



Newsletter



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

Latest News

This year we are supporting:

SAMARITANS



The Snowman

On Saturday, our wonderful choir supported The Godalming Band in two performances of The Snowman at the Wilfred Noyce Centre to a packed house! Not only were the audience treated to a wonderful rendition of the title song but there was also a 'bonus' performance of 'Rudolph' to get everyone in the festive mood. The children were a delight, supported by Miss Coleman, Miss D and Miss Martin and truly sent everyone away 'Walking in the Air'!

Smart Phone Free Childhood Update

Following our recent consultation period and the unanimous views amongst parents, staff, governors and School Council; **leaders at GJS have decided it will become a Smart Phone Free school from September 2025.** Children will not be allowed to bring smart phones into school along with the strong recommendation that children having smart phones is delayed until they start secondary school, at the earliest. Based on a number of factors and overwhelming evidence, we feel that this decision is in the best interest of the children of GJS and we hope that parents feel supported at a time when the topic itself is in sharp focus. We are sure other Godalming Learning Partnership schools will follow the decision we have taken, in order to better serve our **community** and better safeguard their childhood. If you would like to speak to our E-Safety Lead on the matter, please contact Miss D directly or via the school office. Miss D will also be able to signpost parents, should they wish their child to bring a phone into school, to reasonably priced non smart phones on the market and provide other advice. We hope that informing parents at this time will help with any arrangements and conversations before the policy comes in from next September. Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey and for your continued support. More details, information and guidance around e-safety can be found on the school website [here](#), which will be updated as the year progresses in readiness for September 2025.



The Skill of Listening Assembly

As part of our commitment to support Samaritans this year, Ginnie Gregory visited the school this week to talk to the children about the importance of listening and sharing worries that children may have. This was very much aligned to our nurturing **community** and ethos at GJS, and how it is important that we share any anxieties we have rather than keep them bottled up.

Year 3 Maya Presentation

Year 3 were delighted to have a visit from our local Maya expert, Sabrina Bazley! They had a fantastic time learning all about different aspects of the Maya culture, what it was like to live within such a community and even had a go at talking some Mayan. Thank you so much Sabrina for bringing History to life with your stories, songs and dances—we really appreciate you coming in each year!

Our VALUE in focus is: COMMUNITY

In the lead up to Christmas, our 'in focus' value continues to be **COMMUNITY**. All staff continue to be on the 'look out' for children displaying a sense of community on the playground and outside of school, including Year 3 Melisa who attended her first Brownies session last week and was awarded a certificate asking her to 'do her best to serve her COMMUNITY! We are sure she will! The value will also be the theme for our 'Carols by Candlelight' this year 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!

Godalming & Villages Community Store Food Bank

Mrs Kirby is able to refer any family to the Godalming and Villages Community Store, where you can receive a fortnightly food/ groceries/ essentials package for up to three months. Please do not hesitate to use this service if your family needs the help. The Community Store is based at Farncombe Cricket Club, and there are drop off points at all the local supermarkets.

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...

Thank you to everyone who supported Mr Samson's 'Movember' efforts this month and helped raise **£295** for Samaritans! Every donation has been much appreciated. There will be another event in the new year for those wishing to take part in a charity football match at Broadwater on 20th January, known as 'Blue Monday'. Parents are welcome to put their names forward, if available between 7.00–8.00pm on the 20th January AND are willing to donate a minimum 'entrance fee' of £10 to play. Parents are also welcome to use this as a sponsored event to raise even more funds using the sponsor form, available from the school office, should they wish to. **ALL** proceeds are going towards supporting Samaritans. Space on the teams are limited so the sooner parents contact Mr Samson, either in person or via email, the more likely you will be to secure a space on the 'greens' or the 'whites'! Those interested can contact Mr Samson directly via: head@godalming-junior.surrey.sch.uk.

House Points

| | |
|---------|------|
| Saturn | 1487 |
| Neptune | 1281 |
| Jupiter | 1273 |
| Mars | 1263 |



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

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

'It's everyone's business'

PTA News

Christmas Fair—Friday 13th December 4.30-7.30pm

Thank you to everyone who brought in their Jolly Jam Jar donations today, as always, it was much appreciated. We now look forward to the wonderful Hamper Goods next week!

Friday 6th December—Hamper Goods

For our Christmas Hampers, as previous years, these will be themed by colour, broken down by year group:

Year 3—red Year 4—green Year 5—white/silver Year 6—Gold

Please see attachment for further details on hamper items.

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.**



School Achievement

Pupil of the Week

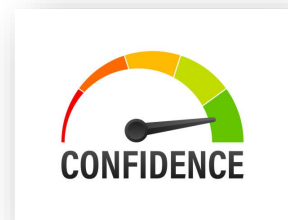
- 3AR – Kane
- 3EC – Melisa
- 4JS – Olivia
- 4NS – Isobel
- 5NM – Lily
- 5KW – Oliver
- 6EM – Beth
- 6SD – George



99%

CONFIDENCE Values Champions

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



Sports News

Year 3 and 5 Football Tournament @ Tillingbourne School

Good luck to our Year 3 and Year 5 footballers taking part in their respective tournaments this afternoon at Tillingbourne School. We are sure they will do themselves proud and we will update you on how they got on next week!

Diary Dates

Autumn 2024

December

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|-----------|---|
| 2nd-5th: | Year 4 Bikeability |
| 6th: | Hamper Goods Mufti Day |
| 9th-13th: | 10R—Human Rights Week |
| 10th: | PAPAYA Smart Phone Safety Workshops Y5/6 |
| 11th: | Year 4 Sayers Croft Information Webinar @ 6pm |
| 13th: | Christmas Fair—4.30—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 |

