

Gosforth Junior High Academy

Autumn Newsletter – December 2024

Dear Families

The end of a very busy term is upon us and school is full of excitement with all the wonderful activities this festive season brings to many. Term has ended with two fabulous performances of KS2's Bah Humbug, a very jolly Christmas lunch, some fun-filled discos and trips to NUFC to reward lots of special pupils.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful winter break and a happy and healthy new year. Thank you for all your continued support this term and we look forward to seeing lots of you on Review Day in January.

End of Term Awards

Year 5 Stamp Champs	Year 6 Stamp Champs	Year 7 Stamp Champs	Year 8 Stamp Champs
5G - Jessica C 5H - Grace W 5A - Clara G 5S - Emaan A 5C - Samuel J	6G - Adam N 6J - Danny A 6H - Salice L 6A - Oli T 6S - Penny R 6C - Sanvika M	7G - Pui Yee W 7J - Nawal R 7H - Sarah T 7A - Evie R 7S - Sophia A 7C - Zara B	8G - Hannah C 8J - Hasaan K 8H - Isobella L 8A - Catriona D 8S - Poppy S 8C - Saffron C
Stampeders	Stampeders	Stampeders	Stampeders
5A	6C	7G	8H

In our Celebration Assemblies this week, every Form Tutor nominated two pupils for the Achievement and PRAISE awards. Well done to everyone who has taken home an award!

Last week, our autumn term overall Stamp Champs enjoyed a stadium tour at NUFC and our PRAISE Personality students (pupils nominated by Lead Form Tutors for always demonstrating our PRAISE values) enjoyed a visit to the NU Hub and got to meet NUFC Legends, Schar and Ruddy, which was a brilliant experience and the pupils were a credit to GJHA.

Attendance

Our current overall school attendance is 96%! This is something we are very proud of; nationally, primary attendance is currently 93.9% and secondary is 92.3%. We are well above national averages, which is down to the commitment of both staff and families working together to ensure students are in school and thriving as much as possible.

Every week, pupils' attendance is shared with them (via the planner) and is discussed in weekly assemblies to continually reinforce the importance of being in school. Miss school = miss out! If you ever want to discuss your child's attendance, please contact Brenda McDougall, who is our Family and Attendance Support Worker.

In Celebration Assemblies, we drew the 'In 2 Win' raffle, which recognises 100% W2D (Week to Date) attendance and students from every form class won either chocolate or vouchers! The form classes with the best autumn attendance enjoyed extended breaks on Monday to recognise their brilliant attendance.

5G - 96%	5J - 97%	5H - 93%	5A - 96%	5S - 94%	5C - 95%
6G - 98%	6J - 97%	6H - 98%	6A - 97%	6S - 96%	6C - 95%
7G - 96.6%	7J - 95.8%	7H - 94%	7A - 93%	7S - 93.5%	7C - 94.8%
8G - 96%	8J - 95.3%	8H - 91.7%	8A - 92.6%	8S - 94%	8C - 90.4%

Antibullying Week



This year, the theme was 'Choose Respect'. We began this important week by wearing odd socks to celebrate our differences and remind pupils that we are proud of our diverse school. Special assemblies were led by Mr Sheikh and pupils spent form times discussing what respect means.

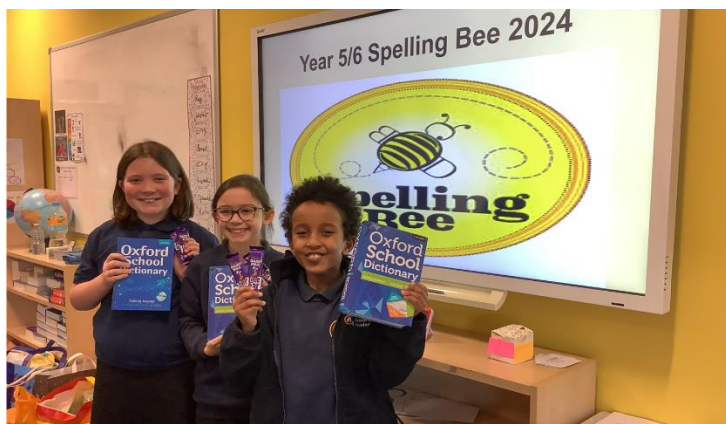
I choose. We Choose. You Choose Respect.

Hoops4Health

Once again, Year 5 enjoyed a day with the Newcastle Eagles learning about basketball and leading active lifestyles. We have excellent links with this club and basketball is a regular feature of our after-school clubs offer.

KS2 Spelling Bee

This term, Mrs Campbell has run a KS2 Spelling Bee club, which culminated in a competition that was enjoyed by many spectators. Well done to Hallie, Lucy and Mageed who were winners and took home dictionaries!



West End Food Bank Collection

Once again, the generosity of the school community towards this collection was fantastic and the volunteers at the food bank were overwhelmed when Mrs. McDine arrived with a mini-bus ready to burst with all your donations! Thank you to everyone who chose to come to school in non-uniform for Christmas lunch day and in return, donate to a very worthwhile cause.



Year 7 First Aid

St John Ambulance spent the day in school with Year 7, delivering a session on Street First Aid. This covered the basics of recovery position, a tourniquet and CPR. Pupils were extremely mature and engaged with the learning and we hope it was a useful addition to their personal development curriculum.



Christmas Lunch



PRAISE Discos

All year group discos were treated to a fantastic reward for all the PRAISE stamps earned by our hardworking pupils this term. It was a joyous occasion filled with dancing, as everyone moved to Mr Lewis' excellent DJ skills and vibrant music selections. The VIPs, including the Stampeder classes and additional PRAISE portfolio and PRAISE personality pupils, enjoyed snacks, early entry, and a private area. It was wonderful to see everyone in their party clothes, having a great time with their year group. Bring on the next celebration!

Bah Humbug

Our school production of 'Bah Humbug' was a resounding success, with more performances than ever before! This year, we had four shows in total: two starring our Year 5 pupils and two featuring our Year 6 pupils alongside the cast. The performances were tremendous, filled with lots of singing and excellent acting. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who came to watch, and a huge well done to the pupils and staff for their hard work. Bring on the summer show!



Dates for your diary

Monday 6 January 2025	All pupils return to school – 8.40am
Friday 10 January	Review Day. School closed for all pupils. Please ensure you have booked your one-to-one appointment with your child's tutor. See mail from School Cloud.
Monday 6 – Friday 17 January	5H swimming
Tuesday 21 January	KS3 school nurse (lunchtime drop-ins)
Friday 21 February	School closes for half term break – 3.20pm finish
Monday 24 – Friday 28 February	February Half Term break
Monday 3 March	All pupils return to school – 8.40am