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[www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk)



**22nd December 2023**

**Dear Families,**

**Happy Christmas to all our wonderful children and their families.**

**SCHOOL FINISHES TODAY AND WE ALL RETURN ON MONDAY JANUARY 8TH**

Congratulations to all our hamper winners , school messaged all families with the winning names earlier this week. A huge thank you to the PTA members who gave their time to get the hampers together.

Thank you also to the PTA for funding the pantomime, The Great Christmas Robbery, that the children enjoyed on Wednesday afternoon and for the Christmas Shop that our pupils love so much. Once again a huge thank you to all the PTA members who spent time sourcing the gifts and wrapping them— massive task but so much excitement for the children.

More PTA news on page 2

We've had a week of wonderful performances by our children—nativities and carol services—well done to all our pupils and everyone who helped to make these occasions so magical.



### Useful information

**Before and after school clubs :** booking forms available on school website  
[http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk/serve\\_file/48433](http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/48433)

**School uniform official supplier - other options are available, please see the school website for more information.**  
[www.myschoolstyle.com/school/goostrey](http://www.myschoolstyle.com/school/goostrey)

On-line payment website address [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schoolshop](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schoolshop)

SENCo [mr.campion@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:mr.campion@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk)

Income Related Free School Meals: [freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk) or visit website for further information  
[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free\\_school\\_meals.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx)

**Term dates for 23-24 and 24-25 are on our website**

The school's official communication with families comes through the newsletter, website, class pages, messages through the app, email and occasionally paper letters.

The PTA have Facebook for information Goostrey Community Primary School PTA <https://www.facebook.com/GCPSPTA>



### Goostrey PTA End of Term update

Thank you to all the children and families who have supported events this term. We have had some fantastic cakes baked in Years 6 and 5, clothes recycled in the Bags 4 Schools donations, the children (and adults!) enjoyed Elementals at the November film night and had fun at the Beetle Drive.

Our Christmas events started with some beautiful artwork created at the Christmas Card workshops, we had games and a chocolate tombola at St Luke's Christmas Fair, our Christmas elves have been creating beautiful Hampers for the children to win after all the generous donations. The PTA bought and wrapped the presents for the children to buy at the Christmas shop, we hope you enjoy opening these on Christmas Day! We also hope you enjoy completing the Christmas Trail around the village over the festive period.

A huge thank you to all of the PTA committee for giving their time and enthusiasm arranging these events, you are all brilliant! All money raised is reinvested in our school. This term we have funded playground equipment, individual class funds and contributed to the end of term school pantomime. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, see you in 2024!



*The PTA committee*



**Jack** has worked really hard to pass this stage of swimming a couple of weeks ago. He is now happily enjoying the challenge of Stage 4 and hoping to complete this in record time!! We are super proud of him and how he tries so hard

Please keep sending your child's achievements for the newsletter so we can celebrate them together.

We love knowing about what the pupils are doing both in and out of school.

Items need to be received by midday on the Thursday for inclusion in Friday's newsletter. Thank you

**Key dates:**

***School closes for Christmas on Friday 22nd December and we are all back on Monday 8th January***

**Next term:**

**12th January** Year 4 cake sale

**15th January** PTA meeting 7pm Space Invader

**26th January**—school disco Village Hall

**9th February** Year 3 cake sale

**8th March** Film Night

Year 6 national tests and assessments will be ongoing throughout the summer term until the **end of June 2024**. It is vital that your child attends school for the whole of this period.

**YEAR 6 SATS ARE WB 13TH MAY 2024 and the writing assessments are until the end of June.**

## **TAKING CHILDREN ON HOLIDAY DURING TERM TIME**

### **A guide for parents and carers**

#### **Frequently asked questions**

**Am I entitled to take my child out of school for a family holiday?**

- No.** Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children attend school or the alternative provision on a regular basis
- The Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a parent to “*fail to secure their child’s regular attendance at the school*”
- The amendments to the 2006 Regulations remove any reference to *family holidays, extended leave and the statutory threshold of ten school days*.
- The amendments make clear that **Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence (holiday) during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances**
- The amendments give **parents no entitlement** to take their child out of school for a holiday in term time
- The Head Teacher and Governing Body will determine what the exceptional circumstances are

**If we decide to take a holiday during term time what should we do?**

- The parent/carer with whom the child resides must apply in writing to the school
- The letter/application must explain the exceptional circumstance surrounding the request for the leave of absence

**What will the school do then?**

- The Head Teacher will determine whether the exceptional circumstance ruling applies, if not the application will be declined
  - Only the Headteacher (or the Deputy) has the power to approve leave of absence applications. When making the decision the protocols and criteria laid down in the school’s attendance policy must be followed.
  - Each academic year, schools inform parents/carers via a letter, newsletter or some other communication; that they may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice if their child has unauthorised absences in term time
- You will receive a written response from the Headteacher (or the Deputy) letting you know if your application has been approved
- If the holiday goes ahead after the application has been declined the absence will be recorded as unauthorised

### What will happen if the absence is unauthorised?

- The school will decide if a Penalty Notice should be issued. If the school decide that a Penalty Notice is to be issued
- You will receive a letter from the school advising that it has referred the matter to the Local Authority and that a Penalty Notice may be issued;
- The school will inform the Local Authority that a Penalty Notice needs to be issued
- A Penalty Notice will be sent to you, accompanied by an explanatory letter; the Notice gives you the opportunity to pay a penalty fine instead of being prosecuted in the criminal courts

| <b>Penalties for unauthorised absence</b> |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Timeline</b>                           | <b>One child</b>  | <b>Two children</b>  |
| Paid within 21 days                       | £60 per parent  | £60 per child = £120 per parent  |
| After 21 days and before 28 days          | £120 per parent   | £120 per child = £240 per parent   |
| After 28 days                             | You will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your child's regular attendance | You will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your children's regular attendance |

Payments will **not** be accepted after the 28<sup>th</sup> day and payments **cannot** be paid in part or by instalments

**Each school has a designated Education Welfare Officer [educationwelfareservice@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfareservice@cheshireeast.gov.uk) or you can also telephone the main office.**

**Tel: 01270 375277**

**Website: [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ews](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ews)**

#### **Other leaflets are available to support you:**

- Taking action to improve attendance – explaining legal action - a guide for parents and carers
- Helping your child to attend school. The role of the EWO - a guide for parents and carers

*The expression "parent", in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for him/her, or who has care of the child.*

## Do you have a concern about a child?

Anyone can make a call if they have concerns about a child. This call can be made confidentially.

### Cheshire East Consultation Service

The Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) is the 'front door' for access to services, support and advice for children and their families.

### General public

Phone ChECS on **0300 123 5012 (option 3)** Callers will be directed to a Unit Coordinator who will ask if the concerns are early help or safeguarding. You will then be directed to either Practitioner Support Officer for Early Help requests for support or a Social Worker ( ChECS ) for safeguarding concerns. The worker will gather your information and advise you of the next steps.

If you need to contact someone out of hours and you believe it to be an emergency that can't wait, please call our Emergency Duty Team on **0300 123 5022**.

**If you have something that you would like putting in our newsletter please email it either to [head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk) or [admin@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk)**

**It needs to be with us by 12.00 on Thursday and attached to your email on a WORD document so once approved we can easily cut and paste. Thank you**

**We always welcome pieces about Goostrey pupils and their achievements outside of school. I love to hear what our pupils are celebrating and achieving outside school so we can celebrate in the newsletter and assembly.**

**The responsibility to get permission for other people's children to be on photographs lies with the sender not with the school.**

**We will usually allow local events to be advertised in the newsletter, especially if we think they will be of interest to our pupils and their families.**

**However we do not endorse or take responsibility for anything not directly organised by the school.**

## **Mid-Day Assistants Vacancies**

We are seeking enthusiastic and caring people to join our team supervising our pupils over the lunchtime breaks.

Please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs J Schurer-Lewis on 01270 918940 or via e-mail; [admin@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk) to request an application form and job description.

**Goostrey Community Primary School is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our pupils. Successful applicants will be required to have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and attend Basic Safeguarding awareness training**



Please click on the link below for full details of our after school provision and electronic copies of our registration and booking forms.

We are open Monday to Friday - 3pm to 6pm.

If you would like to see what the children have been up to this week, please follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

<https://www.goostreyallstars.co.uk/>



**The school's official communication with families comes through the newsletter, website, class pages, messages through the app, email and occasionally paper letters. We do not have an official Facebook account for information.**

## Useful contacts and numbers.....

If there's any other information that you feel should be added to this page, as a weekly standing item, please let me know.

[www.goostreypreschool.org.uk](http://www.goostreypreschool.org.uk)

**Telephone: 07471 756720** - available during pre-school hours only.



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The Chair of Governors and the Head teacher meet at least once a week. If you have anything you would like them to discuss / consider please let us know. We will always respond to you.

### Before School Club

If you would like to enrol your child for Goostrey Before School Club, please either download a booking form from our website [www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk) or collect from the reception desk. The cost is £4.00 per session and the club operates on each school day, from 8.00 AM to 8.55 AM. Please note no food is served at this club.

The web address for ordering school uniform is:  
[www.myschoolstyle.com/school/goostrey](http://www.myschoolstyle.com/school/goostrey)

Class pages, on the school website have lots of up to date information for your child's class. Please keep looking at these as they are updated every week for you.  
Thank you

### Compliments and Comments and Suggestions.

If you wish to give school general feedback about any aspect of school life, please email either Miss Atkins on [head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk) or class teachers, whose email addresses are on each class page on the website; <http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk/classes>