

Our Vision

We **ASPIRE** to be the best we can be.
We learn from our **EXPERIENCES**.
We **CHALLENGE** ourselves each day.
We respect and **CELEBRATE** our Gainsborough family.

Head Teacher Newsletter December 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

How quickly this term has gone! It's hard to believe we have only 2 weeks left before our Christmas holiday. Children are working hard to complete their learning and are practicing for their Christmas performances – it's a very busy time!

Thank you for all your involvement in school so far: we have had successful year group meetings, RWI sessions, a Reading Curriculum Evening, Reflection Week activities and some great support of home learning, with many more opportunities for you to share the excellent learning that is happening in school. Feedback has been really positive and I know our children love sharing their work and learning. We have also had outside visitors in school, all who commented on the great learning atmosphere and enthusiasm of the children. In general the children are working hard and really focussed on their learning.

In the last 2 weeks we have been looking at bullying – what it is, how we deal with it and how it is different from just falling out with our friends. Children know to use the phrase, "Stop it, I don't like it" and we expect all children to respond. We will always deal with issues in school whether it's a falling out with a friend that needs adult help, or something more serious.

Please remember all children at Gainsborough are expected to wear our school uniform; it supports our sense of belonging and family. **I've noticed that there are occasions where children are not wearing the correct uniform, please make sure they are and label your child's clothes with their name.** Our school colours are **navy and white**. Jewellery is not generally allowed in school, but small stud ear-rings and a watch may be worn. These **MUST be removed for all PE lessons**, children should be able to do this themselves or not wear them to school. PE kits can be left in school for the week; there are occasions where children are missing out on their PE curriculum as they do not have their kit.

It's with sadness that I share with you the news that Mrs Bullen will be leaving us at Christmas. She has been at our school for over 7 years; for nearly 4 years she has travelled in from Kent, with total dedication to our school. Now it is time for her to share her expertise closer to home. During her time at Gainsborough Mrs Bullen (or Miss Clark when she first arrived!) has reviewed and developed the inclusive provision and practice within the school to a high standard. She has developed staff, ensuring succession planning and expertise at many levels, directly impacting on the quality of the provision of education. Thank you Mrs Bullen, we all wish you the best of luck in your new DHT position in Kent.

With our fantastic Assistant Head Teachers in place we will all be working together to continue our journey to being the very best we can. We do not need to rush to find a replacement yet and I will update you next term.

Miss Aoife, one of our Resource Provision teachers, is also leaving us at Christmas. She is moving out of London and ready for new ventures. After 2 and a half years with us I would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her the best of luck.

Another impressive celebration is that since September, as a school, we have raised over £900 for different charities—well done!!

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions or would like to speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team. Although we are on the playground daily there is only time for quick chats. We will continue to use letters, texts, our website, emails and newsletters to provide you with information.

I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas concerts. Please come along early if you can for a tea, coffee and a chance to chat.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Strain
Head Teacher

Panto

Today the children in Years 1 to 5 went on our annual trip to Barking Playhouse for the pantomime. The children were very excited going out and the visit was planned with military style efficiency! Fun was had by all. Thanks to Mrs Carver for organising and all the staff and helpers for making it such a success. As a school we put a lot of money into this trip to make it affordable so all children can go. We are also reliant on your £5 contributions to keep this going each year.



Governor letter and elections: please see attached a letter from the Chair of Governors. I have also put information about becoming a parent Governor – we really would like another to join us on the Governing Body. Please come and chat with me if you want to know more.

Teaching Staff Structure January 2017

Deborah Strain - Head Teacher							
Lisa Christall – AHT (Y1/2)		Felicity Coetzee – AHT (Y3/4)		Alex Roberts – AHT (Y5/6)			
Theresa Hedoun/Rokya Miah – YN Brownen Hawkes - YR Emma Webb – YR (EYFS Lead)		Rabia Ali – Y1 Anisa Nessa – Y1 Oliver Dean – Y2 Laura Mattieson – Y2		Julie Carver – Y3 Shereen Agar – Y3 Siobhan Murphy – Y4 Fernando Leyenda – Y4		Merline Worgess – Y5 Susan Liu – Y5 Patrick Taylor – Y6 Caroline Pitts – Y6 (SMT)	
Annette Clark – Reading Lead Kereen Hurst – EAL Lead		Caroline Cawtherley – Inclusion Lead (SMT) Theresa Hedoun – SEND Support		Tracy Atherton – Interventions/Cover/Support Jenny James SaLT		Sara Amin – RP Lead (SMT) <i>Kim, Tracey, Emma, Jaime, Sue – Lead Inclusion TAs</i>	

Upcoming dates

Monday 5th December @ 12.30pm – 4pm Choir Christmas Performance at a Retirement Home

Wednesday 7th December:

Christmas Lunch for children and staff
EYFS trip to Stratford Circus

Thursday 8th December @ 2.30pm KS1 Nativity

Friday 9th December @ 9.20am KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 14th December @ 2.20pm KS2 Christmas Performance

Thursday 15th December @ 9.20am KS2 Christmas Performance

1.30 – 3pm Class Christmas Parties

Friday 16th December – Christmas/Winter jumper day @ 3.15pm Children finish for the Christmas holiday

Wednesday 4th January 2017 – Children return to school

Tuesday 10th January @ 3.20pm to 4.20pm – Maths Curriculum Evening (in year groups)

Friday 20th January – Y6 theatre trip - Romeo and Juliet

Thursday 28th January:

9am – 11.30am – Family Learning Morning

Nursery to Discovery for Dr Seuss Story session

Breakfast Club and Monday to Friday Club

Both these clubs now have more children than spaces. **We are unable to take children who have not booked and paid** for a space in either club. We are unable to take children at short notice as we have strict ratios we must stick to.

We will be sending out further information in January. Please see the school office for further details and to confirm your child's place for January.

Both clubs will start (for those booked) on Wednesday 4th January.

Local issues

There is a big housing development planned for the other side of the rail tracks. I have been working hard with councillor Kay Scoresby and a local resident Dean Armond to ensure that the traffic issues on Manor Road have been thought about before any building work commences. Over the next 2 weeks surveys of the pedestrians and traffic in Manor road will be happening, we are hoping it will provide enough evidence that they will put in an additional pedestrian crossing.

The consultations on the Stephenson Street development will be done by the London Communications Agency, LCA

<http://www.londoncommunications.co.uk> Dean Armond, has set up a Facebook Group, Canning Town North Community Action Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/281153208904132/>

Please note the Local Authority is planning on making all roads around the school and surrounding areas permit only.

SCHOOL TIMES

The school gates open at **8.40am**. Please make sure that all children are in school by **8.50am** at the latest. School finishes at **3.15pm**. Parents should make sure that their children are collected on time. If there are any changes to your usual collection arrangements please phone the school to let us know.

Attendance and Punctuality

We have been hit quite hard with a lot of sickness across the school and have slipped well below our 96% target despite good attendance figures in some classes. We look at Class attendance weekly, giving out cups to the classes with the highest figures. Children can also work towards a class treat for the class with the best attendance in a term, and wristbands for 100% attendance. Let's keep working on this.

We have an obligation to follow up absences of all children when they fall below 95% and a legal duty to put actions in place to ensure attendance improves. Please work with us on this.

It is our policy that term-time holiday is unauthorised. Term-time holiday may be subject to a penalty fine and referrals made to the Educational Attendance Officer. We would like to thank all those parents/carers who have supported the school in this decision. We appreciate how expensive it is to take a vacation during school holidays. **There have been families who have been fined for taking children out during school time – this is a fine for each parent for each child.** This is common Newham policy.

The figure for 'Persistent Absenteeism' is now attendance below 90% and any pupil who has a figure below this figure, or poor punctuality, throughout the year will be discussed with our Attendance Officer. Punctuality is vital to a good start to the school day for pupils and we thank all our families who ensure that children arrive ready to start learning at 8.50am. The gate opens at 8.40am.

BIRTHDAYS

If your child has a birthday and would like to bring a treat for their class make sure that this is a fruit or a healthy treat. Teachers will be unable to give out party bags and cake. If in doubt, please check with the office. **NUTS:** Please do not allow your children to bring anything with nuts into school. This includes peanut butter and Nutella sandwiches.

On **Friday 16th December** we're inviting all pupils to take part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day.

Everyone will be asked to wear their silliest, sparkliest or cosiest Christmas/Winter woollies. If your child doesn't have a festive sweater already, just dig out a plain jumper and decorate it with tinsel, baubles or homemade snowflakes.

Children are welcome to make a donation of 50p to help save children's lives around the world. All contributions go to Save the Children/Make a Wish/MacMillian.

Remember children finish on Friday 16th December at 3.15pm