

The Gusford Gazette

We break up for Christmas on Friday 20th December and return on Monday 6th January.

Issue 2454

Friday 13th December 2024

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Santa Fun Run

Great fun at the Santa Run on Sunday morning. Well done runners. Thank you Mr Rivett, Santa (could you guess who it was?), Mrs Miles, Mrs McDonald, Mrs Duell and Jack Smith for your help.



Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, Edwards and Blake along with our catering staff along with a little help from our school staff, produced a delicious Christmas lunch. We loved it but next time can we have pigs in blankets?



Pinocchio

On Monday, our Y1 and Y2 children visited the Avenue (Red Rose) Theatre to watch a super performance of Pinocchio. It was brilliant! Thank you to Dan's coaches for taking us there and back.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday, it was our Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you for all the donations to FIND. We know they will be useful.





















Birthday Books

This week, Emily-Gray brought in a Birthday Book. Rather than bringing in sweets we would encourage you to bring in a favourite book. We will glue in a special name label and put a photo on FB and Blue Sky. The book will stay in class. Thank you.



Attendance

Please note if you go on holiday in term time both parents will be fined £80 for each of the children who are absent. No exceptions.

School Uniform

Please note the children are allowed to wear back school shoes or completely black shoe style trainers. Trainers with any other colour (however small) are not allowed. Hoodies aren't part of the school uniform either. Thank you for your support in this matter.

FOG Christmas Stall

On Thursday, the Friends of Gusford organised a Christmas Stall at the end of the day. We raised £220. Thank you for your support.

KS1 Christmas Performance

Great dress rehearsal on Thursday. Break a leg.



Whole School Diary Dates

Christmas Performances

Monday 16th December Y1 and 2 2pm Tuesday 17th December Y1 and 2 2pm

Last day of term is Friday 20th December. We start again on Monday 6th January.

Attendance Celebration. Tuesday 7th January.

RSPB Bird watch. Friday 10th January.

Anna James 'Pages & Co' author visit. Monday 13th January.

Y5 Bikeability Session 1: Monday 13th to Thursday 16th January.

Y5 Bikeability Session 2: Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd January.

Chapter 82 Storytelling Year 5. Thursday 23rd & 30th January.

Christian Foley (Rapping Children's Poet). Tuesday 28th January.

Henry VII Commemoration. Tuesday 28th January.

Parents' Evening. Monday 3rd February 3.45pm.

World Cancer Awareness Day (wear a hat to school-£1.00 donation). Tuesday 4th February.

Parents' Evening. Wednesday 5th February 4.00pm.

NED Yo-Yo Demonstration. Thursday 6th February 2.00pm.

NSPCC Number Day. Friday 7th February.

End of Term. Friday 14th February (Valentine's Day).

Sports Equipment for Schools

With the help of the Rotary Club of Ipswich Wolsey, your contributions and 300 tickets donated by Sprites, we made it to over 1000 tokens. This means we will receive sports equipment worth £250.

Bikes in school after Christmas

If you are planning to ride your bike to school after Christmas then you will need a cycle helmet.

Eco-Car Project

Our five engineers have been working hard on the Goblin G2 car project.



















10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

MONITOR DIGITAL



Children spend more time online during school holidays, Increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS



The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seathelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous frode size contributes to safe scale plantings.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS



Cola weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of iliness.

STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD



ncreased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents or both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, sedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate oad safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid listracted driving and never drive under the Influence.

MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS



Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small omaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce teles.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS



Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that glits meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe glit use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 & FATIGUE



Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to raduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthler, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

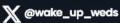
Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



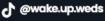
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season









Please see below a statement from The Active Learning Trust about our use of X.

From Friday 20th December, please keep in touch with us using the following:

Website https://gusford-primary-school.schudio.com

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/gusfordprimaryschool

Blue Sky https://bsky.app/profile/gusford.bsky.social

After careful consideration, we have decided to transition our social media channels to platforms that are better aligned with our Active Learning Trust values. This means that our schools will no longer maintain accounts on X/Twitter.

We look forward to connecting with you on other social platforms where we will continue to share updates and celebrate the achievements of our students and staff. Links to these have been provided above.

Thank you for your continued support.





Santa's Christmas Challenge

What can you draw in Santa's sack? I'll put the best ideas on 'Blue Sky'.







Autumn / Winter 2024/2025 - Week One

Dates: 11th Nov, 2nd Dec

Available Daily: Fresh Bread, Fresh Fruit & Yoghu

ı	WEEK ONE	GREEN EARTH MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Main Meal Option 1	Tomato, Baked Bean & Spiral Pasta Bake	Red Tractor Pork Sausage Roll with Skin on Baked Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken with Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Beef Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Fish Fingers & Chips
	Main Meal Option 2	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Tomato Pasta Salad	Cheese & Onion Pastry Roll with Skin on Baked Wedges	Quorn Grill with Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Plant-based Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Crispy Vegetable Fingers & Chips
	Filled Sandwich	Cheese	Ham	Tuna Mayonnaise	Ham	Cheese
	Vegetables	Broccoli/Cauliflower & Carrots, Sweetcorn	Red Tractor British Peas, Baked Beans	Broccoli/Cauliflower & Carrots	Broccoli, Carrots & Cauliflower Sweetcorn	Baked Beans British Red Tractor Garden Peas
	Baked Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
	Dessert	Chocolate Mousse and Orange Smiles	Homemade Jam Buns & Custard	'Hidden Fruit 'Chocolate, (Beetroot & Pear) Brownie	Fruity Strawberry Jelly & Mandarin Segments	Vanilla & Cherry Cookie Cup & Custard





Source of wholegrain



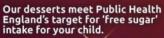
Contains plant-based proteins











ecommended fruit and vegetable possion sizes are calculated sing School Food Standards. On average our desserts do not sceed a third of a child's recommended "free sugar" intake.



Eativerse

Autumn / Winter 2024/2025 - Week Two

Dates: 18th Nov, 9th Dec























