



LITTLE GONERBY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

PROUD MEMBER OF



Headteacher: Mr Joe Hawkins

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Thursday 17th October 2024

Dear families,

As the term comes to an end this Friday, I would like to celebrate all that we have achieved as a school family over the last 7 weeks. We have had multiple visits from colleagues across Infinity Academies Trust, the Trust that our school is part of. Gavin Booth (CEO of Infinity Academies Trust) visited at the end of September and Paul Ainsworth (Education Director) has visited on multiple occasions – both have been absolutely delighted with the progress our school is continuing to make. Our children are a real credit to us, as are our staff, families and wider community, as we flourish together.

Infinity Academies Trust

The staff's term started on Monday 2nd September as the whole of the Infinity Academies Trust staff attended a conference. This was a fantastic way for our staff to continue to strengthen our collaborative approach across our 13 schools and to learn from each other.



In addition to the conference, our teachers have been part of several subject leader networks already, which are great opportunities to share the best practice and to reflect on what we do to achieve great outcomes for the children. All of these network meetings are held at Little Gonerby so we regularly have many visitors to our school now!

New Reception children

Our new Reception children have settled wonderfully into Little Gonerby. They are a confident, enthusiastic group of children who are already proving to be a great addition to our growing school. The EYFS team have done a superb job in helping our youngest children settle into school life.



School Council

Our new School Councillors have been elected! After a thorough application process – involving speeches to help children develop their oracy skills – a democratic vote took place in each class. The KS2 School Councillors have already supported with events in school and the whole School Council are enthusiastic about their own ideas for improving school life further.

Eco Council

Three Year 1 children have started a litter-picking club and have become our first ever Eco Council! These Year 1 children are passionate about cherishing our environment and making the local area a better place for the community. Further exciting projects with the Eco Council will be taking place over the next few terms – you may even see us litter picking outside of school!



Year 4 Viking workshop

The Year 4 class have learned about the Vikings in their curriculum project this term and they were very lucky to have Mr Kingston come into school with his Viking gear! This was a fantastic experience for the children as they learnt about Viking lifestyles, including weaponry and clothing. The children really enjoyed having a 'hands on' experience of the artefacts.



Year 2 Harvest Festival

Our Year 2 class led our Harvest Festival this year. They celebrated the Harvest and its importance across the world, sharing some fantastic Harvest songs, artwork and prayers with the whole school. Thank you to our school community for all of the donations – we have proudly donated these to Grantham Foodbank, where they will be used to support those in need. This is a wonderful example of our courageous advocacy as we look after our community.



Grandparents' coffee morning

Our Grandparents' Coffee Morning on Friday 4th October was a fantastic event. It was wonderful to welcome grandparents into school to enjoy a coffee and cake with their grandchildren. The Key Stage 2 School Councillors did an excellent job in supporting at this special event.

Inspire+ coaching and clubs

We are delighted to have an Inspire+ coach, Sophie Brittain, working with the children every Wednesday this school year. Not only are some classes having P.E lessons taught, but there are also netball, multi-sports and ball skills clubs being taught. This has helped to enhance our club and enrichment offer further, and we will hopefully be able to take part in local competitions too.



Parents' Evening

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Parents' Evening last week. It was well-attended and it is always lovely to be able to share with parents how fantastic the children are. Thank you for your ongoing support with your child's education.

Homework

We have introduced a more consistent approach to homework this term – this was based on parental feedback last year. I have heard many conversations with children and their teachers, alongside some feedback from parents, about how the children are enjoying their homework. We feel that we have the appropriate balance of activities – in line with parental views and also wider research into homework in primary schools – however we welcome any further feedback.



Hello Yellow

Our Hello Yellow Day for World Mental Health Day was a fantastic day organised by our Pastoral team. Schools are usually very busy places, so it was important to spend the day focusing on mental health and how we can support each other with this. We had a lot of fun throughout the day, including spending time 'doodling', playing with the parachute and using a bubble machine! Thank you to the families who attended the parent event – it was wonderful to see this event so popular. The Mental Health Support Team, who are working with us already, were there too to answer any questions and to offer support.

Fundraising

Our Asda Cashpot for Schools fundraiser is currently over £200! Thank you to all of our families for linking their Asda app to our school to help raise this money. There are still 45 days left to raise even more so we look forward to seeing it grow further.



As you can see, there has been a lot to celebrate this term. We are busy planning ahead for next term and the wonderful Christmas celebrations. This term ends on Friday at 3:15pm; we hope that our families have a pleasant week off and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school **at 8:35am on Tuesday 29th October.**

With the very best of wishes,
Mr Hawkins and the Little Gonerby team