



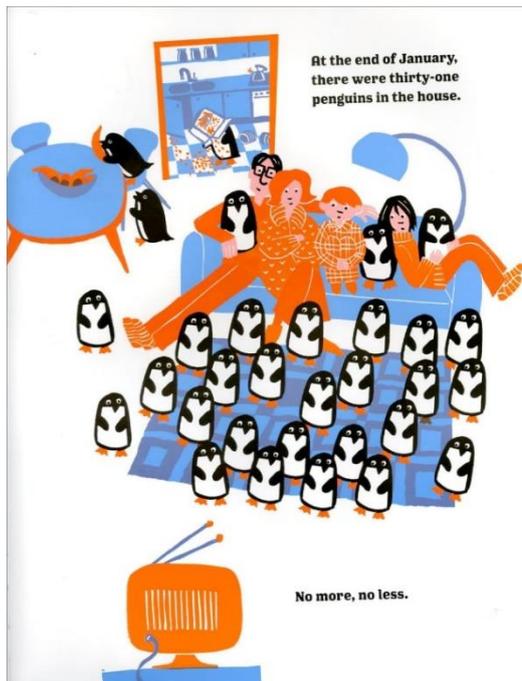
GOLDSBOROUGH and SICKLINGHALL Federation

Sicklinghall Community Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our return back to school has been an exciting one! We started with a focus on the book *365 Penguins* about a household that receives a Penguin in the post every single day! This led to lots of excellent Maths Problem Solving and Reasoning as well as written pieces about Penguins and Science experiments learning how blubber insulates animals in freezing-cold water!



Behind the scenes, I have been working closely with teachers making lots of exciting changes to our curriculum in line with the new Ofsted framework which was implemented since September 2019. This framework expects the children to have a broad and balanced curriculum with clear progression for each year group – this is really important in mixed ages classes to ensure that children don't repeat learning and they are excited by lessons and challenged appropriately. Our updated websites are also in progress – we can't wait to launch these in the coming months.



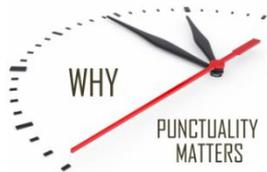
I have begun to add more books to school too – the first focus was to ensure that there were enough challenging books for the older children, recommending books that I have recently read myself. We are slowly building a reading buzz in school. Some duplicate / older books have been donated to children in a 'Pass it Forward' initiative – this has certainly filled the children with excitement. Once the children have finished them, please pass them on again!



The PTFA have facilitated the **wonderful transformation to the Library** by donating money to school – we now have a **READING JUNGLE!** The TAs worked really hard to create a magical place for children to enjoy reading in. **Thank you PTFA!**

Attendance Matters:

Attendance at school of less than 90% is classed as persistent absence by the Department for Education. National figures show that only 68% of pupils achieve the expected standard in the core subjects of reading, writing and mathematics where their attendance is below 90% compared with 86% of pupils with attendance of 95% or above. This is due to learning missed in lesson time and the difficulty of catching up with lost learning on a child's return to school. For our youngest children, compulsory school age is 5 years old.



Punctuality Matters too! Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

Arriving **5 minutes late** every day adds up to **3.5 days lost each year**
Arriving **10 minutes late** every day adds up to **7 days absence per year**
Arriving **15 minutes late** every day adds up to **10 days absence per year**
Arriving **30 minutes late** every adds up to **22 days absence per year**

- Attendance of **95% for the year equals 10 days that your child has been absent** - that is **2 full school weeks** of your child's learning missed for that year!
- Attendance of **90% for the year equals 19 days that your child has been absent** - that is **almost 4 school weeks** missed.
- Attendance of **85% for the year equals 29 days** that your child has been absent - that is **almost 6 school weeks** missed.
- Attendance of **80% for the year equals 38 days** that your child has been absent - that is **over 7 school weeks missed**.

The school day has two attendance sessions. If your child seems unwell in the morning but seems better by lunchtime, please bring them into school for the afternoon session (unless they have had a recent spell of D&V); this will help to keep your child's attendance as high as possible.

If your child ever has to have an emergency medical appointment, please ensure that you try to make it at the beginning or end of a school day, this way your child would only miss a maximum of half a day for the appointment.

The school year has 190 days for pupils to attend a year There are 175 days per year when your child does not have to attend school. These days could be used to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits
- Visit friends and family
- Go on holiday
- Go shopping
- Go on days out
- Attend routine appointments (please try to reschedule these out of school time if they are non-urgent).

We have designed a Red, Amber, Green system based on the above facts to help keep individual attendance as high as possible; and to avoid the need for the Local Authority become involved when attendance falls to 90% or below. A letter will be sent home each half term to inform you of your child's

GREEN	-	Excellent attendance	97% and above
AMBER	-	Borderline Attendance	94% to 96.9%
RED	-	Poor Attendance	93.9% and below

attendance. Look out for your child's attendance to date coming soon.

We understand that there are reasons why a child's attendance may be low and is unavoidable – a perfect example of this was when the sickness bug was in full force before Christmas! If we are already aware of the specific reasons behind your child's attendance figure of less than 90%, this letter will be for your information only.

However, if you would like to discuss your child's attendance or would like support from the school in any way that might improve your child's attendance figure, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher in the first instance, or myself.

Active Playtimes

In recent weeks, I have been working with the Development Manager for North Yorkshire Sport Ltd. to outline a plan for increasing Physical Activity in the school Day and Sports Provision over the course of an academic year.

One of the areas that we investigated first was playtimes as there has been numerous accidental bumps due to overcrowding. Our village school is more popular than ever but the space the children are able to use remains the same. The wet weather limits us to the playground and as numbers grow, routines and processes need to be amended both to meet the needs of the children and to ensure that safeguarding remains effective.

Some of our younger children have expressed that they find it quite daunting being on a very busy playground while our older children have stated that they need more space to use equipment so that they can be more physically active. We don't want our children to feel bored – especially as the expectation is that children are doing 30 minutes of physical activity where they are out of breath each day. Our aim is to instil a love of fresh air and activity in all of our children.

In the coming weeks we are going to move to two sessions so that we can trial having more equipment out at playtime. When the field is in use in the Spring and Summer then we are able to use more space and we may have days where the children are all together again to ensure that the family feel to school remains and so that children can maintain friendships across the age ranges.

We also hope to repair the broken beam on the Trim Trail very soon and get some additional grip underfoot so that this area can be used more frequently – in fact, every day when it is dry, and when the weather is inclement if it is safe to do so. We are also hoping to purchase some playground markings to facilitate more productive and fun games at playtimes. We are hoping to introduce a Golden Mile too where children are given the opportunity to complete laps to build up to earning a 5-mile medal and certificate, a Half Marathon medal and certificate, and a Full Marathon over their time at school too.



Ethos and Values

This half term we are focusing on **Peace and Thankfulness as our Values**. This is one of the most important aspects of the curriculum as these messages are the thread that links everything together.

Our Ethos Statements this half term are:



GOLDSBOROUGH and SICKLINGHALL
Weekly Ethos Statement



"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."
Eleanor Roosevelt



GOLDSBOROUGH and SICKLINGHALL
Weekly Ethos Statement



"Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means."



19th March – Y4 Bewerley Park Residential Parent Meeting 3:30pm at Sicklinghall (Parents from both schools can attend either date)

3rd April – 9:05am – 10:05am – Making Phonics Fun (Reception Parents)

3rd April – Last day of Half Term – normal school finish time.

Please do check the website as dates are subject to change.