



# Gig Mill Primary School Newsletter

Date: 25.10.24

Dear Parents/Carers,

With our half term holiday next week, I wanted to let you know about some events happening in school before Christmas so you can add the dates to your diary.

Our **Christmas Fayre**—organised by our HSA is on **Friday 29th November** and it takes place after school. Look out for more information after the half term holiday.

In **Nursery** we have our traditional Santa's Workshop event on **Friday 13th December** from 10.30am. There will be a letter coming out to Nursery parents with more information.

Our **Reception classes** will be sharing their special Christmas performance with parents on: **9th December (RP class) and 10th December (RDS class) at 2pm.**

Our **Y1 classes** will be sharing their special Christmas performance with parents on **Monday 16th December & Tuesday 17th December at 2pm. Both performances will be supported by Y2 in the choir!**

Finally, our Gig Mill annual Carol Concert will take place (weather permitting) outside on the KS2 playground on the last day of term (Friday 20th December) at 1pm. Following the carol concert, school will close to all pupils at 2pm and school reopens to all on Monday 6th January. (no INSET day)

Best wishes,  
Mrs Griffiths  
(Head of School)

## Important Diary Dates for this term:

Half term—  
28/10/24—1/11/24

**INSET day 4/11/24**

Friday 29th November  
3.45pm-6pm Christmas  
Fayre

Whole school carol  
concert 1pm 20/12/24  
\* **Term finishes at 2pm  
on 20/12/24**

Christmas holiday-  
23/12/24—3/1/25  
**School re-opens to  
pupils on Monday 6th  
January**

## 500 words competition is now open!

BBC's 500 Words— the UK's largest children's writing competition— is now open for entries!

Children are encouraged to write a story they'd love to read themselves in no more than 500 words. Entries are open until 9pm on Friday 8th November 2024.

The competition is split into two different age groups— 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. 50 finalists will be invited to a glamorous grand final at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities and win prizes, with gold winners also claiming 500 books for their school library (and last year we were very proud to have our first finalist in this competition!)

There is a lot of extra information and even some special live lesson story writing workshops on the bbc website:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

Last year, we were very proud to have our first ever Gig Mill finalist attend the grand final in London. In February 2025, it could be you!



## Reading workshops for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents— more details to follow— but here are the dates

### Reception:

**Tues 19th Nov**

**9am / 2.20pm**

### Year 1

**Tues 3rd Dec**

**2.15 pm**

### Year 2

**Thurs 28th Nov**

**2.15pm**



**Congratulations to all the children who have achieved our Gig Mill Leadership Awards in our celebration assemblies this week.**

1H - Lennon, 1W - Rowan, 2DJ - Peggy, 2B - Hunter, 2KJ - Jack, 3AB - Eben, 3MB - Josie, 3D - Elijah, 4C - Toby, 4FG - Wilf, 4JR - Tommy, 5F - Chloe, 5GW - Ethan, 5G - William, 6P - Gage, 6H - Arlo, 6W - Ahmyron, ASD Base - Harry



### **Year 6 parents– reminder Secondary School place closing date.**

Dudley Admissions Service have asked schools to remind any Y6 parents that the Secondary School application process closes on **Thursday 31st October** (during half term)

There is an online form to complete, if you haven't already done so you can use [this link](#)

### **TT Rockstars**

Part of the maths curriculum is for children to learn their times tables up to 12x12, and to be able to recall these rapidly from memory. TTRS supports children with learning and revising the tables in a fun, game-style way.

You can access this app through the internet at <https://play.ttrockstars.com> or by downloading the Times Tables Rock Stars app from your app store. Your child will have a personal login and password that they will bring home with them.

3 minutes 3 to 4 times a week will really help support your child with learning their times tables. We can't wait to see who will become a Times Table Rock Star!

**A big thank you to everyone who took part in Hello Yellow day raising awareness of mental health for young people.**

**We raised a wonderful £82.65 for Young Minds– thank you to everyone who took part.**

### **Children in Need Day is Friday 15th November 2024.**

This year the focus is on 'Making life lighter for children' with the focus on supporting as many children as they can who are facing mental health challenges such as anxiety and depression. Many children live in poverty which also leads to inequality and lack of opportunity.

As a school we will have a special mufti day to raise money for Children in Need, with the theme of 'wear what makes you happy'– this could be your favourite colour, fancy dress or even your pyjamas! The choice is yours!

**If you wish to make a donation you can do so via Parentmail**



### **Remembrance Day**



**From Tuesday 5th November we will have poppies, Royal British Legion wristbands and assorted stationery for sale in our annual 'Pop Up Poppy Shop' - all children will have an opportunity to purchase an item if they wish to. Items are priced at a maximum of £1. Coins will be collected in the official poppy tins during the week.**

### **Safeguarding**

If you are concerned about a child then please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead who is Mrs Griffiths or our Deputy Safeguarding Leads Mrs Powell, Mrs Suchomski, Mrs Daniels, Mrs Garratt.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. If we are concerned about a child we have a duty to contact Children's Service, if you are concerned about a child, outside school, then you can call 0300 555 0050 with your concerns and seek advice. Our safeguarding policy can be found on our school website.

This is an interesting news story about the impact of music—look at the ‘things to talk about at home’ section.

# TAKEHOME



## What impact can music have on our lives?



## In the news this week

Following a ten-year campaign, music exam boards have announced they will now be including Sikh sacred music, also known as Kirtan, on their syllabus. It will be examined alongside violin and percussion instruments. The campaign to get the music recognised was led by Dr Harjinder Lallie, the co-director of Birmingham-based Gurmat Sangeet Academy.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Have you ever learnt to play a musical instrument? Would you like to?
- What type of music do you like listening to? Ask others at home what they like to listen to. Is it the same as or different from what you like?
- Can you think of times when we listen to music or make music with others?

### Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)





You may find this leaflet useful– all about young people sharing kindness online.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

## 1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

## 2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

## 3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

## 4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

## 5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

## 6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

## 7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

## 8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

## 9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

## 10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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