

# GBINS



# Weekly Newsletter

## Free Family-Friendly Winter Events in Mid Essex

"From magical Santa Sleigh visits to local activities and support for families, this is your go-to place for festive fun and helpful resources. Explore what's happening in your community and make this winter special.

But the fun doesn't stop there! Local organisations are also offering ongoing support, welcoming spaces, and enriching activities all winter long.

Whether you're looking for advice, support, or just a great place to play and learn, we've got you covered."

<https://www.activeessex.org/mid-essex-winter-events/>



## STILL SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER! CAROL SERVICE AT ST PETER'S CHURCH



Thank you to Mrs Dunne for arranging our wonderful Carol Service. It was magical to hear the children singing beautifully in church and telling the Christmas story. Thanks also to all of the helpers who made sure we all got to the church and back on time and to Father Richard for having us!

### Heartfelt Thanks

A huge thank you to the whole school community for making me feel welcome and at home at GBINS. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to working with you all in the new year.

Mrs Dale



## Eco Club - Important Message for chocolate eaters!

Eco Club are taking part in Greene King's Tub2Pub campaign again in 2026.

Please bring us your empty sweet, chocolate and cracker plastic tubs (Heroes, Roses etc) and we will take them to a Greene King pub.

The tubs are recycled into new plastic which is then sold and Greene King donate the proceeds to The Macmillan Cancer Support charity.

So, no need to feel guilty about indulging in the festive season just remember to drop those tubs into school in the New Year!

**We will collect them until  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.**



## Bumped Heads

### Further Update...



Following a review of our procedures for informing parents/carers of a bumped head, from January we are going to make one important change.

If a child bumps their head in school, they will be assessed by a first-aider and these steps will be followed:

- The child will be assessed by a school first-aider and appropriate treatment given e.g. a cold compress.
- A 'bumped head note' will be put in the child's bag or handed to the parent/carer on collection.
- If the head bump is assessed as needing urgent medical attention, a phone call will be made and you will be asked to collect your child.
- With EVERY head bump a message will be sent via Class Dojo to you to inform you of the time of the bump. This does NOT mean you need to collect your child but simply indicates the time of the bump for monitoring purposes. They may have no visible injury but this is just a precaution.



## PTFA Christmas Trees

Christmas Grotto Experience



Don't forget to look after your Christmas tree over the holidays!

The PTFA will be continuing to support us in helping the trees to grow into the new year and look forward to seeing your photos as time goes on.



## Eco Club - making a difference!

Eco Club have been thinking about how they could help the birds at this time of year when food sources are scarce.

They have been busy making fat balls and bird feeders (from old juice cartons) to help them out.

**Merry Christmas from all at Eco Club!**



## Admissions

If you need to apply for a school place for Reception or Year 3 - you need to apply via Essex County Council between 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025 - 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026.

See the website via the link below:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/admissions-september-2026>

## Attendance

Don't forget we can only authorise absence under exceptional circumstances. If you need to apply for leave for your child, you must complete a Leave of Absence Form in advance. These can be found at the school office.

## FAMILY SUPPORT - DROP-IN SESSIONS

Sharon McCormick is our Home/School Liaison Worker. If you are struggling with your child's behaviour; bedtimes, mornings are a nightmare; your child is a fussy eater or struggles to leave you at school time, bereavement or family separation, then Sharon may be able to help.

If she cannot help you personally, then she can refer to more specialised services who will be experts in their field.

Sharon is available Monday - Wednesday between 7.45am-4pm.

You are welcome to email her on

[Smccormick@lyonshall.org.uk](mailto:Smccormick@lyonshall.org.uk).

She can also be contacted on 01376552393 or 07714621666.

Alternatively, come to one of her drop in sessions in school from 8.30am - 9.30am on one of the following Tuesdays:

13<sup>th</sup> January

10<sup>th</sup> February

10<sup>th</sup> March

14<sup>th</sup> April

12<sup>th</sup> May

16<sup>th</sup> June

11<sup>th</sup> July

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## CELEBRATE!

Well done to this week's Stars of the Week...

**Hawk Class** - The whole class

**Eagle Class** - The whole class + Amelia and Hunter

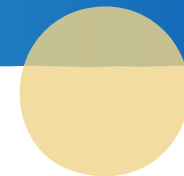
**Kestrel Class** - The whole class + Vinny

**Swift Class** - The whole class

**Owl Class** - The whole class

**Wagtail Class** - The whole class + Sonny

Awarded for having a fantastic term!



## CELEBRATE!

Well done to this week's Stars of the Week...

**Woodpecker Class** - The whole class

**Robin Class** - The whole class

**Kingfisher Class** - The whole class

**Puffin Class** - Alice and Oluwatosimile

Awarded for a fantastic term!



## CELEBRATE!

This week's tidiest classroom  
**Eagle Class**

**Highest Attendance Award**  
**Eagle Class with 98.2%**

**Most Punctual Classes**  
Unfortunately punctuality has not been good across the school again- let's get it back on track next term!

**Attendance Badges**  
We awarded lots of bronze attendance badges today. These are for children who have 98% attendance of above. We also gave a special recognition award to a pupil who has massively improved their attendance this term.

## Can you help?

We want to develop a space within the Reception outdoor play area - see the photo example below.

If you have a couple of tyres, some gravel or diggers, or items such as these and would be happy to donate them, please let the Reception team know.



| Diary Dates           |   |         |
|-----------------------|---|---------|
| 19.12.25              | Last day of term  | 3.20pm  |
| 22.12.25 to<br>2.1.25 | Christmas Holidays  |         |
| 5.1.26                | Back to school for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2             | 8.40am  |
| 6.1.26                | Back to school Nursery                                      | 8.40 am |
| 16.01.26              | Whole School Butterfly Day                                  | Day     |
| 23.01.26              | Hawk Class Assembly   | 9.05am  |
| 04.02.26              | PINS Parent Forum   | 9.00am  |
| 06.02.26              | Wagtail Class Assembly                                      | 9.05am  |
| 20.03.26              | Eagle Class Assembly  | 9.05am  |
| 24.03.26              | Reception Concert - Kingfisher and half of Woodpecker (A-G) | AM      |
| 25.03.26              | Reception Concert - Robin and half of Woodpecker (H-Z)      | AM      |
| 28.03.26              | Easter Egg Hunt   | Day     |
| 01.05.26              | Robin Class Assembly  | 9.05am  |
| 15.05.26              | Kingfisher Class Assembly                                   | 9.05am  |
| 05.06.26              | Woodpecker Class Assembly                                   | 9.05am  |