



## Headmistress' Letter

Dear Parents,

It is wonderful to be writing to you at the end of this first week of the new academic year, after having our pupils back in school for one week. The girls and boys have enjoyed playing in the playground, catching up with friends and making new ones, just as much as starting their new learning journeys for the year ahead!

All of our girls and boys have spent time getting to know their form teachers as well as subject teachers, and have been able to lay those very first, but crucially important, foundation stones for the next three terms. Our new starters are settling in extremely well and finding their feet with help from more established Godstowe pupils, in readiness for what we know will be an enriching and exciting Godstowe journey ahead.

This week in assemblies we have focused on resetting, and re-establishing our routines and expectations against a more normal background that the unsettled last 18 months of the covid pandemic.

Every year we identify two targets for the whole school: one pastoral and one academic.

Our pastoral theme will be resetting our norms and values before moving on to other areas of wellbeing including mental health and internet safety as well as how to behave online. Our academic target will be to ensure that our pupils have the necessary study skills for learning in the modern world, with the ability to work in teams, both as leaders and team members, and to question the sources of information from which they are learning as just two aspects of this focus.

It was a pleasure to award the badges to the Form Monitors and Pupil Council representatives, as well as to recognise the Deputy Form Monitors in assembly this morning for the Lower School. Taking on these additional responsibilities is very important for our pupils as it helps everyone learn

how to look after each other as well as how to represent each others' views democratically at Pupil Council.

Overall it has been a very successful first week back and I very much look forward to seeing you all at this evening's welcome drinks and information evening.

and I wish you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.



Head of school, Georgina, and deputies Evie and Phoebe started in their new roles this week, and we wish them the very best for the academic year ahead!



Enrichment Clubs started this week and Lodge enjoyed their Judo!



Our new starters meeting the Form 1 Teachers



Girls in Main School singing Finem Respire at the top of their voices!



# Lodge

## Godstowe Pre-Prep

Claire Gillett, Head of Lodge

It has been lovely to see all the children back this week. We have been so impressed with how all of our girls and boys have been settling back in, especially those new to Godstowe.

This week has been about establishing routines and allowing the children to get used to their new environment. We have been focusing on remembering to say please and thank you, and to shake hands with a member of staff at the end of the day.

The children all enjoyed the sunny weather at the start of the week and were able to play together outside at break and lunch times.



## Fourths' trip to Cranedale

The Fourths have had a wonderful time in North Yorkshire at the Cranedale Centre this week, studying a range of things from the geography of a river, animal adaptations and camouflage, the role of forests and even listening to bats chatting on an echo locator. You'll find out more about what they have been up to from the pupils themselves next week in the newsletter!



We had a special Birthday Prayers this morning with ten children blowing out their candles! It has been very special to be able to celebrate with Beginners, Kindergarten and Transition together.

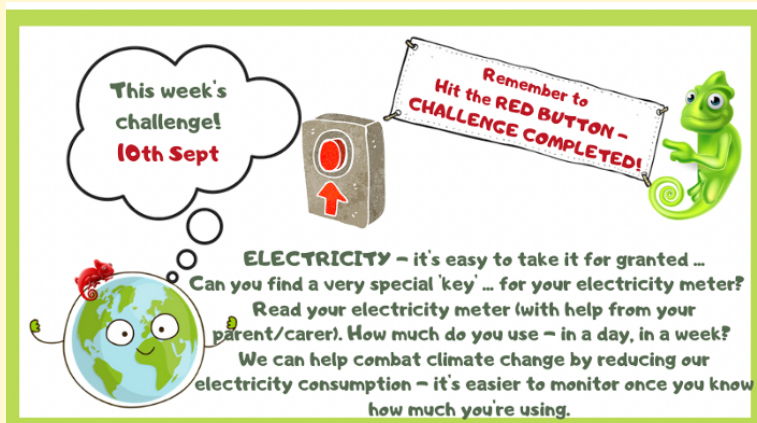
Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend our induction meetings on Tuesday, which we hope were helpful.

## Young Climate Warriors

There is no escaping the reality of this summer's IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report signalling a 'code red for humanity' – written by more than 200 of the world's leading climate scientists from 66 countries and distilling more than 14,000 individual research papers. The UN Climate

Change Conference (COP26) being held in Glasgow in November is desperately needed to help us unlock the necessary strategy and plans to avoid the worst of the climate crisis. Our first Autumn term challenge encourages Young Climate Warriors to find the 'key' to their electricity meter, and start understanding and monitoring their family's electricity

consumption ... it's not only governments and big businesses that hold the key, we can play our part too.



*Code Red for Humanity ... yet inclusive and green economies, prosperity, cleaner air and better health are possible for all, if we respond to this crisis with solidarity and courage*

*UN Secretary-General António, responding to the IPCC report, August 2021.*



# Boarders' Corner

A huge welcome back to our extended boarding community! We welcomed over 30 new girls across the three boarding houses as well as returning girls and after more than a year away, our weekly, part-time and ad-hoc boarders have returned too.

The Fourths enjoyed Sunday night as an introduction to the house and, we are reliably informed, have been making the most of their experience at Cranedale.

All of the girls on site, from our youngest boarders in Walker House to the Upper Thirds in Highlands and Walker, have enjoyed evenings of ice-breaker activities, getting to know each other, the staff and routines accompanied by hot chocolate and ice creams.

The houses are once again filled with the noise of happy girls and we are delighted, as ever, to see their impromptu music and dance concerts, their developing lacrosse skills as they practice together in the evenings and blossoming new friendships.



## *We are recruiting!*

If you, or anyone you know is interested in applying, for the roles below, please do see our website vacancies page, or contact Gundula Ackermann, HR Officer.

### **PR and Communications Officer**

See website for further details

### **Swimming Club Assistant**

(3 afternoons per week). The Assistant does not have to be lifeguard-qualified, but we would like to have a confident swimmer and ideally someone who has worked with children before.

## *Next Open Morning Saturday 9th October 2021*

If you know a family who are interested in Godstowe, please do invite them to our next Open Morning.

[Register on our website.](#)

*Friday 10th  
September*

6:45 PM

## *Drinks Party & Information Evening*

Please join us for welcome back drinks for parents followed by information sessions for Lower & Upper School

