



**Goring Church of England
(Aided) Primary School**
Faith, Love and Learning

20 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of the autumn term, I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support and partnership in providing the very best for the children..

Over the past few weeks, I have been incredibly proud of how they displayed their talents through singing, performing, and speaking confidently during a range of services and nativity plays. Their enthusiasm and courage has filled me with joy.

As we approach the festive season, I wish you all a Christmas filled with peace and happiness. May this time provide you with the opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved throughout the past year and the many reasons we have to be thankful. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready to embark on another exciting term of learning.

Now may the Lord
of peace Himself
give you peace at all
times and in every
way. The Lord be
with all of you.

2 Thessalonians 3:16



A Message from Tim Ransley – Chair of Governors – Headteacher Appointment

"I wanted to update you on the work the Governors are undertaking as part of our recruitment of a new head teacher at Goring. As a board, we have met with the Diocese and Local Authority in order to agree on a timetable and appoint the sub-team that will make the appointment.

We have carried out some work around the qualities we think are particularly important for any new Headteacher at Goring. The Governors are clear of what these attributes are and any new appointment will be charged with continuing the Christian ethos, vision and values which underpins the core strengths of the school.

Our current plan is to appoint for the Autumn term in 2025, with Mr Ireland remaining in post until then, and we are working towards that date. I wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas.

Admissions Policy Consultation

As a school, we have given notice, in accordance with legislation, that the governing body, as the admissions authority is formally consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for 2026/27. Information about this change can be found on our school website, using the link below:

<https://www.goring.w-sussex.sch.uk/key-information/admissions>

The change relates to our over-subscription criteria. The proposed change will not affect anyone already attending the school. This period of consultation will last for six weeks, with the closing date for submitting comments being midnight on Friday 31st January 2025.

Key Stage 2 Carol Service

Our Key Stage 2 children truly shone during the carol service, showcasing their God-given talents and personal dedication. Led by Year 4, each year group chose a song that beautifully captured the spirit of the season. Their performances were not only a testament to their hard work but also a heartwarming reminder of the joy of Christmas. In these moments of stillness, we are reminded to reflect on what Christmas means to each of us. Thank you to all who were able to come and celebrate with us, and a thanks must go to Miss Leach and Mrs Whittaker for supporting their children in leading this service.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativities

A huge congratulations need to be shared for the children in Key Stage 1 and Early Years who delivered a truly enchanting performance of 'The Nativity' that filled the hall with smiles and joy. The delightful outfits, sparkling costumes, and songs and actions were a testament to their creativity and enthusiasm. This wonderful performance aligns perfectly with our upcoming Collective Worship theme, "Who is Jesus?" offering a meaningful introduction to our next term's explorations.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who attended and supported this event. Watching the courage our young performers displayed while performing in front of a packed hall of adults, and even a camera crew, made me incredibly proud. Their bravery and talent truly shone through, and I am sure that this was a memorable occasion for everyone involved.



Dambala Road – Sierra Leone

At the end of our nativity performances and carol services, we kindly asked for any donations which could be made in order to support our partner school, Dambala Road, in Sierra Leone. We were overwhelmed by your generosity, with the school raising **£563.11**, which we will send to enhance the experiences the children within their community experience each day. In the New Year, we will inform you about how this money has been used and future initiatives to support our children in becoming outward looking, global citizens.

Christmas Jumper Day

This week, the children and staff at Goring C of E Primary participated in a Christmas Jumper/Outfit Day. It was decided we would use this as an opportunity to support the charity Christian Aid because of the war and violence that continues to affect millions of people around the world, including in Palestine and Ukraine

As a school, we have raised **£311.75**, and we hope that our contribution joins with many other communities to support lasting peace for all.

Christmas Fayre

On behalf of our school community, I would like to express my gratitude to our PSA this term for all they have helped to organize and provide for us. Their efforts culminated in this year's Christmas Fayre, which was a hugely successful event led by Emma Page, Jenn Hutchinson, Lisa Woodley and supported by the whole PSA committee, parent volunteers, and local businesses too. Overall this year, £7,154 has been raised through these community events and has so far funded a new school song, and upcoming significant upgrades to our Key Stage 2 play trail.



Christingle Service with West Park



As part of our Growing Partnerships agreement between school, community and St Mary's Church, we joined with West Park for a Christingle Service earlier in December.

Millicent C represented the school's Liturgy team, sharing a reading beautifully with the congregation. We are already considering ways to expand this event in future years and I am grateful to Mrs Whittaker for her commitment to celebrating and sharing our school's Christian ethos

Christmas Singing at Arundel Cathedral

We took 37 enthusiastic singers from Key Stage 2 to take part in a Christmas music workshop, led by Emily Barden, along with six other primary schools. The workshop culminated in a performance to parents, with opportunities to sing communally and showcase the different choirs. The children were incredibly behaved throughout the day, and were complimented by the organizers for, not only their performance skills, but also their attitude and values. This opportunity would not have happened without Mrs Whittaker and Miss Leach, who have so clearly instilled a passion for singing and music in so many of our children.



Sickness

As part of our commitment to maintaining a healthy school environment, we kindly remind you that if your child experiences sickness or diarrhea, they should remain at home **for 48 hours following the last episode**. This precautionary measure is vital in preventing the spread of illness among our children and staff. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in upholding this important health guideline, ensuring the wellbeing of our entire school community.

Sport Competitions





We have now had one whole term of sport at Goring. I would like to express my gratitude to the dedication of the staff team who have volunteered, and given up their time to provide children with these enrichment opportunities. So far this year, we have had 130 children represent the school across 12 different sporting activities. As well as this, we have had 30 sport leaders working hard each week to support our younger children with playtime games and activities.

Most recently, we have participated in basketball, benchball, gymnastics, and dodgeball with children across all years in Key Stage 2.

Although we are very proud of what has already been achieved, Mr Wilkins and Mrs Howlett are dedicated to leading the school in providing as many opportunities for sport as possible for all our children.

We are excited to see what the Spring term brings and the events, festivals and competitions which we know our children will enjoy.

Joining the Team

We are excited to have a new member of staff who will be joining our team next term. Mrs Robertshaw will be working alongside Mrs Finlay in Year 3 (Kingfisher Class), and taking over the responsibilities held by Mrs Smith. We look forward to welcoming her in to our school community and benefiting from her positivity and experience.

Community Page

Please remember to regularly check our community page for information on local events, clubs, and activities. While we share these opportunities for your information, please note that we do not recommend or endorse any advertised content. This information is provided solely for your awareness and consideration and is updated frequently.

<https://www.goring.w-sussex.sch.uk/parents/community-information>

Reminders – Hairstyles

We are seeing an increasing number of children coming into school with hair that does not align with our uniform expectations. As per our school expectations, we require all students to avoid extreme hairstyles. These include:

- Hair which is longer than shoulder length to be tied back
- No extreme hair styles, these include unnatural colour, **shaved lines or patterns, distinct changes in length in the hair (changes should be graduated)**
- No hair-wraps/ holiday-style hair

We kindly ask that you ensure your child's hairstyle complies with these. Upholding the expectations of the school is crucial for upholding a consistent and respectful environment for all students in our primary school.

Yours sincerely,
Mr R Ireland
Acting Headteacher

Headteacher Mrs C Jee

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