



*This is one of the most challenging terms that we have had throughout the pandemic, with large COVID outbreaks in the last half term, and high levels of absences, both for children and staff. At times it has been hard for us to remain open and there have been no supply staff available, but we have made it to the end of term thanks to the great team spirit at Gig Mill. Huge thanks to all those staff who have been doing both their own job and covering for absent colleagues, and those offering help when needed. Thanks to those staff who have worked weekends with COVID reporting in order to keep everyone safe. Thanks too to all those parents who have sent messages of encouragement and support, small acts of kindness go a long way.*

## Christmas News

*The children have really enjoyed Christmas activities in school this week, hopefully you have enjoyed receiving the Christmas cards and calendars they have designed. It has been wonderful to share Reception and Year 1 mini shows with parents for the first time in two years, the children were fabulous and made us all proud. It was wonderful yesterday to hear the older children share Christmas songs and carols with different year groups, as we joined together outside.*

*Christmas lunch and class parties have also been enjoyed by all. Thank you to all those parents who have kindly shared kind messages with us, it is much appreciated, as well as cards and gifts.*

*We wish you all a wonderful festive holiday, a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Mrs Hannaway and the Gig Mill team*

### **Message from our chair of governors:**

*I wrote these words last year and I cannot believe we remain in such a strange situation 12 months later. Please stay safe and well and enjoy your break.*

*I am tremendously proud of every one of our staff, our leaders, and the team that have kept Gig Mill up and running. On behalf of Governors, parents, carers and our amazing children I would take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hannaway and the Gig Mill team for their tireless efforts to give our children the best possible support during such challenging and unusual times. With very best wishes for a safe and Happy Christmas.*

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year. School reopens on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Please could we ask that wherever possible children have Lateral Flow Tests before returning, and any child who is unwell remains at home.



### **Thank you from the Poppy Appeal**

*We raised £672.09 this year for the charitable work of the Royal British Legion through poppy and gift sales. Well done everyone!*

### **Thank you to the HSA**

*The Christmas mufti day raised £330, which together with fireworks brings the total to £810.61 for this term – thank everyone this makes such a difference, the funds will be spent on resources for children in school. Thanks too from the HSA.*



Suzanne Webb, MP for Stourbridge held a Christmas card competition and we are delighted that one of our Year One children won the competition with his fabulous reindeer! and we also had a special mention for a drawing from one of our children in Year Six – **Well Done!**

The NHS is encouraging everyone eligible for their first, second or COVID-19 booster jab to walk-in and 'grab a jab' this weekend, to protect themselves and help make the Christmas period safer for us all. There are 100 sites across the Black Country and West Birmingham, all are offering first, second and booster doses for adults aged 18 and over, as well as vaccines for 12-15-year-olds.

Appointments can be booked online via the [National Booking System](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/), <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or by calling 119.

Walk-in appointments are also available at a number of vaccination sites across the area including Tipton Sports Academy in Sandwell, The Saddlers Vaccination Centre in Walsall, the Cardiac Rehab Gym at City Hospital and the Mander Vaccination Centre in Wolverhampton.

More information is available [here](https://www.blackcountryandwestbirmccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/health-advice/covid-19-vaccination) -<https://www.blackcountryandwestbirmccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/health-advice/covid-19-vaccination>

### **Spring Term 2022**

**INSET:** 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Term Begins: 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Half-Term: 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Term Ends: 8<sup>th</sup> April

### **Summer Term 2022**

**INSET:** 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Term Begins: 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Half-term: 30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Term Ends: 21<sup>st</sup> July

*We look forward to welcoming all children back in school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.*

#### **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>