



Our Hymn Helpers



A letter from the Headmistress

There is a happy and industrious atmosphere across the school and 2023 has certainly started well here at Godstowe. I have toured several visitors this week and I have been proud of the welcome that your girls and boys have given them across our school site. Our new girls have settled in well and despite the rain, the boarders enjoyed a fun first weekend back. We welcome our five new Gaps from Melbourne, Australia who arrived on New Year's Day at Heathrow (one of the few days this month where it hasn't been raining!) and they have made such a wonderful start with the children across Main School and Lodge. This is such an inspiring role and opportunity for a gap year student and our children really look up to them and enjoy the enthusiasm and help they bring to all aspects of school life. All five girls will be with us for the year and they look forward to meeting you all at the various events we have planned.

I do hope many of you will be able to make our first 'Positive Parenting' workshop as part of the Wellbeing Hub, on Tuesday next week from 8.15am in the Sports Hall Gallery. You are most welcome and there will be three more this term and above all, we hope you find them enjoyable and helpful. I look forward to welcoming Chloe Abbott, the founder of Education Choices Magazine next Friday and I know that she is looking forward to getting to know Godstowe and all we stand for. 'Talk Education' will also visit Godstowe next month and we look forward to being featured with our first school review with them shortly afterwards. Enjoy the weekend and see you all back on Monday.

Kate Parky

Key Dates for next week

16th January

- 11+ Common Entrance exams week
- 4.45pm U12 and U13 Swimming vs Crosfields (away)

17th January

- 8.15am Positive Parenting, Sports Hall Gallery

18th January

- 2.40pm U11 A-D BEE Netball vs Chesham Prep (home)

19th January

- 4.15pm U8 and U9 Swimming vs Lambrook (home)
- 4.15pm U11 A-D Netball vs High March (home)

20th January

- 4.30-6.30pm Lower's Parents Evening, JK Theatre
- EXEAT - no enrichment curriculum

21st January

- 9.30am U8-U11 Cross Country at Lowndes Park (away)
- U11 and U13 IAPS Cross Country at Woodbridge School (away)

It has been lovely to welcome all of the children back to Lodge this term. They have settled in quickly, worked hard, and have been really enjoying the new playground equipment when the weather allows! The children loved making crowns this week in their French lessons, and it was exciting to find out who was the Queen or King of each class, when celebrating 'La Fete des Rois' today!

Nursery have blasted into the new term with a 'Space' topic. We spent the first week finding out what we are curious to learn about Space. We looked at the planets and spoke about living on Earth. The children have enjoyed our new rocket role play area and there have been lots of adventures to the moon. This week we have been learning about matching numeral to quantity with many counting and number recognition games. Our number of the week was Naughty Nine, who is an elephant with 9 wrinkles on his trunk. The children found it hilarious that he was very naughty, squirting the zoo keeper in the story with his trunk. This led to the idea of going outside to explore the rain water and what fun that led to! Finally our sound of the week was as r and we made rockets!



We have been working very hard in Beginners this week. We have learnt the new digraphs qu and ch and have been reading and writing words using these sounds. In Maths, we have been going on adventures with numbers 6-10 and exploring their composition. We have been thinking about Winter and we read the story Lost and Found. From this, we made our very own penguins, wrote some penguin facts and made missing posters for the penguin. We hope you have a good rest this weekend after a busy first full week!

Kindergarten have started a new book analysis in Literacy, Handa's Surprise. The children are using the text to focus on the use of adjectives to extend their writing. To support their understanding, the children had a fun practical lesson using their senses to describe the fruit in Handa's basket. Mango was a clear favourite!



This week, Transition have been looking at some picture books by Emily Gravett about dogs and cats in their Literacy lessons. They have been writing descriptions of dogs, using adjectives, and have also been finding facts about cats. In their Art lessons this week, they chose one of the dog illustrations to reproduce, using water colour paints. In our Maths lessons, we are continuing to work on x2, x5 and x10, so please keep reinforcing these at home.

Main School

This week in Main School we have been talking all things Gratitude.

THANK YOU!



Mrs Reynolds took the first Monday assembly this term and spoke about Gratitude and asked some of the girls what they were grateful for. We had some excellent suggestions with Parents and pets getting a lot of votes. We also had Education, water and shelter from some of the older girls.



In Lower School assembly, Mrs Humphries spoke about saying "Thank you", and how it can mean so much to be thanked for something you have done. Miss Bennett spoke to Upper School about...



We've had visits from Henry Faber and Jane Ritchie and they were both very impressed with the girls and their excitement around school.



Today, we celebrated Fete des Rois. A big thank you to Mme Labourdette and Mrs Agopian for organising cakes at breaktime. Each child from Nursery to Fourths were given a cake and whoever found the cherry was crowned the King or Queen.

Artwork of the week

Congratulations to Leila N, Tiffany Y, Grace E and Rachel C for their amazing drawings of sweets.



Hymn Helpers

Introducing two of our Spring Term Hymn Helpers.



Felicity A and Xanthe G were very excited to be picked. Felicity said, "I wanted to be a Hymn Helper to encourage Form I and Form II's so that they can learn the hymns and improve their confidence in their singing." Xanthe agreed, "I just want everyone to sing really loudly and enjoy the hymns we sing. My favourite hymn is 'From Heaven you Came' and really hope I get to sing it as a Hymn Helper."

They also both agreed that sitting on chairs at the front is a lot more comfortable than sitting on the floor so encourage everyone to apply to next term!



Boarders' Corner

Grace Thomas

Hey there!, my name is Grace Thomas and I am the new gap working in Walker House. It's been so lovely getting to know each of the boarding girls here at Godstowe.



Understanding how much a teaching environment influences a child, I want to use this opportunity to put my life skills to use and be a supportive role model to the girls at Godstowe. In Australia, I worked as a coaching assistant with my dance (callisthenics) club for the past 2 years and once I get back I will be continuing my education at Melbourne University studying a degree in both Science and Arts. I am so eager to work with all the great staff and students here and I hope they will enjoy 2023 as much as I know I will.

Hedy Shi

Hello! My name is Hedy, and I am the Gap working at Lodge. I chose to come to Godstowe because I've heard about the amazing environment and community here. I always welcome new adventures, so Godstowe sounded like the perfect opportunity to both develop professionally and gain experience out of my comfort zone. It is also a great opportunity to travel – after studying for 13 years, I hope to explore the great big world that surrounds the UK. I hope to learn as much as possible whilst I am here, and can't wait to get to know all the lovely students!



Could you host a boarder?

Some of our boarders are unable to go home for Exeats and whilst they all have lovely guardians that they can stay with, sometimes it is nice to them to stay with another Godstowe family. If you are able to host a boarder or two, please get in touch with Mrs Western-Kaye.



[Click here to watch the Boarders' Video](#)

Kiera Cordner

Hey, my name is Kiera and I'm a new gap who is working in Main school. I'm working mostly with form I and form II and I'm really glad to be working here at Godstowe because I want to become a primary school teacher back in Australia. After this gap year I'll be back in Melbourne at Monash Uni studying a double of arts and primary education. I'm mostly taking the arts component out of an interest in learning a wider variety of subjects particularly philosophy which I studied in VCE and fell in love with. I'm also thrilled that being here in England will give me the opportunity to travel throughout Europe, in particular I'd love to go to Greece.



Natalia Kelly-Gerreyne

Hey! I'm Natalia and I'll be working in the music department during the day and Highlands House in the evenings! So far I have absolutely loved getting to know the staff and children and can't wait for the many more experiences to come. Ever since my sister came to Godstowe under a similar programme and had the best year of her life, I have known that I have wanted to create just as many lifelong memories here at Godstowe and throughout my travels in Europe (which I hope to explore as much as possible)! In 2022 I started at the University of Melbourne where I studied psychology and philosophy which I intend to continue in 2024 after my gap year.



Sunny Young

Hi, my name is Sunny, and I am the new Turner Gap. After completing my VCE subjects in Australia, I had an opportunity to have a gap year working at Godstowe. The main reason for accepting this gap position was the opportunity to work with children and try a possible career option. Another reason for coming to Godstowe is the proximity between England and Europe, which allows me to travel before I am thrown back into schooling at university. This year my goal is to travel as much as possible and learn about the unique cultures in Europe. I would also love to stay until the end of 2023 to see some snow, which is quite rare in Australia.



On Tuesday two very excited U9 netball teams travelled to Royal Masonic School for girls to play in, what was for some of them, their first fixture representing Godstowe. Every single girl played so well and should be very proud of themselves. The Blue team won 4-0 and the Green team narrowly lost 2-1. Well done girls!

U13 A played extremely well against Wycombe Abbey on Thursday. Showing great determination and power throughout the game. They have been working hard on dodging and driving into space which showed in the match. Well done to all the girls and thank you to those parents who came to support. The other U13 teams were rained off but hopefully we will get to see them perform in the next few weeks.



Please return...



Are you a cross country runner?
Please can you ensure all vests
are returned to Mrs Sloggett on
Monday 16th January



Positive Parenting

Our Wellbeing team would like to
invite you to the first
Positive Parenting Course.

Tuesday 17th January
8.15am | Sports Hall Gallery

"Motivation"

No need to RSVP, please just come along

STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!

Be suspicious of new information

SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF SOMETHING UPSETS YOU

DON'T CHAT WITH STRANGERS

BE HONEST WITH PARENTS & CARERS

TAKE BREAKS FROM BEING ONLINE

ASK PERMISSION before downloading anything

AVOID SHARING PRIVATE PHOTOS

Stick to trusted apps

TAKE NOTICE OF AGE RESTRICTIONS

DOUBLE CHECK YOUR NEWS SOURCES

Don't give away personal information



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday