George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 13th December 2024

To all our families,

It has been an extremely busy and action-packed term. As we come to the end of the Autumn term, we reflect on all we have learnt, achieved and experienced. Each year group have written their reflections of this term below, we hope you enjoy reading these.

Yesterday we held our annual Christmas lunch, and in keeping with tradition, all staff served the children their lunch whilst singing Christmas songs. Much fun and enjoyment were had by all. A special thank you to Mrs Chester and Mrs Stolworthy who ensured the meticulous lunchtime plan ran smoothly with everyone getting their dinner in record time!

Yesterday, our Christmas Fair was also a huge success. Though I was unable to attend myself due to illness, it was lovely to hear how busy the school was with parents and children. A huge thank you to Mrs Chester and Mrs Watts who planned and organised such a successful whole school community event. A huge thank you also to Mrs Waller, who was seen selling raffle tickets on the playground for the past few weeks. I am delighted that we raised **£386.** Thank you to all parents who donated items, attended the fair, hired a stall or purchased raffle tickets. Your support is part of what makes our school so special. In the new year, our school council will be deciding on how to spend this money.

As we begin our final week of this term, a reminder that we have carols around the tree happening on Wednesday for Year 3 and 4 at 9am and Year 5 and 6 at 2:45. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers and Christmas 'accessories' on this day. We are also inviting all children to wear their Christmas jumper and 'accessories' on our final day of this term on Friday 20th December, with tinsel warmly welcomed!

I wish you and your family a lovely weekend and a very Merry Christmas.

Warmest regards,

Mrs Petchey and the George White Team

This Week's Attendance

We hold a celebration assembly every Friday morning to share and celebrate the children's achievements. During this assembly, we also recognise the class with the highest overall attendance for the week.

Well-done to **6 Palacio** this week, for having the highest attendance.

6 Ness: 93%

6 Palacio: 99%

6 Morpurgo: 93%

5 Almond: 96%

5 Johnson: 96%

4 Tan: 97%

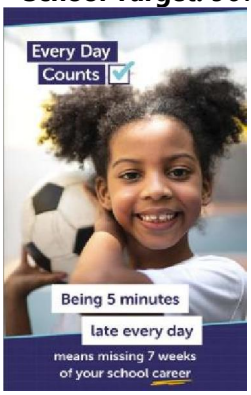
4 Pullman: 96%

3 Potter: 93%

3 Blyton: 98%

Whole School: 96%

School Target: 96%



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer, Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton.

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020





Year 3

Well done Year 3! You have settled wonderfully into GWJS and completed your first term. We are all so proud of you.
You have learned so much in History and Geography: All about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age as well as the way people's lives changed between them. In Geography you have become super map experts and can name human and physical features as well as use a key to create an ordnance survey map and a compass to show direction.
In Science you have learned about the function of your skeleton and all about how different rocks are formed.
Your recorder playing is really something!
In English you have written beautiful poetry and first person narratives. You know all about nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.
Maths has been the most exciting - You can use column addition and subtraction, sometimes with two exchanges (across the 10s and the 100s)
Have a lovely holiday and we can't wait to see you in January

Year 4

What a great first term in year 4.
It all began with us learning about the Romans. Our Roman day was an experience we will never forget, especially attacking the teachers with swords and throwing darts at the Roman soldier. We all learnt a lot about history and how the Roman empire shaped East Anglia. This focus on Romans also fed into are sessions, where we found out about manga and used the poem 'I am a Roman soldier' to create 'Zines.'
We also learnt all about electricity and had a lot of fun making circuits, switches and finding out about electrical conductors and insulators.
In our English sessions, we learnt all about grammar and punctuation, then wrote poems about our families. In maths we looked at place value and then learnt how to add 4 digit numbers using the column method.
After half term our focus moved to Geography, where we spent time comparing East Anglia to Campania, Italy. During this we also learnt about tectonic plates, volcanos and earthquakes.
After this, we have spent time doing D and T. We have learnt all about levers and linkages, and have designed and are gping to make our own slingshot cars.
In English since half-term, we have learnt about, and written stories based on Gorilla by Anthony Browne.
In maths we have learnt how to subtract using the column method, multiply 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number and divide larger numbers. We have also worked on measures and how to find the perimeter of shapes.

Year 5

What an exciting term this has been. The year 5 children have been working their socks off. They have aced Maths and are confident in place value. They have been able to apply this knowledge to addition and subtraction. We have mastered the use of formal methods for multiplication and division. Also, we have proven to be experts in area and perimeter.
In English, we have written our own adventure story based on the book 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo. The children loved this book and had great fun exploring the setting and character description throughout. Their stories were amazing.
During our Science lessons, we have carried out many investigations into forces and materials. The children have loved getting hands on in Science and it has really helped to deepen their understanding. In Geography, we have travelled to the Western USA. We learned all about their economic activity, climates and human and physical features. After this, we compared it to our own country and region. History saw us visiting the Castle Museum to spend the day bringing our learning to life. We learned all about life in Anglo Saxon and Viking times, which the children really enjoyed. In Art we found our creative side and explored the medium of typography ending with making their own 3D maps. The children produced some fantastic pieces and were really proud of their beautiful work. DT has been very exciting, and the children are enjoying designing their own night light. This includes adding an electrical circuit. I think you will agree that this has been a busy term for all, and we are so proud of each and every one of the children. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to more exciting times in the new year. The year 5 Team.

Year 6

As we approach the end of this busy and productive half-term, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on all the exciting learning experiences your children have had. It's been a fantastic few weeks, and we're proud of all the progress and enthusiasm shown by the children.
In English, the children have been particularly passionate about a letter-writing project raising awareness for refugees. They wrote thoughtful letters, expressing empathy and understanding, and were eager to share their voices on such an important topic.
In Maths, we have become true experts in fractions and percentages, mastering these key concepts. We are starting our new topic on ratios and proportions, which we're excited to explore further in the coming weeks!
Our science lessons have taken us into the microscopic world, as we've studied microorganisms and the fascinating world of classification. The children have really enjoyed learning about the various living organisms surrounding us.
In French, the children have been busy learning how to describe themselves physically and in terms of personality traits. It's been a fun way to expand their vocabulary and practice conversational skills.

In our PSHE lessons, we've celebrated our differences and focused on building kindness, understanding, and respect within our community. It's been a rewarding part of the curriculum, fostering a positive and inclusive classroom environment. Our PE sessions have been filled with energy and skill-building. The children have been working hard on their gymnastics and hockey skills, developing teamwork, coordination, and fitness. Looking ahead, we are all very excited for next Wednesday, when we'll be holding our **Christmas Concert**! It's going to be a wonderful event, filled with holiday cheer, and we can't wait to share it with you.
Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very **Happy Winter Holiday** and a **Merry Christmas**. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting term in the New Year!

Blake Class
What a fantastic end to 2024 we have had in Blake class! The children have all worked so hard this half term, tying in learning about the Amazon rainforest and our class text, The Great Kapok Tree, with thinking about how they can save the planet. Children have remembered so many details about how to make the world a better place and why issues like fair trade and deforestation need to be addressed. They have shown themselves to be thoughtful, considerate and respectful.
Our topic has linked English, geography, PSHE, art and music. We have also learnt about world religions and how major festivals are created and we are now learning about advent as the lead up to Christmas. We have enjoyed opening one video each day showing Christmas celebrations around the world on our virtual advent calendar.
It has been wonderful to see the love of reading which develops over time in our class. The enthusiasm for reading we are seeing at the moment has never been seen at this level before and we are so proud of the children for the effort they make and for the way they support each other and read together to share a love of books.
We have given out so many merit tickets this half term! Many have been for effort and learning, but lots have been for school values. In Blake class, we welcome new members each half term, and say goodbye to others at the same time. All new children are treated with kindness and respect and current class members show confidence as they take the new children under their wings and show them around the school. Next week, we say goodbye to three children from Blake class and look forward to hearing how they get on when they return to their home schools.
We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year and we look forward to welcoming old and new students in January!

Do you have a spare scooter?

We are looking for scooters to use as part of our lunchtime playground provision. If you have a scooter you no longer need or use, please would you consider donating it to our school, thank you.



Attendance

This term we have recorded 8409 minutes of lateness. This amounts to nearly 140 hours of lost learning time. We understand that sometimes things happen during the morning routine, but it is really important that children arrive to school on time. Our classroom doors open at 8:40am and the gates are closed again at 8:50am.

Dates for the Diary 2024/2025	
Wednesday 18th December	Carols around the tree Year 3 & 4 at 9am Year 5 & 6 at 2.45pm
Friday 20th December	End of term at 3:20pm
Tuesday 7th January	Start of the Spring Term – gates open at 8:30am
Wednesday 15th January	4 Tan visit to millennium library

Norfolk County Council

2024-2025 Norfolk Model Calendar

This calendar applies to community schools, community special schools, VC schools and nursery schools and sets the days on which school transport will be provided. While most Foundation, VA, foundation special, free schools and academy trusts who are able to set their own dates, adopt the Norfolk Model, we advise you to check with your child's school before making holiday or other commitments.

September 2024

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November 2024

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December 2024

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January 2025

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April 2025

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May 2025

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August 2025

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Key : White dates - schools open to pupils Yellow dates - pupil holiday Red dates - bank holiday	Five staff training days will be selected from yellow dates, we suggest 2 & 3 September, 25 October, 6 January and 22 April. Some may choose to use twilight hours for staff training instead of some or all of these.

Norfolk County Council

2025-2026 Norfolk Model Calendar

This calendar applies to community schools, community special schools, VC schools and nursery schools and sets the days on which school transport will be provided. While most Foundation, VA, foundation special, free schools and academy trusts who are able to set their own dates, adopt the Norfolk Model, we advise you to check with your child's school before making holiday or other commitments.

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October 2025

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November 2025

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December 2025

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January 2026

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February 2026

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March 2026

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April 2026

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May 2026

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June 2026

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July 2026

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August 2026

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