School pullover (navy blue with red stripe)  
White polo shirt  
Grey socks  
Sensible black shoes (**not trainers**)

### **YEAR 1 - 6**

#### **Girls**

Navy blue tunic, skirt or trousers/culottes  
School cardigan or pullover (navy blue with red stripe)  
White blouse  
School tie (not elasticated)  
White socks or navy tights  
Sensible black shoes (not trainers or high heeled shoes please)

#### **Boys**

Grey trousers  
School pullover (navy blue with red stripe)  
White shirt  
School tie (not elasticated)  
Grey socks

Sensible black shoes (**not trainers**)

### **Hair**

Hair which is longer than shoulder length will be tied back.

No extreme hair styles, these include unnatural colour, shaved lines or patterns, distinct changes in length in the hair (changes should be graduated)

No beaded braiding.

### **Makeup and Jewellery**

No makeup or jewellery will be worn, other than a single set of ear studs which will be covered with tape during PE lessons (please provide).

All nails will be free from nail varnish.

### **Poppy Making**

During half term we would like each child to make a RED Poppy at home that can be used to form a school display for the school's Remembrance Assembly.

The finished Poppy should be no bigger than about 10cm and can be made of paper, card or fabric; it's up to the children what medium they use. They can be as creative as they wish; collage, paint, sewing, anything!



Finished Poppies should be brought into school on Monday 4 November when we return after the half term break. We look forward to seeing the children's creations!!

### **Remembrance Day**

On Friday 8 November children will discuss the meaning of Remembrance Day and will have a minutes silence together on the playground. We are grateful to Angela Rabone, local Trumpeter, for agreeing to play the Last Post.

Poppies will be on sale from Monday 4 November and will be brought around each class daily. Children may bring in donations any day during the week.

### **Payment of Trips/Residential**

We would like to thank all those parents who have been able to sign up to parentcomms:pay+ and pay for the wonderful educational visits the school provides. If you have not be able to sign up please contact Mrs Hayes-Farmer who will be able to help with this. However, since Parentcomms:pay+ has been put in place, we have noticed an increase in the amount of payments outstanding. We would like to point out that although the contribution is voluntary, visits such as these cannot take place unless all parents, who are able, are willing to contribute. If you have outstanding payments to make, please make sure these are paid via parentcomms:pay+ immediately.

I appreciate that some families might find it particularly difficult to meet the costs. If you feel that you are in such a position, please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion.

### **PSA Christmas Bazaar – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 6pm**

We will be having a muffti day on Friday 22 November. Please bring in donations for the tombola in return for wearing non uniform (sensible shoes please) i.e wine, beer, chocolates, smellies, gifts etc. Please bring items to the library on the morning of 22 November.

### **Heads Hampers**

One of the highlights every year at the Christmas Bazaar is the Heads Hampers. I would be grateful for any donations for these "luxury" hampers over the coming weeks. Please send items into the office.

## Reminder of Nativity Times and Dates

The nativity plays will be held in the school hall. Again these are in two groups, each group has a morning and afternoon performance as set out below. You do not need to book a seat but as they do get very busy you may have to stand (please only stand at the back of the hall, not along the side) We ask that you **do not bring children/babies** to the performance. Each performance is approximately 1 hour long. You will be able to purchase dvd's of the performances. Order forms will be available at each performance.

	9 <sup>th</sup> December	10 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Group 1</b> <b>Finch + Woodpecker + Magpie</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
<b>Group 2</b> <b>Robin + Starling + Owl</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>9.30am</b>

## KS2 Carol Service

A carol service will be held at St. Mary's Church for years 3-6, on Friday 13 December at 9.15am you are very welcome to attend. Please be aware seating is limited.

## Flu vaccine update

Just a reminder that on Friday 15 November children, who have opted to, will be having the flu nasal spray.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Jee  
Headteacher

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