



Robin Wood Residential

Well after three very busy days away at Robin Wood staff and pupils were ready to relax last weekend. Mrs Kidd and Mrs Maude accompanied the children and they were very impressed with every one of them

Mrs Kidd commented, "They were a fabulous group to take away and had excellent behaviour throughout their stay. They really worked well together and developed lots of new skills and really communicated well with each other and supported each other during the activities."

The children took part in activities right up to 9.00pm and with an early start each morning they packed in so much in such a short time! They all faced new challenges and really bonded as a group. For many it was the first time away from family and they demonstrated how independent they can be. I know that in years to come they will always remember this visit! A huge thank you to Mrs Kidd and to Mrs Maude for volunteering to staff this visit. Thank you to Mrs Linsley and to Mrs Kidd for all of the organisation and preparation before the visit could actually take place. As we now need a risk assessment for walking around the village green, you can imagine the paper work needed for a residential visit with adventurous activities included.

Here are just few of the children's comments

Bethany "I was pleased that I went on the visit. My favourite thing was canoeing and we did this in the dark with shining lights so this was extra fun. The Piranha Pool was great fun too!"

Georgia "the visit was very adventurous! People really learnt to listen carefully to each other and everyone was really supportive of each other. My favourite activity was the crate challenge! I would recommend the visit to others as well."

April "I overcame my fear of heights by going on the rock-climbing wall and also the giant swing. It made me more confident about myself. The giant swing was my favourite activity!"

Seb, "It's a really great way to conquer your fears but have fun at the same time!"

Emilia, People from our class really encouraged you to try harder. On the climbing wall my friends encouraged me to go up another level. I was very proud of myself!"

All of the children who attended were sent a personalised certificate from their group leader highlighting their accomplishments during the stay and they were presented with these this week.

Christmas Lunch

Many thanks to the kitchen staff, our cook Sarah and our lunch time supervisors for setting up the hall and providing a wonderful Christmas lunch. We had table clothes, crackers and Christmas music and a fabulous lunch with all of the trimmings.

Pantomime visit

Many thanks to FoGS for supporting the cost of transport for this visit as this makes it a more affordable visit with theatre tickets being quite expensive. This year the whole school set off to watch 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. Mrs Linsley had booked us front row seats in the stalls too! The children could even see into the pit where all of the musicians were playing. Angus and Lucy ended up on stage singing a very funny tongue - twister song and Miss Farley was roped in to helping the very funny character 'Muddles' This was a wonderful way to share live theatre performance and was certainly enjoyed by the whole school.



Musical Performance

On Thursday morning Mrs Coulls and Miss Brookes, music teachers from Durham Music Service, lead an assembly showcasing the musical talents of Class Wear and our violinists. Parents and carers of children in Class Wear came along and were entertained by some fabulous ukulele playing and violin playing. Class Wear pupils even demonstrated a dance they had learnt in their music lessons. Although we had a technical hitch with the sound system Mrs Coulls sang along to help keep the children on track! All of the children who took part were awarded 10 dojo points for their house teams; some had been quite nervous but they were all very proud of themselves and pleased that they had actually preformed for a live audience with lots of grown -ups there too!

John "I felt excited to play the ukulele and the viola. It felt really good that I actually played for everyone watching."

Kyle, " I was happy playing my ukulele for everyone in the hall." A very well done!

In January it will be the turn of Class Tees to have lessons from Durham Music Service so Class Tees parents and carers be prepared to be invited along to hear some African drumming next year!

Christingle Service

The children have been busy making their Christingles for the Christingle service on **Monday 18th December**. Everyone is welcome to come along to **St Mary's Church, Gainford for 9.15am**. **Reverend** Canon Eileen Harrop will lead the service which is always one of the most popular school services we have.

Volunteers

A huge thank you to Mrs Sue Honeywood who retired from here several years ago but who now comes in weekly as a volunteer. She has been a huge help this term. We must also say thank you to Ian Cover and Daisy the sprocker, from Pets as Therapy, who had weekly visits and who have heard lots of stories read by the children - Daisy has enjoyed these sessions as much as the children !

Swimming

Class Wear pupils will be swimming in the New Year. They will swim every Monday afternoon for 10 weeks starting on **Monday 8th January** so they might need to check if their swim wear fits! If they can bring a towel, one-piece swimming costume/swimming trunks or shorts. If they would like to wear swimming goggles these are permitted but not essential. Any child with long hair must have this tied back for the lesson.

PE Kits

PE kits will be sent home before the end of term. Can you ensure that your child brings their PE kit back to school in the New Year and leave it in school Monday to Friday or for the half term.

Visit from the Bishop of Durham

Bishop Paul Butler, The Bishop of Durham, will be visiting school on our last day of term. Our school was chosen to submit designs for his official Christmas card this year and the children will soon find out whose design was chosen. This may well be one of his last visits to a primary school as he will be retiring in the New Year . He has visited and supported our school on several occasions and we all wish him well for the future

I must take this opportunity to thank the wonderful Gainford Staff Team. The staff work incredibly hard to ensure that all children not only make good progress and reach their potential but also have a great deal of fun at the same time! All staff spend so much time planning and delivering exciting opportunities for each and every



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 15th December 2023



'Together we love, learn and flourish'

one of our children. We have been supported across the term by Friends of Gainford School, our Board of Governors, Reverend Canon Eileen and our friends from church too. So, a huge thank you!

Our last day of term is **Tuesday 19th December**. Pupils return to school on **Thursday 4th January 2024**.

As this is the last newsletter of 2023 I do hope that you have a wonderful festive break and we wish you health and happiness for the New Year.

C Riley

Quick Reminder

Start of School Day

Please note the school day starts at 8.55am. Thank you for getting your child/children to school on time. Helping your child to arrive at school on time ensures they can then line up with their friends before the start of the school day leading to a smooth start for the day ahead.

No nut products please!

We do have a pupil in school with a nut allergy. Please ensure packed lunches are nut free and please do not send your child to school with nuts/nut products for a snack. Please check any birthday cakes to ensure that they do not contain nuts too!



'Together we love, learn and flourish'

Attendance w/e 15.12.23

Our Minimum Target is 96%

Well done to all class Wear who have achieved attendance above our minimum target.

A special well done to Classes Wear & Swale for attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Class	Attendance %
Swale	97.5
Wear	100
Tees	93.3

Gold Headteacher Awards

Each week in our Celebration Worship assembly Gold Headteacher's awards is presented to some children who have excelled when working towards our theme of the week

Class Swale	Esme M Esme B Harriet- All have shown super phonics skills
Class Wear	Pippa Harry Excellent effort in all subjects
Class Tees	Seb and Kai – excellent French work

Diary Dates

Please see our Diary dates for the autumn term/start of the new term at the end of this newsletter

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Multi-Sports

With Kyle for Y2-Y6

Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm – places available

New Mini Disciples Club with Sarah Fells /Wendy Broderick

Wednesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm

Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)-Our Parents Action Group

Many thanks to FoGs for raising funds for our school. So far, this academic year they have raised funds in lots of ways with money raised benefitting all of our pupils including

- Organised discos for all pupils
- Funded coaches for educational visits
- Organised Secret Santa activities
- Provided medals and hats for the Santa Run

In the New Year they will be planning lots of activities for the next two terms Hopefully they will include - **Fundraising Car Boot sale, Spring term disco, Raffle ticket sale, Games Night and hopefully Quiz Time at the local pub!**

If you are keen to support our school and learn more about FoGS please contact school or drop FoGS an email gainfordforgs@gmail.com.

We are a Rights Respecting School

This week the children have been learning about Rights Respecting Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a range of cultural and artistic activities.



'Together we love, learn and flourish'

They talked about the activities they had experienced this term ranging from residential, to theatre visits, lessons from music teachers and sports coaches and services in church. They also understood that there were many children across the world who were not fortunate enough to have these experiences or even to have a safe place in which to play.

HOUSEPOINTS/DOJO points

Well done for all the hard work and effort in school this week! The Dojo points have been totalled up and this week Sycamore won have come out on top for the whole term! Well done!

OAK 474

WILLOW 514

SYCAMORE 577

Clubs Spring Term

Tuesdays – After School Club	Multi-skills After School Club	3.30pm-4.30pm with Kyle Swankie
Wednesdays - After School Club	Mini Disciples	3.30pm -4.30pm with Sarah Fells & Wendy Broderick
<u>Diary Dates</u>		
Monday 18.12.23	Christingle Service Santa Run	9.15am at St Marys Church, Gainford. All family and friends welcome.
Tuesday 19.12.23	Visit from the Bishop of Durham Last day in school Break up for Christmas	
Wednesday 03.01.24	Teacher Training Day	School closed to pupils
Thursday 04.01.24	Pupils Return to school	
Monday 8 th January	Swimming lessons for Class Wear	
Tuesday 9 th January	Multi skills sessions	3.30pm-4.30pm with Kyle
Wednesday 10 th January	Mini Disciples Club	3.30pm -4.30pm with Sarah Fells

CPD /Teacher training Days – school closed to pupils

Wednesday January 3rd 2024

Monday 15th April 2024

Friday 24th May 2024