



# **GOLDSBOROUGH and SICKLINGHALL** **Federation**

## **Goldsborough CE Primary School Newsletter**



Dear Parents and Carers,

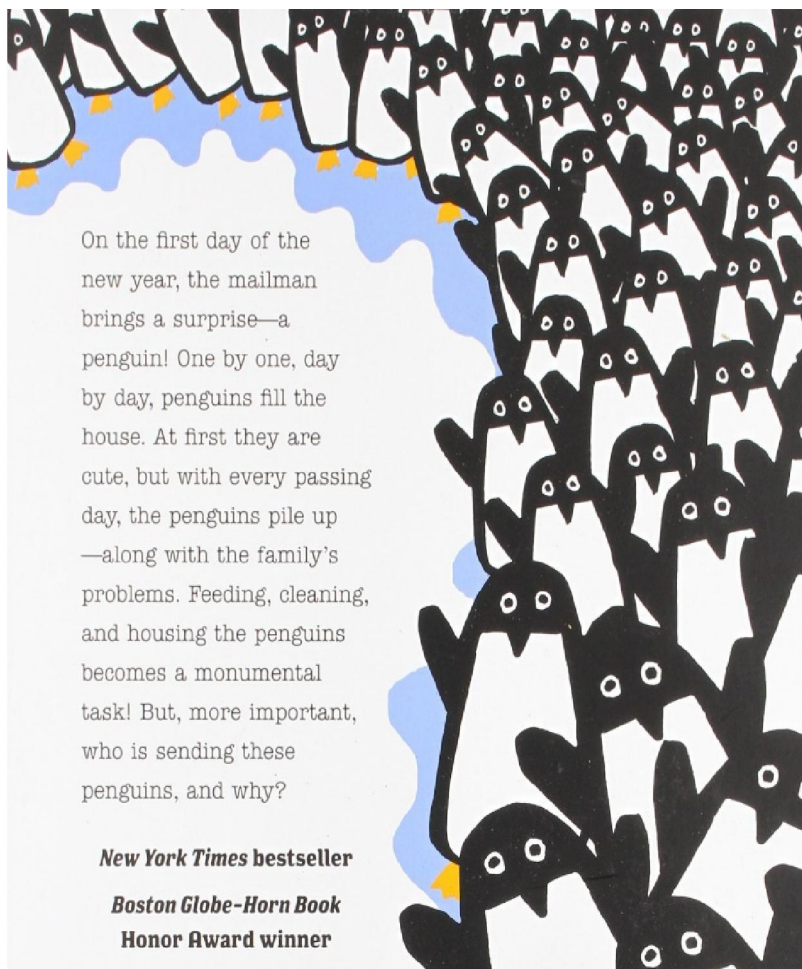
Our return back to school has been an exciting one! We started with a focus on the book 365 Penguins about a household that receives a Penguin in the post every single day! This led to lots of excellent Maths Problem Solving and Reasoning as well as written pieces about Penguins and Science experiments learning how blubber insulates animals in freezing-cold water!



On the first day of the new year, the mailman brings a surprise—a penguin! One by one, day by day, penguins fill the house. At first they are cute, but with every passing day, the penguins pile up—along with the family's problems. Feeding, cleaning, and housing the penguins becomes a monumental task! But, more important, who is sending these penguins, and why?

**New York Times bestseller**

**Boston Globe-Horn Book  
Honor Award winner**



Behind the scenes, I have been working closely with teachers making lots of exciting changes to our curriculum in line with the new Ofsted framework which was implemented since September 2019. This framework expects the children to have a broad and balanced curriculum with clear progression for each year group – this is really important in mixed ages classes to ensure that children don't repeat learning and they are excited by lessons and challenged appropriately. Our updated websites are also in progress – we can't wait to launch these in the coming months.

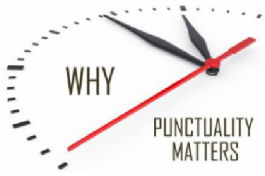
I have begun to add more books to school too – the first focus was to ensure that there were enough challenging books for the older children, recommending books that I have recently read myself. We are slowly building a reading buzz in school and will soon begin to modify the library! Watch this space.

### **Attendance Matters:**

Attendance at school of less than 90% is classed as persistent absence by the Department for Education. National figures show that only 68% of pupils achieve the expected standard in the core subjects of reading, writing and mathematics where their attendance is below 90% compared with 86% of pupils with attendance of 95% or above. This is due to learning missed in lesson time and the difficulty of catching up with lost learning on a child's return to school. For our youngest children, compulsory school



age is 5 years old.



**Punctuality Matters too! Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:**

Arriving **5 minutes late** every day adds up to **3.5 days lost each year**

Arriving **10 minutes late** every day adds up to **7 days absence per year**

Arriving **15 minutes late** every day adds up to **10 days absence per year**

Arriving **30 minutes late** every day adds up to **22 days absence per year**

- Attendance of **95% for the year equals 10 days that your child has been absent** - that is **2 full school weeks** of your child's learning missed for that year!
- Attendance of **90% for the year equals 19 days that your child has been absent** - that is **almost 4 school weeks** missed.
- Attendance of **85% for the year equals 29 days** that your child has been absent - that is **almost 6 school weeks** missed.
- Attendance of **80% for the year equals 38 days** that your child has been absent - that is **over 7 school weeks missed**.

The school day has two attendance sessions. If your child seems unwell in the morning but seems better by lunchtime, please bring them into school for the afternoon session (unless they have had a recent spell of D&V); this will help to keep your child's attendance as high as possible.

If your child ever has to have an emergency medical appointment, please ensure that you try to make it at the beginning or end of a school day, this way your child would only miss a maximum of half a day for the appointment.

The school year has 190 days for pupils to attend a year. There are 175 days per year when your child does not have to attend school. These days could be used to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits
- Visit friends and family
- Go on holiday
- Go shopping
- Go on days out
- Attend routine appointments (please try to reschedule these out of school time if they are non-urgent).

We have designed a Red, Amber, Green system based on the above facts to help keep individual attendance as high as possible; and to avoid the need for the Local Authority become involved when attendance falls to 90% or below. A letter will be sent home each half term to inform you of your child's attendance. Look out for your child's attendance to date coming soon.

|              |          |                              |                        |
|--------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>GREEN</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>Excellent attendance</b>  | <b>97% and above</b>   |
| <b>AMBER</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>Borderline Attendance</b> | <b>94% to 96.9%</b>    |
| <b>RED</b>   | <b>-</b> | <b>Poor Attendance</b>       | <b>93.9% and below</b> |

We understand that there are reasons why a child's attendance may be low and is unavoidable – a perfect example of this was when the sickness bug was in full force before Christmas! If we are already aware of the specific reasons behind your child's attendance figure of less than 90%, this letter will be for your information only.

However, you would like to discuss your child's attendance or would like support from the school in any way that might improve your child's attendance figure, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher in the first instance, or myself.

### **Active Playtimes**

In recent weeks, I have been working with the Development Manager for North Yorkshire Sport Ltd. to outline a plan for increasing Physical Activity in the school Day and Sports Provision over the course of an academic year.

One of the areas that we investigated first was playtimes as there has been numerous accidental bumps due to overcrowding. Our village school is more popular than ever but the space the children are able to use remains the same. The wet weather limits us to the playground and as numbers grow, routines and processes need to be amended both to meet the needs of the children and to ensure that safeguarding remains effective. The Golden Mile is something that is valued by all children who are thoroughly excited about receiving their new medals thanks to FROGS. The children are keen to enjoy more activity like this.

Some of our younger children have expressed that they find it quite daunting being on a very busy playground while our older children have stated that they need more space to use equipment so that they can be more physically active. We don't want our children to feel bored – especially as the expectation is that children are doing 30 minutes of physical activity where they are out of breath each day. Our aim is to instil a love of fresh air and activity in all of our children.

In the coming weeks we are going to move to two sessions so that we can trial having more equipment out at playtime. When the field is in use in the Spring and Summer then we are able to use more space and we may have days where the children are all together again to ensure that the family feel to school remains and so that children can maintain friendships across the age ranges.

### **Allotment news**

The beautiful Hyacinths that the children planted at school and then grew at the allotment with Mrs Brearton were a real success – my pink plant has made my office smell lovely over the last week or so. The children were very pleased and excited to share them with you. We must give a special mention to some of our Year 6's who missed out as the mice had tucked into their bulbs for lunch! This was valuable lesson indeed about how gardening doesn't always go to plan sometimes and they handled the situation with maturity - well done!



As soon as the hyacinth's flowers are over then you can plant the bulb outside. The leaves will die back but if you leave the flower stem on then it will help the bulb grow back again well next year.

We are now looking forward to our next whole school growing activity – strawberries. Yum Yum!

If you could send your child's pot back into school that would be brilliant as we can use them for the strawberry plants in the initial stages. If you don't have the pot anymore, please don't panic as we can get hold of some extras. However, we are aiming to reuse them as it's a good message about recycling for the children.

We are hoping to grow a range of fruit, vegetables and flowers this year and get **every child** involved at school. Look out for a message from Mrs Brearton in the next few weeks seeking volunteers to help prepare the allotment plot with her.

Some of the jobs may include:

- General clearing / weeding / digging / levelling the ground
- Moving existing plants (like the rhubarb) or pruning back blackberry bushes etc.
- Take up the flagstones and relay them – this is not essential but it is on Mrs Brearton's wish list to make the allotment look more presentable!
- Laying protective matting and building tunnels for the plants to be covered.



Last time Mrs Brearton met the volunteers on a Sunday afternoon as it seemed the best time work collectively - thanks again to the families that gave up their valuable time to help. If you are able to help again this time, please remember that you are more than welcome to bring children, grandparents or neighbours along to help too – we hope that this allotment will be a real community project. The more the merrier! Also, don't feel that you have to stay for hours: any time that you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions in the meantime while waiting for more details, please speak to Mrs Brearton.

## Ethos and Values

This half term we are focusing on **Peace and Thankfulness as our Values**. This is one of the most important aspects of the curriculum as these messages are the thread that links everything together. Our Ethos Statements this half term are:



"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

Eleanor Roosevelt



"No person, no place, and no thing has any power over us, for 'we' are the only thinkers in our mind. When we create peace and harmony and balance in our minds, we will find it in our lives." Louise L. Hay



"The world has enough beautiful mountains and meadows, spectacular skies and serene lakes. It has enough lush forests, flowered fields, and sandy beaches. It has plenty of stars and the promise of a new sunrise and sunset every day. What the world needs more of is people to appreciate it, enjoy it, and be thankful for it."



"Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns; I am thankful that thorns have roses."



"Be thankful for what you have and stop complaining - it bores everybody else, does you no good, and doesn't solve any problems."



## At Goldsbrough, we also look at a Bible Quote to match the Christian Value:



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27



"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ for you." Thessalonians 5:18.



### **Collective Worship Ambassadors:**

Goldsborough CE school has, for the first time ever, Collective Worship Ambassadors. They lead the children in reciting the school prayer and help us to maintain links with the local church. This week, our Collective Worship Ambassadors began to think about Thankfulness. They met Reverend Stroma McDermott at the Food Bank at Knaresborough Holy Trinity Church to gain an understanding of how hardship can become an issue for regular people like you and I and that poverty isn't always the stereotypical way presented to them via charities like Comic Relief. The children began to understand what it means to be humble and to be truly grateful for what they have.



The volunteers at the Food Bank explained to the children how everything works and they decided that we would like to support them in some way.

Our Collective Worship Ambassadors are preparing to deliver their first Whole School Collective Worship where they will tell the rest of the children in school all about it. Watch this space for a letter from them asking for your help!

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit <https://www.trusselltrust.org/what-we-do/>

This is a really exciting time for our school – already this academic year numbers have begun to grow and our reputation in the community as being a caring and unique school that supports all of its pupils is clearly strong.

Many thanks for your continued support and shared ideas which all help to make it the most wonderful place to work.

Zoe Pickard  
Headteacher

### **The Bay Horse – Park and Stride**

Have you visited The Bay Horse, our lovely village pub yet? They are very welcoming and community focused, offering the car park free of charge for our parents to park at drop-off and pick-up times – Goldsborough School's Park and Stride.

### **FROGS Movie Night**

Thank you to everyone involved in running a very successful Movie Night this week. The event raised £330 for FROGS.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

27<sup>th</sup> January – 3.45pm Yr6 Parent/Carer meeting re Carlton Lodge Residential, held at Sicklinghall School (Parents from both schools can attend either date) led by CL Staff.

28<sup>th</sup> January – 3.30pm Yr6 Parent/Carer meeting re Carlton Lodge Residential, held at Goldsborough School (Parents from both schools can attend either date) led by CL Staff.  
29<sup>th</sup> January – 9:05am – 10:05am – Supporting your child with Number (Year 1 Parents)  
3<sup>rd</sup> February – Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 6.00pm (Y6)  
6<sup>th</sup> February – Zulu Nation Workshop (am Goldsborough / [pm Sicklinghall](#))  
10<sup>th</sup> February – Parent Consultations 2:00pm – 7:30pm (EYFS – Y5)  
12<sup>th</sup> February – Alternative Valentines – Love in the Community – Inviting Elderly residents and members of the church to school for ‘elevenses’.  
14<sup>th</sup> February – Class 3 Bun Sale - FROGS  
14<sup>th</sup> February – End of Half Term – normal school closure time.

24<sup>th</sup> February – School re-opens to pupils  
5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day Potato Competition – bring in decorated potato for judging (date tbc)  
5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day / Y4 ‘Get Together’ ahead of Bewerley Park  
9<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> March – Yr6 Residential to Carlton Lodge

16<sup>th</sup> March – Sanctuary Week in School with Reverend Stroma McDermott

16<sup>th</sup> March – 1.25pm Drama Club Theatre Performances  
17<sup>th</sup> March – Class Photographs  
18<sup>th</sup> March – 9:05am – 10:05am – Making Phonics Fun (Year 1 Parents)

18<sup>th</sup> March – Y4 Bewerley Park Residential Parent Meeting 3:30pm at Goldsborough (Parents from both schools can attend either date)

19<sup>th</sup> March – Bags2School

[19<sup>th</sup> March – Y4 Bewerley Park Residential Parent Meeting 3:30pm at Sicklinghall \(Parents from both schools can attend either date\)](#)

25<sup>th</sup> March – Class 3 Visit to Victoria School, Keighley  
1<sup>st</sup> April – 9:05am – 10:05am – Making Phonics Fun (Reception Parents)  
1<sup>st</sup> April – Goldsborough Easter Service at St. Mary the Virgin Church (2:30pm)  
3<sup>rd</sup> April – Last day of Half Term – normal school finish time.

Please do check the website as dates are subject to change.