



## Newsletter 5

### A note from Mrs Case...

January often feels like the longest month of the year, so it is a real pleasure to finally welcome February and look ahead with hope to the first signs of spring.

As always, I am incredibly proud of the hard work and enthusiasm shown by our children across the school. In Reception, pupils have been fully immersed in learning about *Deadly Dinosaurs*, while Class 1 have been developing their understanding of tens and ones. Class 2

have been exploring rivers, and Class 3 have been busy rehearsing songs for *Young Voices*. These are just a few examples of the rich and varied curriculum we offer here at Gipsey Bridge, and it is wonderful to see the children so engaged in their learning.

It has also been fantastic to see more parents getting involved with the PTFA and playing such an important role in our wider school community. There are lots of exciting events planned, all of which will help raise vital funds to support additional resources and enrichment opportunities for our children. Thank you for all that you do to support the school.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who sent messages, made telephone calls, and offered personal support to the staff team following the events of last week. This kindness truly showed the care and love within our community and meant a great deal to us all.

Your children are at the heart of everything we do, and we are very grateful to work in such a supportive and caring school community.


Warm regards,

Mrs Case

## Fundraising Updates...

We are delighted to share the success of our recent fundraising efforts. Thanks to the generosity and kindness of our school community, we raised **£136.96 for the Poppy Appeal** and **£76.20 for Children in Need**. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

We now look ahead to our next fundraising event on **Friday 13th February**, where we will be raising money for **Tiny Tickers** and **Heart Link**. Children are invited to wear red for a £1 donation, and there will also be a raffle and a Cinema Event in the evening to enjoy together as a school community.

Further details can be found on Parent Hub, and we hope many of you will be able to join us in supporting these very worthwhile charities. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and for helping us to support such important causes 

## Pupil Leadership and Champion Roles



Our **GBA Champions** have been busy supporting assemblies and representing pupil voice across the school. They meet weekly to discuss ideas and priorities, including identifying resources that would benefit pupils. Most recently, they have been involved in reviewing the school's Behaviour Policy, sharing thoughtful and mature feedback.

The **Junior Online Safety Officers (JOSO)** have successfully completed Session 1 of their Online Safety Training through Lincolnshire County Council. They are now planning a whole-school assembly on Tuesday 10th February to mark National Online Safety Day, helping to promote safe and responsible use of technology.

Our **Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs)** have put up an informative road safety display in the school hall to raise awareness among pupils. They are also organising a Safety Day in June and are in the process of writing to the local Parish Council to share concerns and ideas about road safety around the village.

The **Play Leaders** have completed their training with JB Sports and are now leading games and activities every lunchtime. They have also been auditing the playground resources and are helping to decide what new equipment should be purchased to support active and inclusive play.

Our **Wellbeing Champions** have been focusing on restorative practice within school. They will be working closely with the Mental Health Support Team, training them in restorative approaches, helping to promote positive relationships and wellbeing across the school community.

We are very grateful for all that they do within our school community.

## Attendance

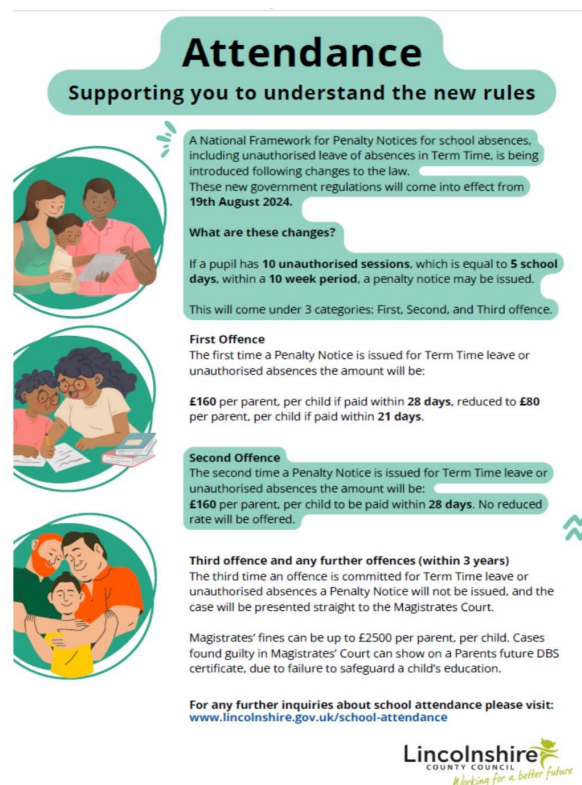
We would like to take this opportunity to remind families of the Department for Education (DfE) guidance around school attendance and to thank you for the collective effort that has

already been made. We have seen positive progress across the school, and this shared commitment to good attendance is having a real impact on children's learning and wellbeing.

Even small amounts of lost learning time can quickly add up. For example, a child who arrives 20 minutes late each day misses over 60 hours of learning across a school year – the equivalent of almost two weeks of school. Similarly, taking one week of term-time holiday does not just mean missing five days; it can result in children missing the teaching of key concepts. For instance, missing lessons on fractions can then have a knock-on effect when children move on to decimals and percentages, making future learning much harder.

Good attendance supports children to feel settled, confident, and successful in school. Being present, on time, and ready to learn every day really does make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that **every day counts** and that our children are given the very best opportunity to thrive.



**Attendance**  
Supporting you to understand the new rules

A National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absences, including unauthorised leave of absences in Term Time, is being introduced following changes to the law. These new government regulations will come into effect from **19th August 2024**.

**What are these changes?**

If a pupil has **10 unauthorised sessions**, which is equal to **5 school days**, within a **10 week period**, a penalty notice may be issued. This will come under 3 categories: First, Second, and Third offence.

**First Offence**  
The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:  
**£160** per parent, per child if paid within **28 days**, reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21 days**.

**Second Offence**  
The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:  
**£160** per parent, per child to be paid within **28 days**. No reduced rate will be offered.

**Third offence and any further offences (within 3 years)**  
The third time an offence is committed for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

For any further inquiries about school attendance please visit:  
[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance)

Lincolnshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
Working for a better future

## Assessment Weeks

### Important Dates

We would like to remind families of the statutory assessment windows that will be taking place later in the academic year.

- **Year 6 KS2 SATs** will take place during the week commencing 11th May 2026. These assessments mark the end of Key Stage 2 and help inform next steps as pupils prepare for secondary school.
- **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** will be completed within the national assessment window from week commencing 1st June to 12th June 2026. This short online assessment checks pupils' fluency and confidence with multiplication facts.
- **Year 1 Phonics Screening Check** will take place during the window week commencing 8th June to 19th June 2026. This assessment supports us in confirming children's phonics knowledge and identifying any areas where further support may be needed.

Information about these assessments was shared with parents during the Autumn Term Parents' Evenings.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## PTFA Meetings and Events

We are extremely grateful to all parents and carers who are part of our PTFA and who support the school in whatever way they are able. Whether through attending meetings, helping at events, sharing ideas, or offering time behind the scenes, your involvement makes a real and lasting difference to our school community.

So far this year, the PTA has supported a number of fantastic events, including the Halloween Disco, Christmas Fair, Live Nativity, and the Kinema Trip. These events have not only raised valuable funds for the school but have also created wonderful shared experiences for our children and families.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the events planned for the coming terms, including the Valentine's Cinema, Easter Bingo, Summer Fair, and Sports Day. These events play an important role in enriching school life and helping to fund additional resources and opportunities for our pupils.

Thank you once again to everyone involved in the PTFA for your continued commitment, enthusiasm, and support. New members are always welcome, and we would love to see more families getting involved in the future.

**Gipsey Bridge Academy PTFA, Boston**



*1 - Easy Fundraising QR Code. Support the PTFA while doing your online shopping!*



**GBA PTFA**

WhatsApp group



Scan this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group

*2 - Join the PTFA WhatsApp Group*



# RED HEART DAY

## FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

Fundraising to support the work of



**Wear Red and  
join in fundraising  
games throughout  
the day**



## Easter Chocolate Bingo Non Uniform

**FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

**NON-UNIFORM DAY!**

IN EXCHANGE FOR AN

**EASTER CHOCOLATE**

**BINGO PRIZE!**

**SWEETS & CHOCOLATES WELCOME!**



## Dates for your Diary...



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Wednesday 11th February	Class 3 Young Voices
Friday 13th February	Red Heart Day (Raffle, Wear Red for £1, How many sweets in a jar? PTFA Cinema Event)

#### 16th-22nd February Half Term

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Term 4
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day (PE will have a Book Theme!)
Monday 9th-Friday 13th March	National Science Week
Friday 13th March	Non-School Uniform Day for a Tombola Prize and Science Parent event
w/c 16th March	Parent Consultations (more details to be added to Parent Hub)
Friday 20th March	Odd Socks Day for Downs Syndrome
Tuesday 24th March	Spilsby Music Festival Rehearsal Day
Wed 25th March	Spilsby Music Festival
Thursday 26th March	Spilsby Music Festival
Friday 27th March	Easter Bingo (PTFA)
Thursday 2nd April	End of Term 4



### Dates for your Diary...

Monday 20th April	INSET Day
Tuesday 21st April	Term 5
W/C 11th May	Year 6 SATs
Wednesday 20th May-Friday 22nd May	Year 6 Residential
Friday 22nd May	End of Term

#### 25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 Half Term

Monday 1st June	Term 6
W/C 1st June	Y4 Multiplication Check
Friday 5th June	Break the Rules Day- Tombola Prize for Summer Fair
W/C 8th June	Y1 Phonics Screening
Saturday 20th June	Summer Fair
Thursday 9th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 14th July	Class 3 Performance 2pm and 5:30pm
Wednesday 15th July	Class 3 Performance 5:30pm
Friday 17th July	Reports out to parents
Wednesday 22nd July	Leavers Assembly End of Term



All dates will be updated on the school website and via Parent Hub.

[www.gipseybridgeschool.co.uk](http://www.gipseybridgeschool.co.uk)