



Our main school remembrance service



A letter from the Headmistress

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Middles', Uppers' and Fourths' Parents Coffee Morning on Wednesday this week. I really value these opportunities to meet with you more informally and to get to know you. Next week, we have coffee with our Lodge and Nursery families on Wednesday and I look forward to seeing you all then.

Today we held our Remembrance Day service at Main School in the JK Theatre. What a beautiful service and the girls were impeccably well turned out and showed such respect throughout. This was a thoughtful order of service created by Mr Emm, who led the events and was a moving account of the lives of two veterans, Harry Patch and Harry Fellows. The Staff Choir sang 'Roses of Picardy' and our Head Girl and youngest member of Main School then went to lay the Godstowe wreath at the front of the school. The Last Post was played beautifully by Mr Button and I felt Godstowe marked this special day of remembrance with real beauty.

This weekend we are off to Battersea for the Independent Schools Show which I am sure will be a fantastic opportunity to meet with other colleagues, hear some inspiring speakers and showcase Godstowe in its best light again.

I wish you all a relaxing and wonderful weekend and see you next week.

Godstowe Alumni

Do you know someone who used to go to Godstowe? If so, please ask them to sign up to our Alumni Database on the website!

Key Dates for next week

14th November

- Main School Book fair all week
- U12 & U13 Swimming v Lambrook and Crossfields (away)

16th November

- Coffee Morning for Lodge and Nursery parents with Open Boarding House
- U11 Netball v High March (away)
- U12 Netball v Wycombe Abbey (home)

17th November

- Flu vaccinations for Beginners to Fourths
- U9-U13 Swimming v Caldicott (home)
- U12 A&B Netball v Pipers Corner (away)

18th November

- Middles' Parents Evening
- EXEAT - No enrichment curriculum, supervised prep available, ends at 5.30pm

19th November

- Cross Country event at Hervines Park

Nursery have been exploring the topic of Remembrance Day this week. They have thought a lot about caring for others and have particularly enjoyed caring for our injured teddies. The children have both collaged and painted poppies too. During cookery we used poppy seeds and lemons to make delicious tasting muffins. This week we have looked at the c/k sound and have been printing with corn on the cob and also collaged some kites. Our number of the week was 6. We learnt about Snappy 6, who is a crocodile with 6 very sharp teeth. The children used a variety of skills to make their very own Snappy 6 crocodiles. A final highlight of the week was a visit from Nurse Alison, who came to talk to us about keeping our teeth healthy and next week we look forward to a dentist visiting.

This week in Beginners, we have been starting to feel festive! We have been practising our Nativity play every day, working hard to remember our words and our songs. We have also been thinking about the story of The Nativity in our literacy work, and we have sequenced the story and got to know all the characters. We have also been getting creative in our classrooms and designed our own stables, just like where baby Jesus was born. We have also been learning about Remembrance Day and we have enjoyed doing a plethora of poppy crafts.

Kindergarten children continue to work hard in Maths. Having concentrated on number bonds, to learn about addition and equation construction, they are now using number lines to count on and solve equations. In Literacy, the children enjoyed using their puppets and theatres to perform the Gruffalo to their friends. They followed this by writing sentences in pairs to match specific parts of the story. They were thrilled to find that when all the sentences were put together, they had managed to retell the whole story.

This week Transition have been looking at a book called 'Bog Baby' by Jeanne Willis in their Literacy lessons. They have been writing descriptions of the Bog Baby and have learnt about the Countryside Code, and how important it is to protect and look after local habitats. In our Maths lessons, we have been focusing on column subtraction with two 2-digit numbers. In preparation for Remembrance Day, in their assembly and History lesson, Transition have been learning about why this takes place on the 11th November and why poppies are used as a symbol of remembrance.

We are looking forward to our Book Fair next Tuesday and our Mufti Day in aid of Children in Need on Friday. Thank you for your support with these.



Poem of the week

A Firework Poem, by Nicole T

Look! Bowers of red, blue dazzling balls. They soar like jumping beans in the Licorice black sky. Fizz! Bang! Energetic fire dashing like silver shooting stars showering down as beautiful as angels with white coats. Swirls of colour fizz and whizz like a ferris wheel. Fast fabulous fireworks flashing.

Listen! They are crackling like a stampede of elephants going on a journey for water scattering sprays around. Pow! Boom! Elegant sparks swish and swirl like a volcano.

Look! Sparkles soaring around like stars twinkling in the inky black sky. Boom! Fizz!

Listen! Crash! Whizz! Firebombs roaming through the sky like lions on a hunt.



Student Recital

Our musicians had their third student recital on Wednesday and wow what a turn out!

Form I to Fourths performed brilliantly! Most of the girls are preparing for their ABRSM exams and we know you are going to do fantastically if you perform the same way.

Well done to everyone to performed and good luck to the girls taking exams.



Godstowe Remembers

This morning Mr Emm led our Remembrance Service and spoke to the girls about our soldiers in the war.

He spoke specifically about two survivors and what Remembrance Day means to them.

Our Head Girl, Anushka B, and Lana from Form I, silently carried a wreath to lay below our Memorial Plaque in the Recital Hall.

We heard from Rhea S who named all the Old Godstonians who died in the War, Anoushka recited the British Legion Exhortation, and Mr Button played the Last Post.

Finally, our Staff Choir sang Roses of Picardy.

Thank you to everyone involved for helping us remember our fallen soldiers.



Boarders' Corner

Mr Scriven, Turner Houseparent

Last week has seen our boarders returning from as far away as Japan, having enjoyed their half term holiday with family and friends.

Getting back into a work routine is sometimes a challenge, even for adults, after such a break. It may be exacerbated by factors such as the clocks going back and it being dark when you get home from... For our boarders, it will soon be dark at either end of their day!

Thus, resilience has been a theme which the boarding houses have been promoting this week. As an example, it is also easy sometimes to say, 'I cannot do this.'

We are encouraging the use of the word 'yet' in that sentence. 'I cannot do this yet.' If incorporated into a child's thinking, can reap huge awards upon their learning in the classroom and upon life in general.

This approach broadly parallels the work of eminent American psychologist Carol Dweck, who believed that a growth mindset was key to success, both in school and later on in life.

The characteristics of a pupil with a growth mindset can include:

- believing achievements are down to effort, not just inherent talent
- being willing to learn from mistakes and finding value in criticism
- believing that ability can be developed
- being willing to ask questions and admitting when you don't know something
- seeking out challenging tasks and taking on risks

Next time your child is upset whilst completing her prep, telling you that it is all too much, reassure her that the ability to complete the task will come in time and with perseverance. Tell her that it is OK to get stuck and that she will get there in the end. If she hears the same message often enough, she may come to enjoy the challenges presented here in school and when she is a successful adult.

We can all probably look at aspects of our lives which are not quite as we would like or which require change to complete the picture. Thus we are not quite there either...YET!

YOU
CAN
Do it



[Click here to watch the Boarders' Video from 5th and 6th November](#)



Sports Snippets

Rebecca Turner, Director of Sport

A selection of lucky LIII's girls attended a Bee Netball Masterclass hosted by a Saracens and Loughborough Lightning Coach at Bloxham School on Thursday. They were coached alongside girls from other schools and finished with some fun matchplay and a delicious lunch. We were very impressed by how well they integrated with the other schools and appreciated the opportunity.



On Wednesday, 9th November, our U12 E&F Netball teams travelled down the hill to Wycombe Abbey. The girls showed great determination and played with everything they had. Even though the scores didn't go their way, they were a fantastic representation of Godstowe. Well Done girls!

On Saturday we took 3 lacrosse teams to Wycombe Abbey, hoping that the rain would hold off.

The U13A match was very even with Godstowe having the most chances to score. Their final result was 5-3 to Wycombe Abbey. A special mention must go to Scarlet Y for stepping in to be goalie at the last minute and to Sara M and Anushka B for coming along to support and help on the sidelines in spite of being injured and unable to play. Player of the match was Evie S.



The U12A's were dominant in their game and won convincingly 8-4, an excellent result. The players of the match were Thisbe M-J and Holly H.

The U12B team fought hard throughout the game and a special mention must go to Michele M for stepping in to play Goalie at the last minute and to the Middles who played their very first game of lacrosse. Despite Wycombe Abbey winning this match, you can all be very proud of yourselves. The player of the match was Jemima S.

On Wednesday 9th November 2022 the U9, U10 and U11 took part in a gala against High March. For some of the swimmers this was their first gala and they represented Godstowe brilliantly.

The team camaraderie and excitement was very clear to see. With all the girls swimming excellent races in the respective age groups it was a pleasure to see all their hard work displayed.

With the results all counted up it was a win for High March who were a great opposition and helped create a very enjoyable atmosphere. Also not forgetting all the parents who came to support, it was clear to see it meant a lot to the swimmers taking part. Well done to all!