



Goostrey Community Primary school has been twinned with Elizabethfontein Primary school in South Africa for eighteen years. The relationship has been of huge benefit to both schools and our associated communities.

Elizabethfontein school is located in an isolated rural area in the Cederberg region approximately 3½ hours drive north of Cape Town. Almost all of the children come from poor farmworkers' families and many of them have poverty related problems e.g. low self esteem, low aspiration, little family support, and quite a large number of the children suffer from foetal alcohol syndrome caused by alcoholic mothers during pregnancy.

Although the two schools are very different in terms of location, the ethos and character of both are very similar. Elizabethfontein's key principles of love, respect, kindness, friendship and honesty are displayed at Goostrey school for all to see. Elizabethfontein's motto is *Reach for the stars*, and children are encouraged to *'Enter to learn'* and *'Leave to serve'*.

The staff at Elizabethfontein strive to do everything to help their children both educationally and pastorally. Since the start of our twinning many more children at Elizabethfontein are attending secondary school and gaining qualifications. Two of the children from the first visit to Goostrey are now qualified Teaching Assistants at Elizabethfontein school.

The children at Elizabethfontein have a particular reputation for their wonderful dancing and we plan for them to perform at Goostrey Rose Day and at other events during their visit.

We are inviting eight children from Elizabethfontein to Goostrey in the summer of 2023. All flights and UK costs are covered by individuals and groups within the Goostrey community.

If you would like to host a child from Elizabethfontein between Tuesday June 13th and Monday June 26th please email or see Miss Atkins or Mrs Saxton. mrs.saxton@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk



Eco News

Year 6 pupils have been busy recycling last year's Christmas cards to make lovely gift tags to attach to presents.

They will be sold in packs of 10 for just 60p.

Junior Site - sales at lunchtimes from 1st December

Infant Site - sales at the end of the school day on Tuesday 6th and
Wednesday 7th December



In past years the children have chosen to spend the proceeds of the sales on:-

- Plants and bulbs for the school garden and window boxes
- Adoption of WWF endangered species including a Polar Bear, Amur Tiger and Turtle
- Becoming Koala protectors
- Continuing support for the work of Lower Moss Wood and in particular the owls

Hoping that you can support their efforts this year.

Thank you.

XMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON AND SANTA'S SLEIGH 2022

The Goostrey Christmas light switch on will take place on Sunday 27th November from 5pm on the Bogbean. Hot dogs, hot drinks, stalls, (please bring cash!), band, Santa – everyone welcome!

On Tuesday and Wednesday 29th and 30th November 1st Goostrey Scouts will once again be running Santa's sleigh, with the following route:

Tuesday 29th: Booth Bed Lane, Sandy Lane, New Platt Lane, Blackberry Gardens (and possibly Harrison Drive - tbc)

Wednesday 30th: Bank View, Brooklands Drive, Southlands, Buckbean Way, Willow Lane and Shearbrook.

The Sleigh will be fitted with a GPS tracker, so anyone can send the text message G123456# to 07933 617016 and they will receive a text providing a link to a Google map, showing the exact location of the sleigh.

Santa is looking forward to seeing the children of Goostrey VERY SOON!!

If possible, please can your child bring their Childrens Society Christingle Collection Envelopes back to school before Friday the 9th December or bring to the Christingle Service.
Many thanks

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
Including a Nativity Tableau.

At St Luke's Church Goostrey
Sunday 11th December

Time 10am, Morning.

All Children welcome to come along dressed in Nativity Costumes for this fun Christmas Service.
Supporting the Children's Society .

Please keep sending your child's achievements for the newsletter so we can celebrate them together. I love knowing about what the pupils are doing both in and out of school.

On-line Safety Advice

With Christmas fast approaching and many children potentially receiving new online devices or games, we felt it appropriate to share some reminders about on-line safety, PEGI ratings and setting parental controls.

We have also been made aware of some young children viewing inappropriate age rated films and discussing the scary content with others, so we felt this advice was best shared early this year.

Useful sites for parents and families to access for advice are:

[Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://pegi.info/app>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/video-games-age-ratings-explained/>



The Parish Council has joined forces with St Luke's and Goostrey Methodist churches to launch Warm Welcome in Goostrey. Starting on 4th November, the Lounge at the Village Hall will be open from 1pm – 5pm on most Mondays and Fridays for those who would like to come along. Dates will be published on our noticeboards, website and in the Parish Magazine.

Visitors to our Warm Welcome sessions can choose to sit quietly and read or bring their favourite hobby with them, or they can chat with our volunteers and other visitors. We also have a range of resources and activities on offer such as jigsaws, books, newspapers and magazines, games such as cards and dominoes and colouring for children. Refreshments will be available throughout the sessions including hot drinks and biscuits. Everyone is welcome young or old, although children must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian.

We are in the process of trying to arrange transport to the Village Hall for those who may find it difficult to get here and will provide more information on this as soon as possible. As the sessions progress, we would be happy to hear from visitors about how we can improve what we offer.

Please come along and enjoy our comfortable, cosy lounge and if you know someone who may benefit from these sessions then please let them know.

If you would like further information or have any questions please contact the Clerk, Emma Bambook, on 01477 535825 or by email at clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Year 2 & Year 6 assessments will be ongoing throughout both the spring and summer term until the **end of June 2023. It is vital that your child attends school for the whole of this period.**

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

Penalties for unauthorised absence		
Timeline	One child	Two children
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 28th day and payments **cannot** be paid in part or by instalments

Each school has a designated Education Welfare Officer educationwelfareservice@cheshireeast.gov.uk or you can also telephone the main office.

Tel: 01270 375277

Website: 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 or 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 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

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



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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 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 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.

The web address for ordering school uniform is:
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 or class teachers, whose email addresses are on each class page on the website; <http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk/classes>