



SCHOOL REPORT

At the time of writing, the nights are drawing in and temperatures are slowly dropping. We will soon be entering the season of 'shall we put the heating on?' both at school and at home. By the time that you read this, the situation will probably be very different and the season of 'turn the heating up' will be in full swing!

Whilst our autumn term has been full of interesting and exciting events, it has been peppered with some sad ones too which have touched the hearts of all within the village. As a school, we see ourselves as a cornerstone of our village community. As such, we have been deeply saddened by the deaths of two members of our village, Kurt Darlow and Christine Gouldthorpe. Both individuals will be greatly missed by the school. In the case of Kurt, it is a missed opportunity for us & we will miss the contribution that he would have made to us following in the footsteps of his older brothers Tyler and Aaron. His death has touched and shocked everyone. But from now we will celebrate his life and remember him in lots of things we do in school.

In the case of Christine, we will miss her smile and her positive outlook on life - we will all remember her, in her element, working with the younger children. We have organised memorials to both Christine and Kurt within school. Our new school garden is under development but we hope to create a lasting memorial to both Kurt and Christine within it. Once arrangements have been completed invitations will be sent out to families and community members. Our thoughts and prayers have been with both families throughout this difficult time. We hope that as a school we can continue to offer support and some small degree of comfort.

We celebrated Harvest in school and this year was an extra-special series of events.

We had competitions on a Harvest theme, such as best home-made jam and best home-grown flowers/vegetables etc. We were overwhelmed by the amount of entries we received as well as their quality. Each competition was judged by a panel comprising of our governing body who were in school as part of our Open Day. The proud winners each received a rosette in school colours. As well as promoting healthy eating, the aim of the harvest competition was to raise funds. Families donated produce to the school which we sold at our traditional harvest market at the end of the day, as well as the edible entries to the competitions. When added to the money raised by a sponsored walk around the school field, we (you) managed to raise just over £1500. This total is to be split, with half of the proceeds being donated to Food Aid and the remainder being used to continue our new school garden project.

At the end of September, our year 5 and 6 pupils spent a week at Robinwood outward bound centre. A great time was had by all. The children came back very tired and were full of exciting stories of 'Big Red' the piranha,



the climbing walls, stream walks and various other activities that they had enjoyed. Miss Breslin enjoyed her first visit to the centre so much that she is already in the process of booking next year's trip.

All other year groups have enjoyed educational visits over the course of the term. We took part in National School's Film Week with all year groups visiting and enjoying a cinema visit. As well as this, classes have taken parts in such events as workshops based around 'Toys from the Past', a museum visit about Ancient Egypt and theatre trips.

We have also had lots of enrichment activities in school.

History topics have been brought to life with the visit of a historian who is a specialist in cookery relating to different time periods. We also have two live theatre groups who will be performing 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Wizard of Oz' to all pupils in school & we're already getting excited about those two occasions.

We are currently working towards an accreditation called the 'Arts Mark', aimed at celebrating the arts and enhancing our teaching of areas such as art, music and drama. This term we have had an artist in school working on a series of mosaics & these will take pride of place in our school hall. All year groups will be immersed in the arts over the coming months and working with artists at some stage.

The festive season is always an exciting time in school and this year will be no different. Our annual Christmas Fayre will be jam-packed with activities for pupils and parents alike and will hopefully raise funds to help us in our quest to achieve the 'Arts Mark'. As usual, we will be hosting carol services, parties and productions. By the time that you read this article, the school will be fully into the Christmas festivities with a real buzz in all of the classrooms. We really welcome the community into our school at this special time of year. It is always an enjoyable term but one also when we look forward to going home at the end of it, closing our doors, lighting our fires and being with our families. Despite the ups and downs of a busy term, Christmas is a time to look forward and to hope. We'd like to wish all members of the community and readers of the Gander a very Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

P. Brown, C. Breslin

on behalf of the Staff & Governors of Goxhill School

