



TOGETHER WE CARE, TOGETHER WE SUCCEED.... December 2023



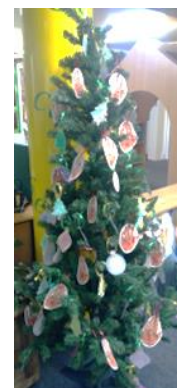
What a festive start we have had to December! The children have decorated Christmas trees around school with their wonderful designs and they have enjoyed seeing the trees that other year groups have created. The winning decorations from the competition have also been displayed at the tree festival at St Peter's Church in Pedmore.

This week has seen the start of our Christmas performances and the Year 1 children have brought lots of festive-joy to their audiences so far. We have had our traditional Christmas Dinner today and of course we have our Party Day tomorrow! Our Reception children are busy working on their special Christmas performance 'We're going on a Santa hunt' ready for next week.



Everyone who came along to our Christmas Fayre commented on what a fantastic evening it was and it was so lovely to see so many families having a great time visiting the different stalls and taking part. Thank you very much for your support with this event. As always we are really grateful for the continued support of our HSA who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes for weeks to bring the event together and we are really pleased to announce we have raised over £2300.

We are always grateful to the HSA for their continued support and fundraising efforts and you will soon see we are expecting a big delivery of new benches for all the playground areas. These are made from recycled plastic and are much more durable and maintenance free. We are looking forward to some better weather to make good use of them!



A special message from Mrs Hannaway

As we count the days towards the end of term, and towards Christmas this is a time for reflection for many of us. For me, I have been Headteacher at Gig Mill for 10 years, and I am so proud of the journey that we have been on together as a school team, and as part of the Gig Mill community. As we look forward to 2024 it is with excitement for the future of the school, I just wanted to share with you all that I will be retiring at the end of next term, this is the right time for me personally. I have loved working at Gig Mill, improving teaching and learning, building a great team of leaders, teachers and a wider staff team who give their all each day. It has been a journey of unexpected challenges alongside successes and smiles, I could not be prouder of the children and the staff.

Gig Mill has never been stronger, and I know with our great staff team, it will be in safe hands.

Angela Hannaway

End of term message:

Hello to everyone in our Gig Mill family.

I cannot believe Christmas is here again already! I hope you get to share some exciting, joyful and fun time with your loved ones. It has been a very busy year for Governors helping Mrs Hannaway and the rest of our amazing staff look ahead to 2024. On behalf of your Governors, I am really proud of everyone at Gig Mill Primary School. You are all AMAZING! Happy Christmas.

Dominic Edgar, Chair of Governors.

Christmas Carol concert arrangements: Friday 22nd Dec 1.30pm

Everyone is welcome to come and join us in this festive celebration which starts at 1.30pm and is held on the KS2 playground (off Heath Farm Road.) It is always an extremely popular event with almost every family joining us so we ask that you use both The Broadway and Heath Farm Road entrance and if you are travelling by car, please be considerate of our neighbours as well as other vehicles such as the buses which have to use the surrounding roads.

At the end of our carol concert (approx. 2.30pm) the children will go back into school to collect all their belongings and then they will be brought back out to you as quickly as possible, by their class teachers- in the same way as we hand over at home-time every day. This will hopefully make it easy for you all to collect your children. All we ask is that you **collect your children from their usual playground** -you will be able to go back to The Broadway side to meet your children when they all go in to fetch their belongings and you will be able to use either Broadway or Heath Farm Road gates to go home.

Any children who aren't collected at the end of the carol concert or who normally walk home on their own, will of course remain in school until the usual end of day time (3.15pm or 3.20pm) and will then be dismissed in the usual way. Please remember that there is no OSCA club after school that day.

We look forward to seeing you all at this wonderful family event and hope that you will bring your singing voices with you! **Remember- as we will be outdoors, there will be no seating available at this event and please make sure that the children have a warm coat, gloves and a hat.**

Finally, as usual we are collecting for local charities including Mary Steven's Hospice at the carol concert- so please look out for the collection buckets.



An update on our charity toy-drive Christmas collection from Harriet in Y5...



Thank you to everyone who has helped me with the toy-drive collection for the Cash for Kids Mission Christmas charity. We have collected so many toys, games and books that we had to do 2 trips to the drop-off point!

*If you are still able to help by bringing a new toy to donate into school, you don't need to wrap the toy so the charity can sort them into different categories.
Thank you so much for helping me with the collection, Harriet Y5*

Please note: The last day for donations to school is tomorrow- Friday 15th December

Upcoming dates:

Christmas Party day- Friday 15th December (party clothes/ mufti day)

Break up for Christmas on Friday 22nd December. (Warm coats, hat and gloves needed!)

Spring term dates:

Monday 8th January is an INSET day. School reopens to pupils on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**

Half term – Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2024

Term ends: Friday 22nd March 2024



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