



*Our tribute to Queen Elizabeth II*



## A letter from the Headmistress

Welcome to our first edition of the Newsletter for the new school year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the last few weeks and feel so at home amidst the buzz of Godstowe life, the enthusiasm of your girls and boys and the joy of working with such a dedicated and experienced team. Whether I have met you in the car park in the mornings, or in Reception as you leave each day I am starting to make good inroads with getting to know you all. I have started my class rounds and am diligently learning the names of your children, so all round good progress has been made. Having attended Nursery and Lodge inductions mornings, sat with children at lunch and boarders' supper, watched the girls at sport and Saturday Lacrosse training, had the privilege of holding a variety of assemblies and the giving of awards, it has been full immersion into this special community. And, what a special community Godstowe is.

Thank you for your patience after the cancellation of our Welcome Drinks at the end of the first week. These have now been re-scheduled to Thursday 22nd September at 7pm and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. I know I speak on behalf of the Godstowe team when I say how much we enjoy these sorts of events and the chance for us all to socialise together.

Enjoy the weekend and I hope that you can watch the State Funeral on Monday for Her Majesty, the Queen from the comfort of your homes. This has truly been an historical time to live through.

"Hot of the Press"  
See if you can find  
Godstowe in the  
Sunday Telegraph  
this weekend...

### Key Dates for next week

#### 22nd September

- 7pm Welcome Drinks

#### 23rd September

- Fourths HPV Vaccinations
- 3.15pm Year group Information Meetings
- EXEAT - please find timings on page 19 of the red calendar

#### 24th September

- Cross Country event at Gayhurst School

#### 25th September

- Boarders return (no supper provided)

It has been lovely to welcome all the children to Nursery and Lodge this term, and the staff have been very impressed with how quickly everyone is settling in. It was good to be able to meet with many parents last week to explain some of the routines at Lodge in each year group. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term!

Nursery have been working hard to learn all our routines, rules and new faces. They have had a lovely week and have enjoyed lots of games that have helped us to learn each other's names. This week we have been decorating our treasure chests and have filled them with our favourite items to share with our friends. The sound of the week was 's' and we made sandcastles. In cookery we made vegan biscuits and decorated them to look like us!

The pupils in Transition have made an excellent start to the term, learning the new routines, working very conscientiously and setting a good example to the younger children. In our Maths lessons, we have been studying place value, comparing and ordering numbers between 1 - 100. In Art, we have been learning about primary colours, looking at the work of Piet Mondrian and painting our own versions.

It's been a brilliant week in Beginners. We have all been settling in very well, making lots of new friends and getting to know our new routines and our new environment. We are working hard to learn how to listen well, put up our hand to speak, and follow instructions. We have enjoyed drawing and painting our self-portraits to hang up in our classroom, so do pop in and look at them! We also had our very first Godstowe swimming and French lessons this week. What an exciting time!

In Geography Kindergarten children have started the term learning about 'where we are in the world' in terms of the seven continents and five oceans. Having learnt about the parts of the human body in Science last week, they are now learning about the different ways to label animal bodies. They were particularly delighted to link this with the various continents from which these animals came. As an additional cross curricular activity we studied the unique form of art from the Aborigines of Australia and the children produced their own interpretations of 'Dot Painting'.





# Weekly Awards

## Boarders of the Week

Highlands Angela K  
Turner Leonor V  
Walker Rhea S

## Friday Badges

IC Evie S  
IH Avneet G  
IM Tabitah G

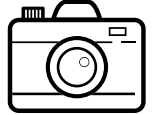
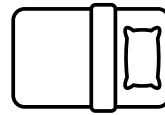
## Typing Certificates

Beginner Hikari I  
Ruby D  
Sophia P  
Honor D  
Intermediate Isabella P

## Boarders' Corner by Highlands House

On Saturday we had time to complete our prep before having time to relax back at home. Then it was lunch and we had a scrumptious Chinese-themed lunch for the Mid-Autumn Festival. All three houses then headed down to The Rye to play on the adventure playground which was so much fun. Following this, we all went to the Eden centre, where Highlands House got milkshakes and ice cream from The Works, whilst Turner and Walker had the opportunity to buy a book and a bubble tea!! We returned to school to have a yummy dinner with fortune cookies and moon cakes. Some of the girls explained a little bit about the Mid-Autumn or Moon Festival. We then got ready for bed and brought our duvets and pillows into the recital hall to watch Small Foot, the movie, which was a very relaxing end to a busy day.

All the boarders had a lovely Sunday. We had a slight lie-in and then woke up to pastries whilst watching the TV. We were allowed to call our families before heading to brunch which was delicious. The gaps organised a scavenger hunt around the whole school which was so much fun, especially as all three houses got to spend lots of time together, whilst allowing new girls to know their way around Godstowe better. After that, we went to town and had an amazing time at the fair. We ate ice-cream, bungee jumped, played many games and listened to lots of music. After the very busy weekend, we all had an early night to get ready for our second week!!



[Click here to view the Boarders' video from 10th and 11th September](#)



## Congratulations to our new Heads and Deputy Heads of Boarding Houses:

### Turner

- Head of House: Leonor V
- Deputy Head of House: Chizuru Y and Scarlett Y

### Walker

- Head of House: Yolanda W
- Deputy Head of House: Beatriz C and Rhea S

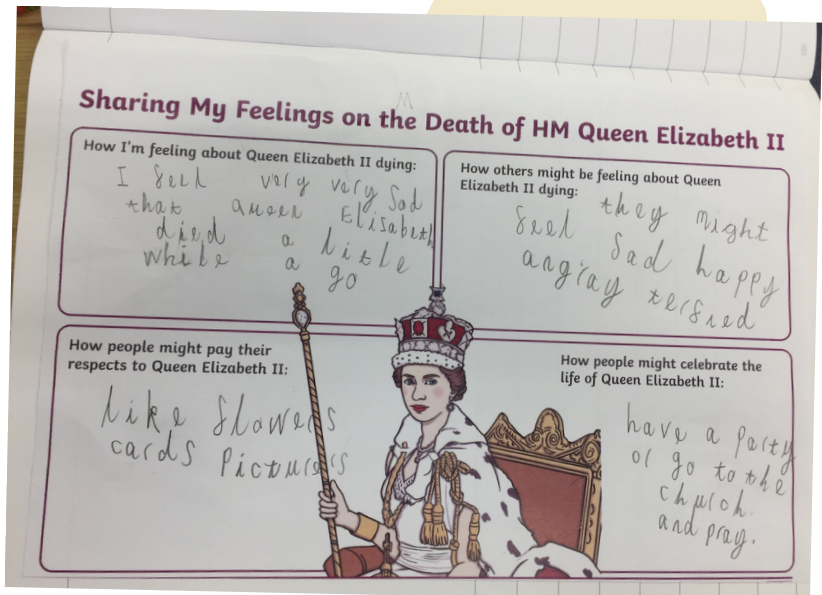


# Queen Elizabeth II, 1926-2022

On Thursday 8th September, we heard the news that Queen Elizabeth II had sadly passed away. On Friday morning, Miss Bailey held an assembly in Main School and spoke to the girls about how remarkable the Queen was in her reign and how the line of succession has now altered.

For many of us, it was the first time to sing, and hear, the National Anthem, "God Save our King".

Throughout the school, teachers encouraged the children to remember the Queen and all that she had done for our country. Transition have also been reflecting on the life of the Queen and how we and others might be feeling about her death. Form II made paper and felt flowers with messages for the Queen and in Sports, girls were doing 70 passes for Her Platinum Jubilee.





## *Shilpa's Journey*

In this time of mourning and reflection, I am delighted to be able to bring you some positive news! The young lady in the centre of these girls is Shilpa, who has been the focus of our fundraising at Godstowe for several years now.

When I first started to raise money for the SKSN school for disabled pupils in Jodhpur, India, back in 2014, I had no idea that Godstowe School would continue to follow the fortunes of one small girl to the point where we are now; helping to fund her university degree.

Shilpa has endured appalling treatment and unbearable cruelty in her young life, and her story is too horrific to publish here in this newsletter. However, she has overcome difficulties and obstacles that would have defeated most of us and, with the generosity of the Godstowe community at the heart of the fundraising, she has now reached the stage we see in the photo - sitting in her first lecture on her first day at university.

This photo gives me an immense feeling of joy and pride, and I wanted to share it with you and also say a heartfelt 'thank-you' from Shilpa, from the SKSN community and from me.

There will be many new and exciting opportunities this year to participate in all kinds of money-raising charity schemes and FoG will be continuing to supplement the Cansdale Scholarship which will, in turn, enable Shilpa to complete her studies and become a schoolteacher herself.

I look forward to sharing more updates about the magnificent difference your kindness makes to so many less fortunate people, both abroad and close to home. I especially love that we can all be involved in the progress of one particular girl, with whom we have forged such a strong link.

Thank you.

Mrs Rosie Lake

Charities Coordinator



## *Godstowe by the Sea*

FoG are delighted to announce that the pre-loved stall at the Godstowe summer fair raised £700 for charity. In consultation with the school, this money has been donated to the Cansdale Scholarship. This scholarship exists solely to help fund Shilpa on her university course. For anyone who may not know, Shilpa is a student at SKSN School in India who has overcome unbelievable odds to stay at the school and do well enough to be accepted on a teacher training course at university in Jodhpur. Godstowe School has been supporting her, among many other disabled children at SKSN School, for several years and has built her both a toilet and a house to put it in, over the years. Thank you to everyone who donated items to the pre-loved stall and to everyone who bought something on the day.