



It really has been a lovely start to the new school year at Gig Mill, we have been delighted that the children have responded so well to being back in school. As we approach the end of September this week, I am really pleased to say that the focus on building relationships, pastoral care and wellbeing has been really beneficial for the children. The children have welcomed new classmates, and have really enjoyed playing with friends in other classes at lunchtimes.

This week is National Inclusion week, and in school we are focusing on two of our school values equality and respect. Part of the curriculum at Gig Mill is delivered through a series of Focus days, the first one will be one day this week for RE with the theme of belief relating to different religious stories for each year group.

As we share October plans across school for more swimming lessons, some after school clubs for the older pupils, and parents consultation appointments please be aware this is all dependent on sufficient staffing, and possible COVID outbreak measures.

Thank you so much for your support,

**Mrs Hannaway**

***Our new Reception children have got off to an amazing artistic start!***



Our EYFS team have regularly been in touch with you from the start of term with Reception and Nursery inductions, and follow up calls. If you would like a parents consultation appointment, information will be emailed out for you on how to register next week.

Parents consultations will take place the week before half term, as requested we will continue to offer telephone consultations. Where staffing allows on a different day we will plan for in person appointments, if attending in person parents will be requested to wear facemasks while indoors in school. Please be aware that all appointments will be by telephone if there is another COVID outbreak in school with restricted mixing as advised by Public Health.

**EYFS:**

**In person** - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 3.15 pm – 5.00pm

**Phone appointments** – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 5.00pm – 7.00pm

**School Census** day is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, whilst the menu is no different to advertised, we would like to encourage as many children as possible to enjoy a school lunch on this day, as this has an impact on our school funding.

What also has a real impact on our funding is when children who may be entitled to Free School Meals put in a claim - apply here <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>

Please take a look and see if you may be eligible – and thank you to all our parents who have already done this.

### **Census Day – Menu Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

All Day Breakfast	Mac & Cheese with Tomato Bread
Fishcake	Hash Brown Potatoes
Baked Beans	Peas
Jacket Potato served with a variety of fillings	
Salad selection	Fresh Bread
Butterscotch and Ginger Cake and Custard	
Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt
Cheese & Biscuits	Fruit Jelly



### **PARKING:**

**When parking near school please consider access for neighbours, bus routes, parking restrictions and road and pavement users.**

### **Reception - Phonics**

As we begin phonics in school we are looking forward to sending home reading books in the near future. In the meantime, starting in October your child will be bringing home a library book each Monday that will need to be returned each Thursday. This is a book that you can share with your child to develop reading for pleasure. You can use the book to make predictions, talk about the pictures and even share as a bed time story. We will keep you informed as to when we will start sending home phonic reading books with your child.

*Miss Carpenter, Miss Whitehead, Mrs Dudley & Mrs Smith*



### **Autumn Term 2021**

**INSET:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
Term begins: 6<sup>th</sup> September  
Half-term: 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – 29<sup>th</sup> October  
**INSET:** 1<sup>st</sup> November  
Break up for Christmas: 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

### **Spring Term 2022**

**INSET:** 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Term begins: 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Half-term: 21<sup>st</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Break up for Easter: 8<sup>th</sup> April

### **Summer Term 2022**

**INSET:** 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Term begins: 26<sup>th</sup> April  
May Day: 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Half-term: 30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Break up for Summer: 21<sup>st</sup> July\*

\*Please note that all Dudley schools are now closing on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July due to additional bank holiday for the Platinum Jubilee.

### **E-safety- for advice and information for parents:**

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>      <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>  
<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>  
<http://parentinfo.org/page/for-schools>