Newsletter 3

A Note from Mrs Case

We have reached the halfway point of what has already been a wonderful term at Gipsey Bridge Academy. As the weather has changed and the days have become colder, we are beginning to look ahead to the exciting build-up to Christmas! There is always something special about this time of year in a small school community, and we are looking forward to the celebrations, opportunities and special moments still to come.

This year, one of our key focuses is belonging. We want every child to feel that they matter, that their voice is heard and that they have an important place within our GBA family. The introduction of our new House Teams has been an exciting step in bringing this to life. They

provide opportunities for children across different year groups to work together, build friendships, support one another and develop a real sense of team spirit. We also hope our House Teams will help bring our families together, strengthening the wonderful community that makes Gipsey Bridge Academy so special.

This term, the children have also completed their assessments, and I want to say how incredibly proud we are of the way they have approached them. They have shown determination, resilience and such positive attitudes. Assessments are an important part of learning, helping us to recognise progress, celebrate achievements and identify the next steps in each child's learning journey. It has been lovely to see the children approach these opportunities with such maturity and commitment.

As we move into the second half of the term, there is plenty to look forward to! We are beginning to embrace the festive spirit and have lots of exciting activities and opportunities planned. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. The relationship between home and school is so important, and together we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to flourish.

I look forward to sharing the next few weeks with you as we continue Living, Learning and Growing Together.

Kind regards,

Mrs Case

Term 2 – What's Been Happening at GBA?

Remembrance

Class 3 proudly represented Gipsey Bridge Academy by joining the village community for the Remembrance Service. The rest of the school took time to remember in school, reflecting on the importance of remembrance and showing respect to those who have served and sacrificed.

Junior Online Safety Officers (JOSOs)

Our Junior Online Safety Officers have successfully completed their Lincolnshire County Council training. They are now helping to promote online safety across school, including contributing to our weekly whole-school Online Safety Assemblies. We are really proud of their commitment to helping keep everyone safe online.

EYFS Open Events

It was wonderful to welcome prospective families into school for our EYFS Open Events. We loved showing families around, sharing what makes GBA so special and giving them a glimpse of life in our school as they consider starting their child's learning journey with us in September 2027. Applications are now open through Lincolnshire County Council.

Children in Need – Non-Uniform and Tombola Donations

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need fundraising by taking part in our non-uniform day and donating prizes for our tombola. Together, we raised an amazing **£91** to support this important charity. Thank you for your generosity!

Odd Socks Day

We marked the start of Anti-Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day! The children enjoyed celebrating what makes each of us unique, recognising that being different is something to be proud of and that everyone deserves to feel included and valued.

Anti-Bullying Week

This year's focus encouraged children to think about the importance of speaking out. Through class discussions and activities, we explored how to use our voices, support one another and speak up when something doesn't feel right. We have had some fantastic conversations about kindness, respect and making sure everyone feels they belong. We hope you enjoyed our social media upload of photographs!

Allergy Awareness Assembly

Our KS2 children took part in an Allergy Awareness Assembly led by Picture News. This provided an opportunity to develop their understanding of allergies, the importance of recognising potential risks and how we can all play a part in keeping everyone safe. An important reminder that looking after one another is everyone's responsibility!

Donations for the Christmas Fair







PIC•COLLAGE













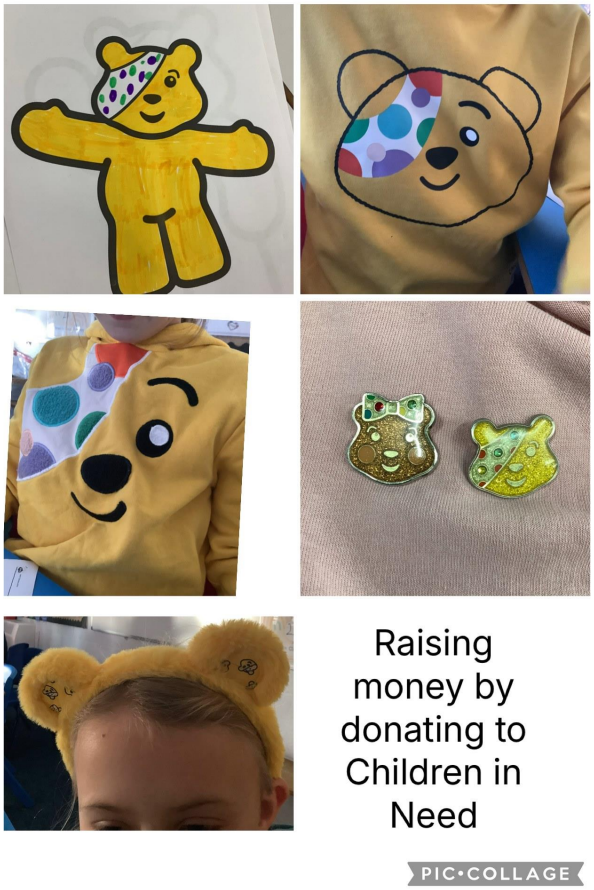

The Term Ahead…

Football Tournament

We are delighted that some of our Class 3 children have been selected to represent Gipsey Bridge Academy at a football tournament in Horncastle. These opportunities provide fantastic sporting experiences, allowing children to develop teamwork, resilience and confidence while representing our school. Good luck to everyone taking part!

Fire Safety Workshop – Class 1

Class 1 will be welcoming the Lincolnshire Fire Safety Partnership for a fire safety workshop. The children will learn some important messages about staying safe, understanding fire risks and knowing what to do in an emergency.

EYFS and Class 1 Christmas Performance - 8th and 9th December

Our youngest children have been busy practising for their Christmas performance, and excitement is certainly building! We know how much effort they have put into learning their lines, songs and actions, and we cannot wait to welcome families to share this special festive moment with us.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner - 10th December

It's time to get festive! Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers, with their PE kit bottoms, for our Christmas Jumper Day. If your child would like to enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner, please remember to order directly through Willoughby Foods.

Whole School Pantomime – 15th December

We are looking forward to our whole-school trip to the pantomime on 15th December. A huge thank you to our PTFA for supporting this experience. Watching live theatre is a wonderful enrichment opportunity, giving our children the chance to experience the excitement, magic and joy of a live performance.

End of Term Celebration Afternoon - 18th December

We look forward to welcoming families into school for a cosy afternoon together. It will be a lovely opportunity to sit with your children, look through their books and folders and celebrate their learning and achievements so far this year. Weather permitting, we will then gather together around the Christmas tree to sing some festive carols and end the term on a lovely community note!

A Few Reminders and Updates…

Coats, Water Bottles and Wellies

The weather has certainly changed, so please ensure children come to school with a warm, waterproof coat, wellies where needed and a named water bottle. We will continue to get outside as much as possible, whatever the weather! We are currently making use of the playground to give our field a well-deserved break. Lunchtimes have also been staggered to ensure everyone has plenty of space to play and enjoy their time outside.

Parking Outside School

A gentle reminder to please be considerate when parking around school. The zigzag lines outside the school must be kept clear to ensure everyone's safety. If parking opposite school, please make sure there is sufficient space for traffic to pass safely. Thank you for helping us to be considerate neighbours and keeping our school community safe.

Communication with School

If you have a question, need some support or wish to raise a concern, please use our school enquiries email address so that your message can be directed to the right person. Alternatively, class teachers are always happy to have a quick conversation at the end of the school day. If something needs a longer discussion, please arrange a suitable time so we can give it the attention it deserves.

Smart School Uniform and PE Kit

Please help us to maintain our smart school uniform expectations. A reminder that children in Years 1–6 should come to school in their PE kit on Thursdays and Fridays. Our PE kit consists of plain navy shorts or joggers and a light blue T-shirt. These do not need to have the school logo. Thank you for helping our children look smart and feel part of our GBA team!

Keeping Everyone Safe – Martyn's Law

Following the introduction of Martyn's Law and updated government guidance, we have reviewed and updated our school procedures and policies to ensure we continue to prioritise everyone's safety. These can be found on our school website. As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children, staff and visitors safe, we will practise a range of safety procedures throughout the year. This includes a procedure called *invacuation*, which means moving everyone to a safer, secure location inside a building if needed. As part of our planning, this may involve relocating to another local building. Please be reassured that these are precautionary arrangements, and any practice will be handled calmly and sensitively, with children's wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

Celebrating Our Music Mark Accreditation!

We are incredibly proud to share that Gipsey Bridge Academy has been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition for 2026–2027!

This accreditation recognises our commitment to providing children with a rich, varied and inspiring music education. At GBA, we believe music should be an important part of every child's school experience, offering opportunities to be creative, develop confidence and discover new talents.

Music is woven throughout school life, from our weekly singing assemblies and whole-class music lessons, where children have the opportunity to learn to play instruments, to performances at local music events and experiences of watching live theatre. We also love bringing our community together through special occasions such as singing carols around the Christmas tree.

This recognition celebrates the enthusiasm of our children and staff and our continued commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to experience the joy of music.

https://lincsmusicservice.org/for-schools/learn-an-instrument





Attendance Reminder

Regular school attendance is incredibly important in supporting children's learning, progress, friendships and sense of belonging. Every day in school provides valuable opportunities to learn, develop relationships and be part of our GBA community. We appreciate the support of families in helping children attend school regularly and make the most of every learning opportunity.

We follow the attendance guidance and procedures set out by Lincolnshire County Council, working in partnership with families to identify and address any barriers to regular attendance. If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please ensure you inform school by

9.00am, providing a reason for their absence. Where attendance becomes a concern, we will always aim to work positively with families to offer support and discuss ways to improve this.

A reminder that holidays during term time will not normally be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any requests must be submitted in advance using a term-time absence request form, available from the school office.

Thank you for your continued support in prioritising school attendance. Every day really does count, and together we can give our children the very best opportunities to learn, grow and flourish.

Please see the information below outlining action taken for each group of attendance category:

95% - 100%	Excellent – no action taken
90% - 94%	Close monitoring and invitation to a meeting. Medical evidence may also be required to authorise future absences – any absence not relating to illness will automatically be unauthorised
Below 90% - Persistent Absence (PA)	PN (penalty notice) warning (notice to improve) PN request to be submitted to LCC for prosecution

Lates are monitored closely, and should your child attend late on a regular basis, you will be invited to attend a meeting

Attendance

Supporting you to understand the new rules



A National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absences, including unauthorised leave of absences in Term Time, is being introduced following changes to the law.
These new government regulations will come into effect from **19th August 2024.**

What are these changes?

If a pupil has **10 unauthorised sessions**, which is equal to **5 school days**, within a **10 week period**, a penalty notice may be issued.

This will come under 3 categories: First, Second, and Third offence.



First Offence
The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within **28 days**, reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21 days**.



Second Offence
The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child to be paid within **28 days**. No reduced rate will be offered.

Third offence and any further offences (within 3 years)
The third time an offence is committed for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

For any further inquiries about school attendance please visit:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

A word from our GBA Champions…



Since our last newsletter, we have been busy helping to make our school an even better place. We have been listening to what children want and sharing their ideas with Mrs Case and the staff.

Here are some of the things we have been doing:

📚 **New Phonics Books** – Mrs Fappiano has ordered some lovely new books for EYFS and Class 1 to help children with their phonics and reading.

🌳 **Fixing the Trim Trail** – Mr Graves has contacted the Trust to get quotes for fixing our Trim Trail. We hope it will be ready to use again soon!

📱 **New iPads** – Mrs Case has spoken to the PTFA about helping us to buy some new iPads so we can use more technology in our learning.

⚽ **Football Tournament** – Some children from Year 5 and 6 are going to take part in a football tournament on Thursday morning. They will be playing against five other schools. Good luck, everyone!

🪑 **Our Benches** – Mr Graves has fixed some of our broken benches and replaced others with new ones kindly donated by Miss Moffat when she left.

We are really pleased that some of our ideas are turning into real changes around school. We will keep listening to everyone's ideas because we want GBA to be a happy place where everyone feels listened to and included.

Remember, your voice matters!

From your GBA Champions ⭐

A word from our JOSOs…



We have been very busy learning how to become Junior Online Safety Officers (JOSOs). We have now completed our training with the Lincolnshire Online Safety Partnership and are excited to share what we have learnt!

Here are some of the things we have been doing:

💻 We have completed two training lessons to help us understand our role as Junior Online Safety Officers.

👩🏫 The Online Safety Partnership visited Classes 1, 2 and 3 to talk to children about how to stay safe when using the internet.

🎤 We help Mrs Case to lead our weekly Online Safety Assemblies and share important messages with the rest of the school.

🤳 We have learnt lots of important things, including:

- Never sharing personal information online.
- Creating strong passwords and avoiding easy ones that people might guess.
- Understanding the difference between real photographs and AI-generated pictures.
- Thinking carefully about what we see and share online.

We are looking forward to helping everyone at GBA stay safe online. Remember, if something online makes you feel worried or uncomfortable, always speak to a trusted adult.

Think before you click – stay safe online!

From your Junior Online Safety Officers ⭐



A word from our JRSOs…



We have been busy helping to make our school a safer place. After taking part in our road safety workshops with the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, we have been reminding children about how to stay safe when riding their bikes.

🚲 Cycle Safety

We want everyone to remember:

- Always wear a helmet to protect your head.
- Make sure your bike lights are switched on.
- Wear a bright, high-vis jacket so cars can see you.
- Always be sensible and look out for other people.

🚗 Keeping Everyone Safe Outside School

We have also noticed that some cars are not parking safely outside school. We have made some posters to remind parents and visitors to park carefully and think about the children walking in and out of school. We will put them up this week.

These posters are temporary while Mrs Case and the school work on contacting the relevant highways authorities about the road signs and markings outside school. We have also noticed that there isn't a marked bus stop outside school, which is something we want to raise.

We want everyone to feel safe when coming to and leaving GBA. Please help us by following our reminders!

From your Junior Road Safety Officers ⭐


GIPSEY BRIDGE ACADEMY
Please Drive Carefully
20 mph
Children Crossing


GIPSEY BRIDGE ACADEMY
No Parking on Zigzag Lines


GIPSEY BRIDGE ACADEMY
Working Together for a Safer School Community


GIPSEY BRIDGE ACADEMY
P
Please Park Safely and Considerately

GBPEnquiries@infinityacademies.co.uk

GIPSEY BRIDGE ACADEMY