



**TOGETHER WE CARE, TOGETHER WE SUCCEED... January 2023**

Wishing you all a Happy New Year for 2023!

The children have made a fabulous start to the new year, and have started their new curriculum projects. Alongside our curriculum, we take on different aspects of wellbeing each term.



**5 Ways to Wellbeing**

This term our first focus is 'Give' where we consider giving our time or our talents to helping others, thinking in practical ways how our school value of 'collaboration' looks in action. As part of this information for Black Country Foodbank is on the reverse, if you are able to support with our collection.

Please see below for some key dates this term.

**Mrs Hannaway**

**Gig Mill 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



You may have already seen a lovely article about Gig Mill's 70<sup>th</sup> celebration in the local paper. Click on the link below if you missed it. Thanks to all the children who took part in our cake design competition, there were so many fabulous creative entries that a winner was announced per class – 23 in all. Children across school will vote for a final winner from 7 year group winners.

<https://www.stourbridgenews.co.uk/news/23191206.gig-mill-primary-stourbridge-celebrates-70th-anniversary/>

**Updated attendance policy**

As you will be aware Gig Mill and several Stourbridge primary schools have a shared attendance policy, this has now been updated in light of new National guidance. Children's attendance will be shared with you at parents consultations, and where attendance falls below the expectation of 96%, you may be contacted either by phone or letter in the next few weeks in line with National guidance.

**Fund-Raising**

Well done to Lexi, Violet and Mia in Year 6 who raised £14.60 for Mary Stevens Hospice in the last week of term by doing a charity sale of pom-poms, bracelets and other items.

**Coming up ...**

From 16<sup>th</sup> January – to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - Collection for Black Country foodbank

14<sup>th</sup> February 2023- Health & Wellbeing day including Safer Internet day

Parents consultations - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (3.30pm – 5.30pm)

and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

**Half term Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

World Book Day 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 (School Book Fayre 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023)

Comic Relief Day 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

World Maths Day 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**End of term - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We know this is a difficult time of year for some families, and we may be able to help in a small way - we are able to access a small pot of grant funding to help support families who might be struggling financially. **This grant is intended for families who may not yet be eligible for benefit based free school meals but could benefit from some additional support.** For example this maybe to help with food vouchers, winter shoes, or other reasons. I appreciate that this might be difficult to do but I would urge you to get in touch if you are in need. Please email [info@gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk) with title **grant**, or if you would like to talk privately about this please speak to myself or Mrs Suchomski, and we can discuss how we might be able to help. Kind regards, Mrs Hannaway

### Harvest Food Bank Collection

We will be collecting items of food and toiletries which we will be donating to the Black Country Food Bank Charity which supports individuals and families in crisis across the area.

If you are able to send in a donation to this local charity we are collecting any of the following items: (items marked \* **in bold** are currently on the shortages list for the food bank.) We are also collecting strong re-useable carrier bags to donate to the food bank as these are also in short-supply.

#### Food items (please check all items are "in-date")

\*Milk (UHT or powdered, preferably semi-skimmed)  
Cereal,  
Tinned / carton/ packet soup,  
**\*Fruit juice (long-life carton)**  
**\*Fruit squash**  
Pasta  
Cooking sauces (jars)  
Baked beans  
**\*Tinned / carton Sponge pudding / Rice pudding/ Custard**  
**\*Jam/ Marmalade**  
**\*Tinned / carton tomatoes,**  
Rice,  
Couscous,  
Tinned vegetables  
**\*Tinned fruit**  
Tea bags  
Coffee (small jars)  
**\*Instant Hot chocolate powder (to be made with water)**  
Baby food/ baby milk  
**\*Tinned meat (corned beef/ ham/ spam/hot dogs)**  
Tinned fish  
**\*Potatoes- instant mash or tinned**  
**\*Sugar**  
Biscuits, crackers, crispbreads,  
Healthy snacks eg raisins, dried apricots  
**\*Dried instant flavoured noodles**

#### Non-food items

Can Opener  
Washing up liquid  
Shower Gel/ Bars of Soap  
Hand wash  
**\*Shampoo / Conditioner**  
Deodorant (**\*roll on / spray**)  
Anti-Bac Hand Gel  
Tooth Brush/ Toothpaste  
Children's Toothbrush/paste  
Flannel/Sponge  
Tissues (handy/handbag packs)  
Nappies (all sizes)  
Baby Wipes  
Baby Lotion  
**\*Toilet Roll**  
Shaving Gel/Foam (not razors)  
Small boxes of washing powder

If you are able to help, donations can be handed in to school between **Monday 16th January and Friday 20th January 2023** - and all donations can be handed in to your child's class teacher. The food bank will then be collecting all the donated items on **Friday 20th January** ready to send out to local families in need. (Please note the donations will be collected at 10am on Friday so all items need to be in school by this time.)

Thank you very much for your support,  
Mrs Griffiths