



Nursery Children celebrating Children in Need



Headmistress' Letter

Dear Parents,

This week we have continued to focus on our theme for the half-term of staying safe. We have spoken to all of the children about the importance of talking to a trusted adult about anything that is worrying them, as well as holding a special assembly with the Upper School focussed on anti-bullying week. Next week we will be turning again to the subject of staying safe and behaving appropriately on line. The academic learning and progress of the children is of course very important but post-pandemic all of the other aspects of education concerning wellbeing and community are quite rightly very high up on many schools' agendas.

The Book Fair has been a tremendous success and it is wonderful to see so many pupils walking around proudly carrying their purchases or even with their head in a book as they go from A to B. Thank you to parents for supporting us in this. Today has been an exciting day at Godstowe as we have met those candidates shortlisted for the position of Head form September 2021 and we shall of course keep you posted.

In the meantime I wish you a very happy and relaxing exeat weekend.

National Online Safety

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and guardians work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children.

To create your account, please follow [this link](#) and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Guardian' as your user type.



Weekly Awards



Artwork

Olivia P
Isabel W

Friday Badge

IH - Marina B
IM - Elissia N
IC - Safiya D

Sports Star of the Week

Molly B	Angelina S
Naomi B	Morife M
Hikari I	Beatrice H

Typing Awards

Beginner:	Intermediate:
Lucille D	Elizabeth B
Lucia T	Ella C
Sophia Z	Morife M

Accelerated Reader of the Week

Mercedes C



This week Nursery have been very excited to get stuck into creating the backdrops for our Nativity play. They have lots of fun making all sorts of animals and snowmen, using a variety of skills and materials. On Tuesday the children made delicious melting snowman biscuits too. Our sound of the week has been 'c' and the children made colourful caterpillars. The Number Zoo character has been Amazing Eight, who is a spider.

This week in Beginners, we have been starting to get very Christmassy! We have continued to practice our Nativity performance, and learn all about the story of Christmas. We have also been making lots of decorations for our classrooms. We have continued to practice our phonics skills and we have learnt some new sounds this week too. In Maths, we are practicing our addition skills and adding one more to numbers. What a busy and fun week!



Kindergarten children have enjoyed the start of a new topic in Literacy - a book analysis of "Lost in the Toy Museum", which ties in very well with our ongoing History of Toys theme. To emulate the characters in the book, the children enjoyed games of Hide and Seek, using the phrases "you are getting warm/warmer/hot as fire" and "you are getting cold/colder/freezing". They then went on to create a Story Map, to practise sequencing the story correctly, before progressing towards writing their own story next week. Art and DT lessons are starting to take on a festive feel but we don't want to spoil the surprises for parents! In Mathematics, we have started to look at the teen numbers and place value - just in time to get ready to count those advent calendar windows!

This week Kindergarten and Transition had an assembly about Children in Need, and learnt about how it started, which children are helped by the money raised, and how Pudsey got his name. They have all enjoyed having a Mufti Day to raise money for Children in Need, and thank you very much for your kind donations.

Christmas has now started in Transition, as we have been focusing on the Christmas Story in our RS lesson, sequencing pictures and writing it in our own words. Our Art lessons have also had a very festive theme, as we are working on making decorations and cards. We have also been down to the JK Theatre on a few occasions to practise our lines on stage without scripts, and have been working on our songs and actions in our Music lessons. Costumes are being provided by school but if we need anyone to bring in anything extra, we will let you know next week. In Maths, we have been continuing with our multiplication topic, learning $\times 5$ and revising $\times 2$ and $\times 10$. Please continue to practise these at home. We would also be grateful if you can check that your child has a full PE kit in school, including red socks as some children seem to be missing items of clothing.

Please can you help your child to learn their lines for the Nativity play, including working out at what stage they will be saying them.



**We raised an amazing £230 for Children in Need.
Well Done Everyone!**

Menu

In line with the new guidance on healthy eating in the Early Years, we have been reviewing the menu options we offer for children in Lodge and Nursery. We have worked with the chef to launch some new exciting menus, featuring lots of healthy, home-cooked, nutritious meals for our youngest learners. We have also included a more substantial and fulfilling afternoon snack for each afternoon, especially for those staying for a longer day. When reviewing the menus we have looked at the whole day, morning, lunch and afternoon and hope that our new menus will offer a healthy, balanced day. You will be able to review the newest menus for Lodge on My School Portal.



The U11 team attended a netball tournament at Berkhamstead school on Saturday. The competition was fierce with over 200 Year 6 girls there. It was a tiring but rewarding day with eight matches being played. Our girls finished a respectable mid table out of the A-squad teams.



On Saturday, the U12 and U13 lacrosse squads played in a tournament with 10 other schools.

Godstowe was the only prep school taking part. The U12's played well to finish as runners up in their section and went on to play a semi-final against Berkhamsted which they lost. This meant that they finished in 3rd place overall. Players of the tournament were Sara McGuire and Anushka Balaji. Please could those girls come forward along with the rest of the team to receive their medals.

The U13's were unbeaten in their section and went on to play in the semi-final against Haileybury, which they won. They then had to play in the final against Claremont. At the end of the game, the score was 1-1 so we had to play extra time. At the end of extra time, the score was the same, which meant we had to keep playing until one team scored - this is called sudden death!

Unfortunately, despite playing excellent lacrosse, Claremont was the first team to score, so Godstowe finished in second place. Players of the tournament were Angel and Holly. Well done!



Godstowe Gymnasts

GODSTOWE GYMNASTS IAPS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

What an amazing weekend for the Godstowe Gymnastics Team. The gymnasts shone as they performed a set floor routine as well as a vault on both Saturday and Sunday. In each age group there were between 8 and 10 teams representing schools from all over the country. Each team was made up of 5 to 6 gymnasts with the top four scores making the final team scores.

Godstowe entered an Under 10 advanced team on Saturday at the IAPS competition. The team, made up of Jessica, Raphella, Athena, Elysia, Hattie and Holly performed superbly with Athena achieving 3rd place, as well as Elysia and Holly coming joint second. This meant that together they won the Team Gold Medal which makes them National Champions! What an incredible achievement.

They were back at the event on Sunday at 7.30am for the annual 2 piece ISGA national competition. Godstowe entered three teams. The girls had to perform a set floor and set vault. It was the first time the U9 had competed but stormed through it to be crowned the U9 advanced National Champions as well as Holly placing 2nd overall. The team was made up of Saskia, Hattie, Skye, Clemency, Elodie and Holly.

The Under 10 team were on flying form this weekend and went on to win the U10 ISGA team competition. Raphella also placed individually 3rd overall in the category and Elysia 2nd. The team members were Raphella, Elysia, Ava, Jessica and Athena.

Then we had the fantastic U11 team who were placed 2nd overall in their category. Along with Poppy being placed 4th overall, and Kiana 1st. The team was made up of Elodie, Jemima, Bella, Kiana and Poppy.

A huge well done to all the gymnasts for being such superstars. Each one of you should be very proud to have achieved so well. Great teamwork!

A huge thank you too to our coaches Laura Timmins (T30 Gymnastics) and Hetty Duncan. A great deal of work goes into both the coaching and the organisation behind the scenes. We are also grateful to the parents for their support both at the competitions and throughout the year getting the daughters to all of the training sessions.



Friends Of Godstowe's Christmas Fair

27th November 2021 2pm-5pm



The Fair is drawing closer and we look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for all the amazing contributions to the hampers and the stalls. It should be a great event! Don't forget to buy tickets if you haven't already done so. Tickets are now also available via classlist for the Silent Disco! Limited spots available so book early to secure your place on the dance floor!

Where does the money go?

This year any money made by the Christmas Fair will be used to support school in purchasing 'extras' for the children. In addition to this, we will be using some of the funds raised to support the school's charity, SKSN

For some years now, Godstowe School has been raising money for the Sucheta Kriplani Shiksha Niketan School for disabled children in India. You may be aware of the various fundraising appeals that have taken place in the past, ranging from providing wash bags for every child, football shirts, sanitary products and trainers, to our more ambitious projects to build toilet blocks, a house and the Godstowe Common Room. This year we have decided to focus on supporting the Cansdale Scholarship, named after the former Head of Geography.

We shall be supporting the education of Shilpa, a pupil that Godstowe School has followed throughout her time at SKSN, who now has decided to pursue a career in teaching. Godstowe School has pledged to support her in her B.Ed/BA degree, and this year any profits remaining from the fair will go towards this great cause. There will be plenty of information about Shilpa at the Christmas Fair so please do stop and read about what this extraordinary young woman has had to overcome.

Godstowe's Book Fair

All week, the school has been hosting the Godstowe Book Fair in Reception. Every class was welcomed into Reception during their usual Library lesson and were given the opportunity to choose some books. It was fantastic to see every student taking advantage of this opportunity and over 500 books were chosen, with some girls taking multiple books home.

We hope the girls enjoy reading their new books!



Boarder's Corner



Godstowe boarders enjoyed a full, busy weekend. On Saturday, the team from My Little Boarders came to visit us to provide skateboarding workshops for all three boarding houses. It is the second time we have had their guidance and expertise and the girls loved re-learning their skills and new ones too. This time we had ramps and rails, too!

On Sunday there was our annual festive trip to Waddesdon Manor. Some girls saw a sneak-peak of the house by watching the new Cinderella movie which was filmed there. We made our way there on Sunday morning with 80 members of our boarding community. The stalls were fantastic, selling a wide range of handmade goods, jewellery, food, decorations and gifts. As the sun began to set a light show began, illuminating the house and leading us to the light trail. A fantastic visit that we highly recommend for all of Godstowe's community!



[Click here to watch the Boarders' Video from 13th-14th November](#)