



# The Gusford Gazette

Fact of next week:  $7 \times 8 = 56$

Issue 2696

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## Two Johns

On Tuesday the Two Johns returned to Gusford to talk to the children about on-line safety. Please discuss on-line safety at home and reassure your children they can talk to a trusted adult about any concerns they may have or if they are made to feel uncomfortable on-line.



## Local Policing Team

On Wednesday, PC Beth Harper and the local Policing Team visited school to talk to our EYFS and KS1 children about the community and citizenship. They are returning to talk to Y3/4 in February.



## Gusford Diary Dates

(certain dates subject to change)

**January Photography Competition; 'Winter Watch'.** Runs all through January. Send photos to school FB page.

### Bikeability

Group 1 26th to 29th January  
Group 2 2nd to 5th February

**Choir at Young Voices O2.** Tuesday 20th January 2026

**Henry VIII Commemoration.** Wednesday 28th January 2026

**Parents' Evenings.** Monday 2nd and Wednesday 4th February 2026

**Reception Screening.** Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd February 2026

**World Cancer Awareness Day.** Wednesday 4th February 2026

**NSPCC Number Day.** Friday 6th February 2026

**Reception Toy Workshop.** Tuesday 10th February 2026

**Year 6 Cambridge Visit.** Wednesday 11th February 2026

**Performing Arts Festival.** Thursday 26th February 2026

**World Book Day.** Thursday 5th March 2026

**Year 3 to Christchurch Park.** Tuesday 10th March 2026

**Red Nose Day Friday Friday** 13th March 2026

**Year 5 Stargazing Sleepover.** Friday 20th March 2026

**Year 4 Residential.** 29th April to 1st May 2026

**Lentonbrook Foundation (Mark Ashton) Charity Day.** Friday 24th April 2026

**KS2 SATs week.** Monday 11th to Friday 15th May 2026

**Year 3 to Leiston.** Monday 11th and Monday 18th May 2026

**Tour de Gusford.** Bike race on school field. Sunday 17th May 2026

### Year 6 Residential

Monday 1st June–Wednesday 3rd June 2026

### Rainbow Day

Friday 5th June 2026

### Suffolk Day

Friday 19th June (for Sunday 21st June)

### Sports Days

Tuesday 16th June Reception 1.30pm  
Wednesday 17th June Y5/6 1.30pm  
Thursday 18th June Y3/4 1.30pm  
Friday 19th June Y1/2 1.30pm  
Monday 22nd June Nursery 9.45am

## Henry VIII and our Archery Contest

Last year, Chloe and Dobby (horse) helped us commemorate the life of Henry VIII who died on 28th January in 1547. Henry is the King most closely connected to our school (hence the logo). Henry VIII was a huge proponent of archery, passing laws to enforce practice for all able-bodied men, seeing it as crucial for national defence, and even demonstrating his own skill, while his navy used archers extensively to attack enemy ships before boarding, with finds from the Mary Rose revealing elite archers served, highlighting the longbow's continued importance despite early gunpowder. After school on Wednesday 28th January, we are running an archery competition on the school field. £1.00 entry fee for two arrows 10 metres from shooting line to target. Hit the five pound note to win (limit 1x£5 win per person). All money raised to the school pantry. See poster attached. Just turn up and queue.

## Zebra Crossing

On Tuesday after school, one of our children was knocked over as he crossed the road in front of the Co-op. He was shaken but okay; it could have been a lot worse. We are asking Suffolk Road Safety Team to come and have a look at the area outside the school. In the meantime please encourage the children to cross on the zebra crossing and make every effort not to park on the pavements as it blocks the sight lines for people crossing the road. Thank you.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/18Dv1nQHmq/>

This is a video we made last year to help remind the children how to use the zebra crossing.

## Choir at Young Voices

This coming Tuesday, our Choir are singing at the O2. You can follow us on FB for live travel and performance updates. We will also message you by e-mail with any really important changes to arrival and departure times.

## New website

The new site has been built and will be handed over to CleverBox, the software company who manage the site, on Monday (19<sup>th</sup> January). They then need 3-5 days for pre-launch technical checks and then they will get back to us when it's ready to go live. It should use the same address as our current site (not sure how that works!)

## Social Media

Most social media platforms have an age restriction of 13. If your child is using one of these platforms then it really is up to parents to monitor their child's use. I would initially suggest parents consider a **two week phone ban** if any child uses their phone inappropriately.

## Attendance Matters

### Attendance

Our attendance this year is 95.3%. The national average for primary schools over the same period is 94.6% Our target is 97%.

### Coughs and colds

If you are uncertain whether to send your child to school or not then please follow the NHS advice below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We have just launched the Valentines Attendance Tracker. Let's see if you can complete this term without missing a day.

## Performing Arts Festival

Thursday 26th February 6.00pm in the Conference Room (next to the school library).

Year 2 and under: The Sound Collector

Year 3 and 4: Please Mrs Butler

Year 5 and 6: Sea Fever

I can send you a copy of the poem or you can take it from our Facebook page.

## Poems

If you want to enter send me a direct message or let me know at the gate by February 14th Valentines Day.

## Fact of the Week

In school next week we will be asking all KS2 children the answer to  $7 \times 8$ . You can either just remember it or turn it round the other way and look at the consecutive pattern it makes:

$$56 = 7 \times 8$$

5 6 7 8...who do we appreciate!





## Big Schools' Birdwatch

On Friday, we took a group of children onto the field to record the birds we could spot on the school site. We saw:

Magpie x 2	Crow x 1
Gulls x 12	Blue Tit x 6
Long Tailed Tit x 1	Great Tit x 2
Robin x 1	Sparrow x 2
Pigeon x 2	Squirrel x 2
Cat x 1	

## Photography

Our photography comp runs for the whole of January. We have five age categories:

EYFS (Nursery and Reception)  
KS1 (Year 1 and 2)  
LKS2 (Year 3 and 4)  
UKS2 (Year 5 and 6)  
Open (11+ including adults)

The theme is simply 'January'. Take a photo and send it to school on our FB page either in Comments or by Direct Message. Winners to be announced on 1st February.

## Year 6 Drone Workshop

On Wednesday, our Y6 children took part in a drone workshop. They programmed the drones then flew them over a specially designed course.



Hello everyone, I'm Lindsey, a parent of a child in Gusford with SEND needs. With the school's support and encouragement, I have set up a **Gusford parents SEND WhatsApp group**. This is a place where SEND parents support one another, share helpful information and to come up with ideas to discuss with the school - in other words we all work together for our children. We run parents' coffee mornings at the school - sometimes it's nice to have a chat with people who are in the same positions and go over ideas. The next one is on Monday 2nd February at 9.00am in the Bungalow. Please come and join us.

## Hot Lunches

Our hot lunches are delicious. Why not try one? You could pick one a week as a treat.



## Beauty and the Beast

The Wolsey Theatre are streaming their panto live on Saturday at 2.00pm and 7.00pm. You can watch it for free if you book a pass. All info and book your free livestream pass here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3yt24nj2>

## Oscar W Makes it to the Big Time

Oscar Willis was a student here. Mr Garwood used to support him in class. He is now doing his first on stage performance in Jack and the Beanstalk at Dance East. Massive achievement for him. Mr G has booked to go and watch him. Good luck Oscar.

## Tesco-Copdock

We have a 'stronger starts' grant box in Copdock Tesco's. Please vote for us. More imaginative play equipment. Thank you.

In partnership with Knowsley CLCs, all parent/carers are invited to an:

# Online Safety Information Session

This session is delivered virtually so can be watched from anywhere!  
We will share the link with you privately.

**Guide to Online Gaming** -  
this session will cover the latest trends and emerging threats. We will focus on developing your understanding of online gaming, the associated risks and the steps we can take to support our children.

**WEDNESDAY  
28TH JAN  
2026  
9.30AM – 10.15AM**



Knowsley  
City Learning Centres





# AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH CAFE



**ST PETER'S  
STOKE PARK**

**School year's 5-8 only**

**Thurs 4:00-5:30 pm**

**Term Time Only**

for more info and Parent/Guardian permission form  
please email

[sue.bridges@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:sue.bridges@cofesuffolk.org)

[emma.richards@stpeterschurch.uk](mailto:emma.richards@stpeterschurch.uk)

**Fun, Faith, Food**





A decorative border of stylized leaves and vines frames the entire text.

# Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

By royal proclamation of Gusford Primary,  
all ye bold archers and merry folk are  
summoned to the

## Great Archery Contest

When: Upon the feir eve of  
Wednesday, the 28th day of January

Where: The green fields of Gusford  
(where arrows fly swift and true)

Prize: Glory eternal and the cheer  
of good company! (and a £5 note)

Come forth, ye who boast a steady hand  
and a keen eye, and let thy arrows sing!

Fail not, lest the Sheriff claim all  
bragging rights!

**Join us, and let the sport begin!**



# **GUSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **★ PHOTOGRAPHY ★ ★ COMPETITION**



**Starts: 1st January  
Runs all month long!**



**Do you love taking photos?  
Now's your chance to show off your skills!**



### **HOW TO ENTER:**

- 1** Take your best photos
- 2** Send them to our Facebook page
- 3** Include your name and class with your entry



**Good luck, young photographers!  
We can't wait to see your amazing pictures!**



**GUSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL -  
CREATIVITY IN FOCUS!**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

**Mr Tapley**

Please see below a personal message to you all from Mr Tapley:

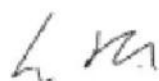
*"I have really enjoyed working at Gusford over the last two and half years. The children, parents and staff have been amazing and I have loved every minute. Last November, Ofsted recognised the improvements that have been made and graded us as good and outstanding in all aspects of our provision.*

*I have now decided that it is time for me to retire... I like to think I'm older than I look! One of the great things about working in a Trust is their ability to plan ahead and find the next Headteacher who I am 100% certain will be able to carry on with the good work that has already been started."*

I'm sure you will all join with me in thanking Mr Tapley for the huge impact he has made during his time at Gusford, and throughout his whole teaching career. We can all look forward to having the opportunity to say our goodbyes to him, ahead of him starting his well-earned retirement at the end of this school year.

We are now working to recruit a new Headteacher to join us from September 2026 onwards, and I will keep you updated throughout this process. In the meantime, please be assured that we are fully committed to finding an exceptional leader for Gusford who will continue to build on the school's recent improvements and successes.

Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to this exciting new chapter for the school.



Lynsey Holzer  
Chief Executive Officer  
[lynsey.holzer@activelearningtrust.org](mailto:lynsey.holzer@activelearningtrust.org)



# FREE *School* MEALS



## Free School Meals could save you up to £450 a year

What's more, if you sign up, your child's school receives extra funding from the Government, up to £1,480 a year. Even if your child is getting Universal Infant Free School Meals in Key Stage 1, your school will still benefit if you are entitled.

Applying online only takes a few minutes and, if eligible, you will receive free meals until March 2025. Visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals).

### To get free school meals you need to be receiving one of the following:

- ◇ Universal Credit (up to £7,400 net earned income)
- ◇ Income Support
- ◇ Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- ◇ Income related Employment and Support allowance
- ◇ Working Tax Credit run on
- ◇ Child Tax Credit but **no element of Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190



If you need more information please call **0345 606 6067**





# WRAP AROUND CARE

Monday to Friday

- Supervised by school staff from school premises
- Light healthy snack at all sessions
- Indoor and outdoor activities



**BOOK NOW ON ARBOR OR CONTACT 01473 682148**

SHORT 3.15PM-4.15PM	£4
LONG 3.15PM-5.00PM	£7
EXTRA 3.15PM-5.30PM	£10
EXTRA+ 3.15PM-6.00PM	£13

**NEW!**

**MORE INFORMATION**

[admin@gusfordprimary.net](mailto:admin@gusfordprimary.net)





## Autumn / Winter Menu Week 1

10<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Eativerse  
A UNIVERSITY OF HULL AND BRISTOL

WEEK ONE	FAVOURITES MONDAY	WORLD TUESDAY	ROAST WEDNESDAY	PIZZA PARTY THURSDAY	FISH FRIDAY
Main Meal Option 1	Red Tractor Pork Sausage Roll & Home-baked Potato Wedges	Beef Taco with Corn Tortilla, Tomato Sauce & Sunny Rice	Roast Chicken Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Wholemeal Tomato & Cheese Pizza & Home-baked Potato Wedges	MSC Fish Fingers & Chips
Main Meal Option 2	Macaroni Cheese	Italian Quorn Meatballs served with Pasta <sup>VG</sup>	Quorn Grill, Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Vegetable Sausage in a Bun with Home-baked Potato Wedges <sup>VG</sup>	Vegetable Fingers & Chips with Ketchup <sup>VG</sup>
Halal Option	Halal Chicken Sausage Roll & Home-baked Potato Wedges	Beef Taco with Corn Tortilla, Tomato Sauce & Sunny Rice	Halal Roast Chicken, Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Wholemeal Tomato & Cheese Pizza & Home-baked Potato Wedges	
Sandwich Box	Cheese	Ham	Tuna Mayonnaise	Ham	Cheese
Vegetables	Baked Beans & Sweetcorn	Mixed Salad or Broccoli	Seasonal Greens & Carrots	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Sweetcorn	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Baked Beans
Sandwiches, Rice & Pasta	Freshly Made Sandwich with Cheddar, Tuna Mayonnaise or Ham / Jollof Rice with 5 Beans / Pasta with Cheese or Tomato & Basil Sauce				
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	Vanilla Shortbread <sup>VG</sup> & Chocolate Sauce	Chocolate & Pear Crumble <sup>VG</sup> & Custard	Strawberry Jelly <sup>VG</sup>	Oaty Date Cookie	Vanilla Ice Cream

Available Daily: Salad, Fresh Bread, Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt

## Autumn / Winter Menu Week 2

27<sup>th</sup> Oct, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 5<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 16<sup>th</sup> Feb, 9<sup>th</sup> March

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WEEK TWO	FAVOURITES MONDAY	WORLD TUESDAY	ROAST WEDNESDAY	PIZZA PARTY THURSDAY	FISH FRIDAY
Main Meal Option 1	Pork Sausage & Mash with Gravy	Red Tractor Beef Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken, Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes	Wholemeal Margherita Pizza & Home-baked Potato Wedges	MSC Battered Pollock & Chips
Main Meal Option 2	Veggie Sausage & Mash with Gravy <sup>VG</sup>	Plant-based Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Quorn Grill, Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes	Macaroni Cheese	Cheese Flan & Chips
Halal Option	Halal Chicken Sausage & Mash with Gravy	Halal Red Tractor Beef Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Halal Roast Chicken, Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes	Wholemeal Margherita Pizza & Home-baked Potato Wedges	
Sandwich Box	Cheese	Ham	Tuna Mayonnaise	Ham	Cheese
Vegetables	Broccoli, Sweetcorn or Baked Beans	Broccoli, Cauliflower & Carrots	Seasonal Greens & Carrots	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, or Sliced Carrots	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Baked Beans
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	Shortbread Pin Wheels & Fruit Slices <sup>VG</sup>	Chocolate Fudge Cake	Apple Crumble <sup>VG</sup> & Custard	Flapjack <sup>VG</sup>	Chocolate Mousse

Available Daily: Salad, Fresh Bread, Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt

## Autumn / Winter Menu Week 3

3<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 16<sup>th</sup> March

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WEEK THREE	FAVOURITES MONDAY	WORLD TUESDAY	ROAST WEDNESDAY	PIZZA PARTY THURSDAY	FISH FRIDAY
Main Meal Option 1	Beef Burger with Home-baked Potato Wedges	Mild Chicken Curry served with Mixed Rice	Roast Chicken, Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Margherita Pizza with Home-baked Potato Wedges	MSC Fish Fingers & Chips
Main Meal Option 2	Vegetable Burger with Home-baked Potato Wedges <sup>VG</sup>	Vegetable Sausage Hotdog served with Home-baked Wedges	Quorn Grill, Gravy, Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Vegetable Lasagne & Garlic Bread	Crispy Vegetable Fingers & Chips <sup>VG</sup>
Halal Option	Beef Burger with Home-baked Potato Wedges	Halal Mild Chicken Curry served with Mixed Rice	Roast Chicken, Gravy Stuffing & Roast Potatoes	Margherita Pizza with Home-baked Potato Wedges	
Sandwich Box	Cheese	Ham	Tuna Mayonnaise	Ham	Cheese
Vegetables	Sweetcorn, Baked Beans	Broccoli, Cauliflower & Carrots	Seasonal Greens & Carrots	Broccoli or Sweetcorn	British Red Tractor Garden Peas, Baked Beans
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 Oaty Slice <sup>VG</sup>	Syrup Sponge Pudding & Custard	Apple & Cinnamon Rolls	Vanilla Cookie & Fruit Slices <sup>VG</sup>	Iced Sponge Cake with Sprinkles

Available Daily: Salad, Fresh Bread, Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt