



Primary School

# Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

It is hard to believe that we are already so far into our first term – time really does seem to be flying by. The children have settled back into school routines with great enthusiasm, and it has been a pleasure to see their positive attitude towards learning.

This week, we have begun exploring Black History Month in our assemblies. The children have been introduced to key figures who have had a significant impact on Black history, and it has been inspiring to see how engaged they are with these important stories and discussions.

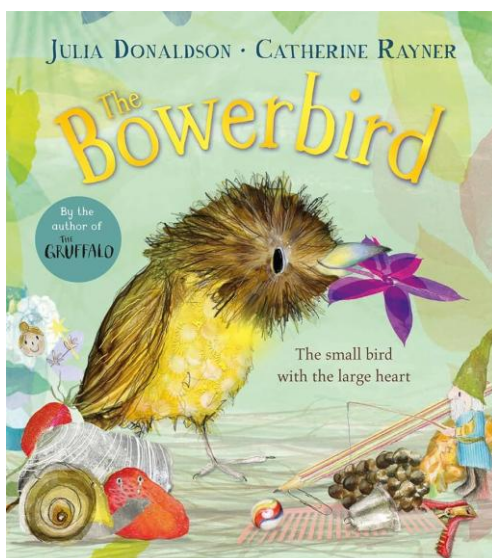
In addition, we shared *The Bowerbird* by Julia Donaldson, a story that highlights the values of kindness, forgiveness, and not taking others for granted. These messages are ones we continually encourage within our school community, and it was heartening to see the children reflect on them so thoughtfully.

We also enjoyed a special Build a Burger Day this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and I would like to extend my thanks to our wonderful kitchen staff for making the event such a success.

Following feedback from our recent parent survey, many of you expressed an interest in knowing more about what the children are learning. In response, staff have created a half-termly overview for each subject, which will be shared with you to provide greater insight into your child's learning journey.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Bower



## Gold Book and Good Citizen Awards

Each Friday we hold a celebration assembly for the whole school. Each teacher chooses two Gold Book awards and one Good Citizen award for children who have hit a key milestone, achieved a personal target, worked above and beyond expectations or who have shown our school values.

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
<b>Gold Book Awards</b>	Cooper Strudwick	Quinn Coburn	Mia Ashdown	Frankie Mentesh	Ellie Parker-Smith
	Thomas Spackman	Oscar Parker	Tommy Dimmond	Jude O'Rourke	George Turner
<b>Good Citizen Awards</b>	Tillie Mackshea	Emily Field	Leela Smith	Phoebe Drizen	Araya Kilany

### CLUBS

We were very pleased to have started our first week of lunchtime and after-school clubs. It has been wonderful to see so many children taking part in a wide range of activities. I would like to thank all staff for giving their time to provide these valuable opportunities. Please be reminded that all after-school clubs finish at 4:00pm, with the exception of FPG Football and Dodgeball clubs, which finish at 4:10pm.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

On the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd October, we will be walking to St Catherine's Church to celebrate Harvest. During the service, the children will sing harvest songs, share poems, and reflect on this special time of year. We kindly ask that each child brings a donation for the food bank; these will be blessed during the service and left at the church for distribution. Unfortunately, due to space limitations, we are unable to accommodate parents at this event.

### SEND COFFEE MORNING

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to our SEND Coffee Morning on Thursday 13th November at 9:00am. This will be a valuable opportunity to meet informally with staff, share experiences, ask questions, and find out more about the support available for children with special educational needs and disabilities. We are delighted that Debbie from Essex Family Wellbeing Services will also be joining us to share information and offer guidance. We hope this event will also provide a chance for parents to connect with one another and build a supportive community.

## WEAR IT YELLOW DAY – FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

A reminder that on Friday 10th October we will be supporting Wear It Yellow Day in aid of YoungMinds and World Mental Health Day. Children are invited to wear something yellow to help raise awareness and show support for young people's mental health. We encourage everyone to bring a small donation, with all funds going directly to support vital mental health services for young people.



## Universal Free School Meals (UFSM)

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UFSM). This offer does not depend on your household income or whether you receive any benefits, every child in these year groups is eligible to take up the offer.

Being entitled to UFSM does not necessarily mean you are entitled to support available during school holidays or in the event of school closures, that support is based on whether you are eligible for FSM. Parents and Guardians can check their eligibility for FSM online via the [LGfL Free School Meal Eligibility Checker](#)



## Free School Meals (FSM)

If you can't afford school dinners you may be eligible for free school meals. To be eligible you must be receiving one of the following benefits:

- Income support or income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of less than £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Parents and Guardians can check their eligibility online via the [LGfL Free School Meal Eligibility Checker](#). A Certificate of Eligibility is available through the website for any child eligible for a free school meal attending the school. This Certificate of Eligibility should be taken to the school, along with any supporting evidence, and the school will register your claim for Free School Meals.

If you are eligible for free school meals and your circumstances change in any way (such as changing address or school, and registering another child) you will need to notify the school.

**Parents should check if they are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), as it not only supports their child with meals but also brings vital additional funding to the school to enhance learning and resources.**

#### UPCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wear it Yellow Day**- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Year 5 & 6 Rugby Competition**- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October (more details to follow)

**PTFA Halloween Disco**- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 3.15- 4.30

**Parents' Evening** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (timings and details for bookings to follow)

**Harvest Festival**- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October afternoon

**Cross Country** at St. Peter's, Sible Hedingham- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 3.30pm (more details to follow)

**CHRISTMAS DATES**- more details to follow nearer

PTFA CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT- Friday 5th December 3.10-5.45

CLASS 1 & 2 NATIVITY- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 9.15 & Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 5.30

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY and CHRISTMAS DINNER- Thursday 11th December

CLASS 3, 4 & 5 Christmas Concert- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2.30 & Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 5.30

CAROLS ON THE PLAYGROUND- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2.30

# Rotary Shoebox Scheme

[www.rotaryshoebox.org](http://www.rotaryshoebox.org)

## Advice on filling your shoebox

### Child ~ For young children

**PLEASE NOTE: Boxes for children aged 0 to 3 years must only contain NEW items.**

*All boxes in this category will be opened and the contents checked to ensure that we comply with customs requirements in each of the countries to which we send your gifts. Failure to comply can result in fines being imposed on the charity or goods being destroyed.*

**Boxes for children aged 4 and over can include pre-loved toys, but they must be in "as new" condition.**

Cars, trucks, etc, balls, complete jigsaws colouring books, pens, crayons, yo-yo, bubble, blowers, wooden and plastic toys, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, playdough / plasticine & cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards...

### Teenagers ~ up to 18 years age

Sportswear, scarf, gloves, socks, hat, football memorabilia, writing materials, games, playing cards, tennis ball, tooth brush & paste, roll-on deodorants, comb, mirror, costume jewellery, make-up, hair brush, toiletries, clothing repair kits, sketch pad, coloured pens / pencils...

### Household Goods ~

#### For older folk & families

Scarves, gloves, hats, wrapped soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, shampoo, soap flakes, pan scourers, antiseptic cream, bandages, face or body creams, cosmetics, pens, writing pad & envelopes, T-lights, candles, sewing kit, scissors...

**All items with a 'Use By Date' should have at least 6 months left.**

## WHAT NOT TO INCLUDE IN ANY BOX

**Do not include any sweets, chocolate, drinks or food of any kind**  
*(They are against Customs regulations at country borders)*

Battery operated toys, conflict related items, matches, inflammable liquids, inflammable aerosols (eg: deodorants & hair spray), seeds or any other living material, automatic washing machine powders

Please securely sellotape tops of liquid containers.  
Protect anything sharp and do not put anything sharp into a CHILD box



- It is important to indicate on the box lid, who the box is for.
- The contents are of good quality.
- The box should be completely filled.
- Remember that the recipient will be opening the box in eager anticipation, and especially with the toys for the children, quite possibly the first real gifts they have received for a very long time.
- Do not sellotape the lid down

*“Spreading a Little Happiness”*

July 2025



# halloween disco

GOSFIELD COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

£4  
PER CHILD

THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER  
3.15 - 4.45PM

PURCHASE TICKETS BY BACS PAYMENT  
FRIENDS OF GOSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ACC NO: 58313868.

S/C: 30-90-89.

REFERENCE: CHILD'S FULL NAME & CLASS



CASH  
TUCK SHOP  
AVAILABLE