



**Godmanchester
Community Academy**

Welcome to Year 1



GODMANCHESTER COMMUNITY ACADEMY, WHERE EVERYONE

works hard and shows kindness

Meet the team



Cherry Class



Class Teacher:

Miss Elmore

TAs: Mrs March and Mrs Qureshi.

Juniper Class



Class Teacher

Miss James

TAs: Mrs March, Mrs George, Mrs Fuller and Miss McGee

Curriculum Highlights



- Our history learning will be focused on the Romans.
- Our geography will look at seasons, the UK, the continents with a closer look at Antarctica
- In DT we will be preparing healthy wraps, making windmills, and lots of junk modelling
- In art we will be making collages, colour mixing and painting
- Music and computing will be taught by our specialist teachers – Mr Greenwood and Mrs Hamilton!
- ...and lots more too!

PE/Games and Swimming



Autumn 1

- PE Days: Wednesday (Indoors) and Friday (Outdoors)
- Swimming Day: Autumn 2- Tuesday PM.
- Children should wear PE/Games kit to school.
- Kit should be non-branded and plain navy or black – pupils wearing heavily branded items will be given clean spare uniform to change into.
- Earrings should be removed for all sport.
- Swimming is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum and therefore involvement in swimming lessons is not optional. Spare, clean swimming kit will be provided to children who do not bring kit with them

Home Learning



- Compulsory home learning is daily reading.
- We recommend between 5 and 10 mins and feel free to say that we said they have to read!
- We will send 3 reading books home every week and we recommend reading the books multiple times. This will give your child the opportunity to recap any new words that they may not have known on the first reading on the book.
- Please sign your child's reading diary every time they read. If you would like to comment, then please feel free but equally a 'a read with mum/dad/nan' comment is ok too.
- The reading diaries will be looked at every Monday when we change the books.
- Optional home learning resources:
 - Mathletics
 - Spelling Shed
 - Sounds Write materials

Why Reading?



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” Dr Seuss

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment everyday not only perform better in reading tests but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. Reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

We urge you to promote daily reading with your child and to be a positive reading role model.

We are always here to offer support and guidance should you have any questions linked to your child’s reading whether that be ability or enthusiasm.

Class Dojo



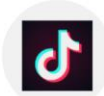
- Class Story
- Portfolios- great to see learning at home
- Messaging – please note quiet hours are set between 5.30pm and 8.30am and at weekends – you should not expect a response during these times. Class Dojo is monitored during the school day but responses may take up to 48hours.
- Please do not use Class Dojo to message about absence – all absence should be reported to the school office (01480 375115)

E-Safety and Online Use



- Regularly access the latest guidance and advice via our school website: [Godmanchester Community Academy - Promoting Online Safety](#)
- Take note of age restrictions and recommended ages for apps and websites.

13 year olds and upwards



TikTok



Instagram



Facebook



Snapchat



Twitter

16 year olds and upwards



WhatsApp



LinkedIn



Flickr



Vimeo

- If you have a query, comment or concern about the school, please raise this directly rather than posting it on social media. We are all working together to ensure the best outcome for your children so please engage with us.

Uniform



- **Uniform and Appearance:** Whilst we do sell logoed school polo shirts and jumpers via Price and Buckland (www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/godmanchestercommunity), there is no requirement for your child to wear logoed uniform. However, we ask that you adhere to the following in terms of colour choices. **We believe that a school uniform promotes a sense of community, belonging and pride in the school. Importantly, it also creates peer equality in terms of appearance.**
- Children should wear: school/plain **navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan; grey or black skirt, trousers, knee-length shorts or pinafore; blue gingham summer dress; white or navy blue polo shirt; black, grey or white tights or socks; sensible plain black shoes/boots** (for the winter) – no trainers, high heels or open toe sandals.
- Please note that children with shoulder length hair (or longer) should come to school with their hair tied back with a **simple hairband. Children should not wear large or bright bows or accessories.** If children do wear large bows or accessories, they will be asked to remove these and the class teacher will keep them until the end of the school day when they will be returned to the child. If children with shoulder length hair (or longer) arrive at school without it being tied back, they will be given a new hairband to tie their hair back.
- **Any child who arrives at school without the appropriate uniform will be offered spare uniform on arrival at school and their parent/carers will be notified by Class Dojo that they have arrived at school without the appropriate uniform.**

Uniform Headlines



- Plain or logoed polo shirts (navy or white), jumpers (navy only) and fleeces (navy only)
- Grey or black shorts or skirts of an appropriate length
- Grey or black trousers
- Blue gingham dress
- Black shoes (non-branded)
- Everything should be named clearly
- Children not wearing appropriate uniform will be given clean, spare uniform to change into.

Trips and Visits



- Autumn Term:
The Library, St Mary's Church (Rev. Busk)
- Spring Term:
St Marys Church (Rev. Busk)
- Summer Term:
The Seaside

Lunches and Snack



- We are a nut free school
- Packed lunches should be balanced and nutritious- whilst they need to fuel you child for the afternoon, a lunch high in sugar can make it hard for a child to focus in the afternoon.
- School lunches- 4 daily choices, selected in the morning – menu choices are e-mailed out regularly.
- Snacks – fruit is provided in EYFS/KS1. Fresh fruit/vegetables only in KS2.

Arbor



- Permissions and payment for trips and visits
- Please check login details
- Please contact the office if you have any issues

School Values



- We believe it is important to model, value and encourage kindness and hard work.

"Work hard, be
kind, and
amazing things
will happen."

Pupil Premium Eligibility



Pupil premium funding is based on the number of pupils in school in January each year from the following groups:

- Free school meals (including children who have received free school meals in the last 6 years- 'Ever 6')
- Looked-after and previously looked-after children
- Service premium (including children who have had a close relative in the armed forces in the past 6 years)

Pupil Premium funding allows us to offer extra support, enrichment and resource to individual pupils. If you believe your child falls into one of the above groups or you would like more information about eligibility for free school meals, please discuss this with a member of SLT.

Free School Meals Eligibility



All children who are at school; and were under 19 at the start of the academic year; and are claiming or have parents who are claiming:

- Income support; or
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance; or
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (this benefit was introduced from 27 October 2008); or
- Child Tax Credit, as long as you do not get Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190; or
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & asylum Act 1999; or
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Final notes



- Check the school website – lots of information about the curriculum, parent guides, regular news updates and key dates and events.
- Key Dates for Autumn Term:
 - 26th September- parent consultations
 - 3rd October- individual school photos

Parent Governor



We are looking to appoint at least one new Parent Governor to join our Local Governing Committee.

Governors are responsible for strategic planning. They help to build good relationships between the school, parents and our local community. Our Parent Governors are very valuable members of the Governing Committee and we rely on them to help us to keep in touch with what parents are thinking. They are on the Governing Committee as representative parents, but they are not delegates and other parents cannot mandate them on how they should vote.

Governors do not need to be experts to tackle the range of responsibilities expected of them. Help, advice and training are available from various sources. If you are interested in the education of your child and the way GCA makes decisions and have some time to commit to this role we would like you to consider becoming a Parent Governor.





We would be particularly interested in people who have some of the following attributes:

- *Enthusiasm, time and commitment,*
- *Any professional experience or skills you may have in the following areas (but not limited to) will be helpful:*
 - *Special educational needs*
 - *Financial awareness in order to support the tracking of how the Sports Premium and Pupil Premium Funding is used and its impact.*
 - *Writing and reviewing policies*
- *An openness to learning and change, and wanting to make a difference*
- *Governors also provide objectivity in debate and decision-making and can add further and different perspectives to school matters.*
- *Co-operative and values team work.*



Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil on the school roll at the time of the election can self-nominate, stand for election and can vote in the election. A parent who works for GCA for 500 hours or more or a parent who is an elected member of the local authority (County Councillor) is not eligible to stand for election but they are permitted to vote.



To express interest and request a self-nomination form. Please speak to Miss Fielden, Mrs Smith or Miss Desmond this evening or e-mail the office (office@gca.acesmat.uk). The relevant information and forms will be sent to you.

Further information about the voting process will be sent out shortly.

