



GOLDSBOROUGH and SICKLINGHALL Federation

Headteacher Newsletter:

Autumn Term 1 **GOLDSBOROUGH CE SCHOOL**



Welcome to the academic year of 2019-20. I hope that each of our families have returned to school refreshed and ready for the new school year. The teachers have been busy making the classrooms look exciting and now they are filled with happy chatter and both new and rekindled friendships after the summer.

I have spent my summer working hard to plan interesting and exciting opportunities for the children within our excellent federation. I am delighted to be the Headteacher of both Goldsbrough *and* Sicklinghall as each school brings a uniqueness whilst each having the warmest family feel. I look forward to building the positive partnerships with you as parents and carers that will enable your child to make the best possible progress in all areas of the curriculum on their own personal learning journey.

I would also like to warmly welcome our new starters and new families that have joined us this week. All children have settled in really well and looked so smart (and so little!) in their new school uniform. It is impressive how well they have done in their first week at school; Mums, Dads and Grandparents have been equally impressive as barely a tear was shed as the children scampered excitedly into school. Thank you for all of the preparation you have done at home during the summer holiday to help make their transition into school go so smoothly.

I will be spending time at both schools each day (unless I am out of school for training) - please do introduce yourself and say hello when you see me on the playground. If you have any queries about school uniform, reading, expectations etc. our excellent admin team will be on hand to help. I am always willing to make a call or diarise a meeting to provide support or advice so feel free to leave a message with Mrs Sumner or Mrs King.

This week, I have introduced the first of what will become a weekly **Ethos Statement**. The aim of these is to provide food for thought to help the children reflect on the world around them and develop their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education. This week we looked at the statement: *'No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.'*

Below is a sneak peak of the statement for next week. Look out for these around school and discuss them with your child / children at home.



GOLDSBOROUGH and SICKLINGHALL
Weekly Ethos Statement



'Try to be the rainbow in
someone's cloud.'
Maya Angelou



As part of the British Values curriculum, it is important that children take ownership of aspects of school life and support me in making decisions. As a result we have decided to revamp some of the processes in school and this will mean that they won't necessarily form part of the weekly newsletter.

Please follow the school Twitter accounts as this will, in time, be a great opportunity to see more regular daily updates. [@GoldsboroughCE](#) and [@SicklinghallPS](#)



There will be a picture of our Stars of the Week and Class attendance winner on these accounts so don't miss them! We are aware of those children who do not have social media consent and we will still celebrate their award in school without adding them to the social media platforms.



Rather than Special Mentions and Head Teacher awards, each Friday, the teachers will present a **very special** 'Star of the Week' certificate full of their achievements and efforts in class. I hope, that in time and once the new routine is established, parents will be able to join us in this very special assembly. Watch this space!

Children will be able to visit my office to receive Head Teacher Award stickers on a daily basis upon the recommendations of members of staff in school – they can be sent to me many times each week to acknowledge the small achievement milestones that the children are proud of.

They too will be able to visit Miss Gimeno, who has been promoted to our new Federation Assistant Headteacher. She has two days each week out of class and will support children and teachers at both schools in many areas of the curriculum.



School Meals

The more pupils who take up school dinners daily, the more financially sustainable offering school meals are as a small school. I hope that as many families as possible choose school dinners as their preferred option. The cost of a school meal is £2.30 per day for pupils in Years 3-6. School meals for pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are free as part of the government's universal infant free school meals initiative.

Breaktime Snacks

Please ensure that crisps, chocolate and biscuits are not brought in by pupils for breaktime snacks as we promote healthy foods in school. In addition to the health benefits, these items are not suitable for all of our children with allergies – keeping all children safe is of paramount importance. If grapes are given as a snack, please cut them in half lengthways as they are a choking hazard if kept whole.

Ideally, children who wish to bring a mid-morning snack should bring fruit or fruit based healthy snacks.

A Nut Free Environment

As you will be aware, we strive to make sure that our school is a nut free environment. This is due to a number of pupils living with a severe allergy to nuts or nut products. We kindly ask all parents and carers to be extra vigilant in ensuring:

1. No nuts, nut bars or products that contain nuts are brought into school by any child, either as part of his/her lunch or as a snack. (this could include flapjacks, chocolate biscuits, cereal/muesli bars, fruit bags, pesto in salad).
2. Parents/carers ensure that, if cakes are brought in for a child's birthday, no nuts or nut products are used in baking.
3. Families are vigilant in ensuring that any creative homework activity that involves junk modelling or use of packaging does not include packaging from a nut-based product (e.g. Crunchy Nut Cornflake box).
4. Pupils are reminded not to share their snacks or items in their lunch box with their friends.

We thank you for your co-operation as we continue to aspire to fully meet every pupil's needs whilst in school.

Payments:

It is no secret that the strain on school resources has become every more prominent in recent years. As a small school, the budget cannot support non-payment of school meals and other services such as clubs and swimming. **I must request that all meals and services are now paid for in advance for at least the coming week** in this new academic year **rather than after the service has been taken**. This will avoid the immense workload for the admin team that results from non-payments.

Non-payment for school trips is another area that is having a significant impact on the school budget. Although the contribution is outlined as voluntary, unfortunately most schools are no longer in a position to meet the short-fall from non-payments. As a result, where a sufficient amount is not reached or the number of non-payments is too high to cover the cost of the trip, it is likely that the **proposed school visit will be cancelled**.

Children are at the heart of everything I do and I would much rather have money in the school budget to enrich the school curriculum!

In the coming weeks, more information and reminders will be sent by Parent Mail regarding:

- attendance expectations
- proposed residential visits for the academic year
- medicines in schools
- applying for your child's secondary school place
- further dates for the diary
- exciting curriculum overviews outlining the plans that teachers have in store for the children

This timely correspondence will address important messages as they arise and replace a lengthy weekly newsletter; Curriculum newsletters will be sent each half term (starting in Autumn 2) and I will instead send a personal message about the life of school that week.

Thank you for your support so far. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to phone school or book an appointment to see me.

Miss Zoe Pickard
Executive Headteacher

Upcoming Diary Dates *(please note that while we endeavour to give you a much notice as possible, all proposed dates may be subject to change).*

Autumn Term 1

Swimming Lessons for Class 3 and 4 on Wednesday mornings:

04 Sept-11 Dec 2019

Mon 9th Sept: 3.15-4.15pm Football After School Club starts

Fri 13th Sept: Roald Dahl Day?

Wed 25th Sept: 6.30pm Parent/Carer Information Evening, school hall

Thurs 10th Oct: Swimming Gala, Knaresborough Pool

Fri 11th Oct: Harvest service, St Mary's Church

Tues 15th Oct: 9.30-11.30 Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Tues 22nd Oct: Individual Photographs, Tempest

Tues 22nd Oct: 5-7.30pm Parent/Carer Consultation evening

Wed 23rd Oct: 3.30-5.30pm Parent/Carer Consultation evening

Thurs 24th Oct: Last Netball After School Club

Fri 25 Oct: School closes for half term

Further dates are available on our school website but please be aware that these are subject to change.