

# Newsletter

This year we are supporting:

**SAMARITANS**

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" - Martin Luther King Jr*

## Latest News



### School Council

On Friday the School Council met with Mr Samson for the first time this year to discuss what the school currently does well, how we could improve further and what charity we will be supporting this year. ALL members came with brilliant, mature and measured contributions. Our house events, kind staff, charitable work, our new stilts, our **Love, Live, Learn** motto and our 'strict' stance on bullying were just some of the things we do well at GJS. New nets for the astro-pitch goals, a Friendship Stop, new water fountains and bug hotels were among the ideas to make GJS even better. We also spent time talking charities and the one that received the most votes was Samaritans. We will kick off raising money for this charity during our Christmas Jumper Day on **Friday 20th December**. More details on this will follow after half term. The children now need to consider what event we will hold in the Spring and the Summer term to raise money for our chosen charity.



### Smart Phone Free Childhood Update

Following last weeks newsletter item, the GLP have arranged a parent talk at Busbridge Junior School on Tuesday 12th November @ 7.30pm. There is a parentmail and flyer that you will receive with more information and signing up instructions for those interested in attending.

### Confidence Values Champions

Well done to all our newly crowned Values Champions this week for showing such great CONFIDENCE since September. In keeping with our chosen charity for the year, it was great to hear how many children showed CONFIDENCE by asking for help or support during lessons to help their understanding! The names of our CONFIDENCE Values Champions can be found on the reverse of the newsletter.



### Anti-Bullying Break-Time Award

Well done to **6SD** who were awarded the AB Star Break-Time Award for this half-term on Monday. The award is given to the best class over the half term who have upheld the school values, our Rights Respecting status and been inclusive and kind on the playground. It was noticed too that they have been particularly nurturing, looking out for and checking in with their buddies!

### Y3 Stone Age Day

On Wednesday, Year 3 travelled back in time to the Stone Age! We enjoyed outdoor learning in our 'house-tribes', we improved our 'hunting' skills (archery), we gathered useful foods and other materials and we thought about what tools we needed to survive. We also learnt just how difficult it is to make and control a fire! In the classroom, the tribes had the chance to design their own settlements, thinking carefully about what they would need to be successful. At the end of the day, all children agreed that they had become better historians, with more respect and understanding of exactly how different life was then, compared to now. We would like to thank the PTA for funding our wonderful stone age experience in Year 3!

### Our VALUE in focus is: COMMUNITY

Next half-term, our 'in focus' value will be **COMMUNITY**. All staff will be on the 'look out' for children displaying a sense of community on the playground and outside of school. The value will also be the theme for 'Carols by Candlelight' as we enter the festive season! The more this can be further reinforced at home, the better. Please feel free to have 'home talks' on our values and maybe even share examples of how we can all contribute positively to our **COMMUNITY**!

### Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join our active and supportive Governing Body. This is a voluntary role, and you will be required to attend three committee meetings per year and three Full Governing Body Meetings. Should you be interested in applying, please contact our Clerk, Shannon Hall on [clerk@godalming-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@godalming-junior.surrey.sch.uk).

### Attendance Update

Whilst attendance at a national level continues to be a hot topic, we continue to have very high rates of school attendance, currently at 97%, and continue to appreciate every effort from parents to ensure children are in school, on time and situations that could lead to unauthorised absences are avoided. Attendance continues to have a very high profile at GJS, is everyone's responsibility and we know how damaging low attendance and 'broken weeks' can have on overall academic progress and attainment. Thank you for your continued support and please refer to our Attendance Policy on the website [here](#) for more information on our attendance processes.

### Reporting Absence

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please ensure you call the school before 8.30am, and leave their name, class and symptoms, as this is required to formally authorise their absence on the register.

### GJS Breakfast Club

We continue to provide our **NEW** Breakfast Club for GJS children in partnership with Koosa. This is open from 7.45am and is run by GJS staff. A breakfast of cereal, toast and fresh fruit will be provided daily!

### And Finally...

With school being closed tomorrow for a GLP wide Inset Day, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable half term break! We look forward to seeing you all back on **Monday 4th November**.

### House Points

Mars	1713
Saturn	1400
Jupiter	1316
Neptune	1202



**Our Designated Safeguard Lead and Operation Encompass Key Adult is:**  
**Mr Samson—HT**

**Our Deputy Designated Safeguard Leads are:**  
**Mr MacIver—Deputy HT**  
**Mr Wilkinson—SENCo**  
**Mrs Munz—Bursar**  
**Mrs Kirby—HSLW**

*'It's everyone's business'*

# PTA News

## School Disco

Thanks to all those who attended and helped out at the school disco this week. A cracking time was had by all children and we saw some tremendous dance moves. It's the first time we've had every member of one class turn up, 6SD you Rock!

We are still looking for a treasurer to help with the running of the PTA. If you are interested please reach out to Phil (philipcurtis@hotmail.com) or Rhian (Rhianhooper@hotmail.com). Without a Treasurer we can't function as a charity.

## Next Event:

Christmas Fair—Friday 13th December

# School Achievement

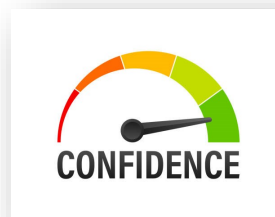
## Pupil of the Week

- 3AR – Freddie
- 3EC – Lase
- 4JS – Sadie
- 4NS – Theo
- 5NM – Daniel
- 5KW – Flynn
- 6EM – Alex
- 6SD – Amara



## CONFIDENCE Values Champions

- 3AR – William
- 3EC – Olivia
- 4JS – Oli
- 4NS – Elvey
- 5KW – Abigail
- 5NM – Henry
- 6EM – Maggie
- 6SD – Lexi



# Sports News

## Football Tournament @ Tillingbourne

Well done to all the girls who performed superbly at Tillingbourne last Friday. The Upper School team battled hard but did not make it out of their group, whilst the Lower School team were knocked out at the Semi Final stage! Once again, our teams were fantastic ambassadors for the school and should be proud of how they performed!

## Glebelands Cross Country—Saturday 16th November—1.00—2.30pm

Signing up for the Glebelands Cross Country event is well under way. Children will have until **Monday 4th November** to get their names down. The lower school races are approximately 1000m (1km) with the upper school races approximately 1600m (1.6km) - longer than the 'Chippie Chase'. Races will begin at 1.00pm and at 10 minute intervals between genders and year groups e.g. Y4 girls at 1.00pm, Y4 boys at 1.10pm. There are medals for the top 6 places for each race with the top 8 positions scoring points for their school.



# Diary Dates

## Autumn 2024

### November

- 5th: Y6 Science @ Charterhouse begins
- 5th: Y5 Swimming begins
- 9th: Prospective Parent Tour @ 10.00am
- 11th–15th: 10R—Remembrance Week
- 11th: Prospective Parent Tour @ 9.00am
- 12th: Prospective Parent Tour @ 10.45am
- 13th: Prospective Parent Tour @ 6.00pm
- 16th: Glebelands Cross Country Run
- 18th: Y4 Sports Hall Athletics @ Broadwater
- 19th: Parent/Teacher Meetings—Late
- 21st: Parent/Teacher Meetings—Early
- 22nd: Y6 'Born Free' Presentation
- 29th: Y3 Maya Assembly
- 29th: Y3 and Y5 Football Tournament @ Tillingbourne

### December

- 9th–13th: 10R—Human Rights Week
- 13th: Christmas Fair—4.00–7.30pm
- 16th: Y3 Carols by Candlelight @ 9.15am
- 17th: Y4 Carols by Candlelight @ 9.15am
- 18th: Y5 Carols by Candlelight @ 9.15am
- 18th: Christmas Lunch
- 19th: Y6 Carols by Candlelight @ 9.15am
- 20th: Christmas Jumper Day (for Samaritans)
- 20th: End of Term @ 1.15pm

Inset Days 2024/25  
~~Monday 2nd September 2024~~  
**Friday 25th October 2024**  
 Friday 14th February 2025  
 Tuesday 22nd April 2025  
 Friday 23rd May 2025