



**Message from Mrs Riley**

As we are quickly moving towards the Christmas break, compared to previous years, we have had very few children or staff coming down with colds or 'flu. Although we are not enjoying the restrictions of the current Covid measures one bonus is that other viruses are also being kept at bay; this meant our Nativity performance was not short of sheep, kings or angels like in past years!

Class Swale worked very hard on their Nativity, even without the usual support of the older children in school, and we will soon be able to share the performance with you.

The children had a fabulous Christmas lunch with all of the trimmings, courtesy of our marvellous kitchen staff Mrs McGuill and Mrs Cook. An even bigger round of applause is due as they managed the whole week without a dishwasher and that is a lot of washing up! Tables were decorated (thanks Miss Hannant!) and crackers were pulled, and a good time was had by all. Our lunchtime staff do a marvellous job throughout the year and always pull out all of the stops for celebrations such as this.

It was an exciting day on Thursday as each class went out for their Santa Run. Some children were competitive completing over 30 laps in 15 minutes. Others just enjoyed a jog with their friends as the Christmas music played in the background. They were presented with a medal and of course their Santa hat too. Thank you to FOGS for organising this event and to parents and carers for helping us to raise money for all pupils in school.

If you signed up to Secret Santa your child will be coming home with their Secret Santa gift today and once again thank you for your donations.

Mrs Muir started us off with a target to walk, run or bike the distance to Lapland. However, our school families are doing so well that we are now on our way back! If you are running, biking or walking this weekend get the whole family to count up their steps or miles and send them to Mrs Muir to add to our total.

**Covid-Update**

Please inform school as soon as possible if a member of your household is being tested for coronavirus.

If your child does need to stay at home due to testing your child's class teacher will contact, you and we can send work home or they can access activities on the school website in the home learning area.

Here is a link to the do's and don'ts of tier 3 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

**Quick Reminder/Appeal**

We have asked all children to take home their PE kits this week. If your child has not brought their kit home, please remind them about this over the weekend.

Last chance to post Christmas cards in the post boxes at school is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.



### Attendance for this week

(absence due to Covid measures is not included)

Our Minimum Target is **96%**

Well done to all classes who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target.

A special well done to **Class Swale** for attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Class	Attendance %
Swale	100.00
Wear	96.92
Tees	98.62

### Headteacher's Awards

Every Friday we have our Celebration Collective Worship, currently in two Bubbles!

This week the theme was -Art

These are the children who have received the award this week.

Class Swale	Lewis Kyle
Class Wear	Ryan Chidzey
Class Tees	Nongsi

### Dates for your Diary

**Class Wear Christmas Party** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December (come in party clothes)

**Class Tees Christmas Party** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December (come in party clothes)

**Christingle Service** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> (for pupils only)

**Class Swale Christmas Party** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December (bring clothes to school)

**Last day of term** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

**Return to school** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Friends of Gainford School (FOGS)

#### EasyFundraising

Why not raise extra funds for school when shopping online by going through EasyFundraising [Friends of Gainford School Easyfundraising](#)

There are no catches or hidden charges, and we will be really grateful for your donations. Its free to sign up.

Thanks to FOGS for donating £200 towards our food technology /cookery projects in school. This will be fabulous to help us buy any utensils we need and ingredients too.

### School Council News

School council have been busy getting ready for the Secret Santa fundraiser which took place today . They have sorted presents and finished off the wrapping they started last week. Mrs Gallagher said they have been a tremendous help and are excited to find out how much money will be raised for school.

#### Fun Reindeer Facts

Both the male and female reindeer grow antlers.

Some reindeers have knees that make a clicking noise when they walk so that they can stay together in a snow blizzard!