

Dear Parents/Carers,

Whilst this academic year has not been without its trials and tribulations, we are thrilled to be ending the year with our usual summer term antics of whole school events, trips, visitors and performances jostling for timetable space alongside our broad and ambitious curriculum.

We are incredibly proud of the journey our school has been on this year and how our pupils and staff have not just coped with, but flourished within, the 'new normal'. We have continued to work on our curriculum offer throughout this year, ensuring that our curriculum is well sequenced, progressive and engaging. We believe what we offer our pupils, both in terms of the core subjects and the wider curriculum, is broad, imaginative and will prepare them successfully for their transitions into secondary school and life beyond education.

In November, we welcomed our first visitor back into school when James Ketchell discussed the importance of hard work, perseverance and aspiration with our pupils whilst sharing stories of his adventures in completing 'The Ultimate Triathlon'. Following on from James, our Year 5 pupils experienced a workshop about Hinduism with Sinita and multiple year groups have immersed themselves in British history thanks to 'History off the Page'.



Our pupils have once again benefitted from visits and trips out of school. From the National Space centre to Shepreth Wildlife Park; Burleigh House to Young Voices at the NEC; and a PGL residential to regular visits within our local community, we have been able to further cement our pupil's learning by providing them with hands on experiences in a range of contexts.

Additional highlights of the year have included gaining the Eco-Schools' Green Flag accreditation; launching 'GCA Reads Together'; celebrating World Book Day, Number Day, Green Day and a range of charity events; coming together as a community to support the United Kids for Ukraine shoebox appeal, collecting goods for the Godmanchester foodbank and Diamond Hampers and holding charity sales for causes close to our pupils hearts; and recently welcoming our parents and carers into school for our first Sports Day in three years!



It's hard to believe that all of this has taken place since September. As always we are incredibly grateful to our pupils, staff and community for their hard work, positive outlook and kindness and support. Plans for next academic year are well

underway and we are looking forward to what September will bring.

To our year 6 pupils and families, thank you for your commitment to our school and good luck for your next adventure, we know you are all going to go from strength to strength in your new settings. To our PTA and in-school volunteers, thank you for your time, effort and continued desire to support and improve our school. We are so grateful for your commitment to our school. To our staff, words cannot express our gratitude. You have well and truly weathered the storm over the past few years and we will remain eternally grateful for all you have done and will continue to do to ensure the best possible opportunities and outcomes for our pupils. To our pupils, thank you for being such a wonderful bunch of kind and hard-working children!

We wish you all a very happy summer holiday.

The information over the next few pages provides important reminders and information for next academic year.

2022-2023 Important Updates and Reminders

Staffing Updates

Thank you to Mrs Rodriguez who joined our teaching team earlier this year to support in Mrs Tester's absence. You have been a wonderful addition to our team and we very much hope that there will be further opportunities in the future for us to work together again.

Thank you also to Mrs Daniel's who will be leaving our administrative team. Thank you for bringing such cheer and humour to our offices and for your calm and patience. We wish you lots of luck for your new role.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Turner to our teaching team. Miss Turner will be familiar to many of our current year 2 pupils as she spent a term with us earlier this year as part of her teacher training. Miss Turner will be teaching in Year 3 from September.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Skinner back to our staff team. Miss Skinner will be returning as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant after her maternity leave. Welcome to Mrs Gardner who has joined our staff team as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. Additionally, welcome to Mrs Pegram who has joined our staff team as a Teaching Assistant. In September, Mrs Pegram will be working in Year 3. Finally, welcome to Mrs Baker who will be joining our administrative team from September.

We would also like to belatedly welcome Mrs Millard to the Senior Leadership team. Mrs Millard has taken on the acting role of Key Stage 2 Leader in Mrs Tester's absence.

The following table documents a summary of our staff team for next academic year. Please note that whilst we do everything we can to keep staffing consistent, changes may occur during the year where need dictates.

Class	Teacher	Support Staff
Pine	Mrs Bakker	Mrs Bevan Miss Ruff Mrs Goodliffe Mrs Qureshi (1:1)
Palm	Miss Tokley	
Juniper	Mrs Harman	Miss James Mrs Gardner (1:1) Mrs O'Connor (1:1)
Cherry	Miss Desmond and Mrs Handley	Mrs March Miss Skinner (1:1) Mrs Molloy (1:1)
Magnolia	Mrs Colthart	Mrs Pettitt

Maple	Miss Barradell	Mrs Dear Mrs George (1:1)
Sycamore	Mrs Vajzovic and Mrs Millard	Mrs Pegram
Elm	Miss Turner	Mrs Oxenbould
Ash	Mrs Hemmins	Mrs Sotrines
Beech	Miss Bullman	Miss Jolly (1:1) Mrs Smith (1:1) Miss McGee (1:1)
Poplar	Mrs Soulsby	Mr Johnston Ms Gutteridge (1:1)
Holly	Mrs Bright	Mrs Hill Miss Gray (1:1)
Willow	Mrs Cook	Mrs Scanlan
Oak	Miss Moss	Mrs Clarke Mr Ayling (1:1)

Attendance and school day times

A reminder that our school day officially begins at **9.00am** (doors open from 8.45am) and finishes at **3.15pm**. We therefore expect children to be in their class and ready to learn at 9.00am. ***In line with this, from September the Post Street gate will close at 9.00am and the playground should be clear by this time. If you are still on the grounds at this time, you will be asked to use the Park Lane gate to leave the site.***

Uniform

Our uniform consists of:

- Navy blue sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece (branded or plain)
- Grey or black skirts, trousers, knee-length shorts or pinafores
- Blue gingham dress
- White or navy blue polo shirt
- Sensible, plain black shoes
- Plain grey, black, white or navy blue tights or socks

Our PE uniform consists of:

- House colour T-shirts (Edwards - Red, Peacock - Blue, Smith - Yellow, Thomas - Green)
- Navy or black shorts (indoor PE and warmer weather)
- Navy or black tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt (outdoor games ONLY)
- Trainers for outdoor games (laced or velcro)
- Swimming trunks or one piece swimming suit (shorts and two-piece costumes are not allowed)
- Swimming cap

Please note that PE kit should not be branded. We have seen an increasing number of children arriving to school in PE clothes that do not follow the uniform outlined above. Where this is the case in September, children will be given a clean, spare school PE kit to change into.

In addition to school uniform, it is important that your child brings a water bottle with them to school every day. We would also like to request that you strongly consider the size of the bag that your child brings to school. For those in EYFS and Year 1 a book bag is all that is required. For children further up the school, small bags are advised as we are limited on space within the building.

PE, Games and Swimming

PE, Games and swimming are all part of the National Curriculum and therefore are all compulsory subjects. We understand that at times, illness or injury may restrict a child from participating in one of these lessons but it is the

responsibility of parents/carers to make contact with the school (via Class Dojo or e-mail) to inform us of this. Children who arrive in school not wearing PE kit but with no prior contact from parents/carers will be given a spare, clean PE kit to wear during the lessons.

Reading Books

Please return all school reading books to classrooms tomorrow. Books will not be sent out over the summer holiday to allow us to complete an audit and purchase new stock where necessary. We would urge you to access the books at Huntingdon Library.

Family Support Worker

We are incredibly lucky as a school to have the support of Miss Morgan, our Family Support Worker. Miss Morgan's role is to provide early support to all of our families and signpost agencies and organisations who may be able to offer further assistance or guidance. Miss Morgan is contactable via the school website or directly via lmorgan@gca.acesmat.uk. Due to the nature of her role, e-mails are her preferred mode of communication in the first instance. Further details about Miss Morgan's role and the types of support she can offer will be sent out early in the new academic year.

School Lunches

From September, the price of school meals will be **£2.35 per day**. Our providers Edwards & Blake have worked hard to keep these increases to a minimum but given the increase in costs both linked to food and utilities, an increase has had to be made.

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of certain benefits your child may be entitled to free school meals, saving you up to £450 per year per child. If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will also qualify for additional pupil premium funding which the school is able to direct towards trips, visit, extra-curricular activities and additional learning resources. This means that we subsidise the cost of all trips and visits and can provide additional financial assistance if needed.

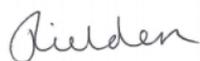
The qualifying benefits are listed below:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 (provided you're not receiving Working Tax Credit, unless on a four week 'run-on' period where WTC is due to end)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

Term Dates

Please note that we return to school Monday 5th September 2022. A summary of the term dates for next academic year can be found at [Godmanchester Community Academy - Term Dates](#)

From everyone at GCA, have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.



Miss Tess Fielden

Co-Head Teacher



Mr Richard Bakker

Co-Head Teacher