



19 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to our end of term newsletter, we couldn't finish the year without sharing some of the wonderful things we have been up to. Mrs de Roeck will be updating the class pages over the holiday so do check out our website in the New Year too. As always, it has been very busy and the children have been participating in all sorts of activities, so here are just some of the most notable ones that have taken place. We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening at Goat Lees.

For those of us that started at Goat Lees all those years ago, we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a fantastic reunion of the children and families who started with us in 2013! It was incredible to think that ten years had passed and the 'Original Billy Class' are now growing up fast. Of course some of the children that started with us were much older and are now all grown up. Seeing their faces as they came through the door was just wonderful and the original group of Friends of Goat Lees did a fantastic job organising the event. Our thanks in particular go to Julia Cox, who coordinated everything and like so many of our families, she still remains part of the school in some way, even today. It really did remind us what a special place Goat Lees has been for so many of us and despite many changes, it still remains the case today. As one of the children said, 'Once a Goat, always a Goat' and hearing that pride echoes what we strive to achieve for all our children.



### SEK Green School Awards

We were invited to the SEK Green School Awards at the Ashford International Hotel on Thursday 23 November because of our work in looking after the environment. We were very proud, as we won two of the overall awards: The SE Kitchen Award (Social Enterprise Kitchen Community Shop) for our 'Pre-loved Clothes Sale' project, and the second award was the 'Primary School Trailblazer Award' which was awarded to the overall Primary School who had worked hard to help the environment and also supporting nature conservation.



### Year 5 Residential Trip to Mallydams

Pygora Class had a fantastic time on a one-night residential trip. Thank you to Mallydams Wood (RSPCA) for providing this adventure for us as part of our prize from the 'Roots and Shoots Award', we will be fundraising for them throughout the year. The children completed a number of different activities including: woodland trails, shelter building, fire lighting (including eating s'mores), making badger Bolognese and star gazing. A great time was had by all!



### An Act of Kindness to Share

Daniella, in Year 2, kindly donated several lovely toys to the children's ward at William Harvey Hospital. These toys will help several sick and injured children to have a more enjoyable experience at the hospital while they are treated there. If you would like to make a similar donation, you can contact the hospital directly.



### Angora Class have been Exploring the Local Area

The children in Year 1 have been learning about different types of road signs: what they mean, and how they help us to move around safely. The children used the signs on a walk around the local area - they walked around the houses looking for street signs to help them find their way back to school.



### Pygora Class visit the Ashford Household Waste and Recycling Centre



Pygora class went on a visit earlier in the term as part of their work on finding out why the Polar Regions are so important to us. A large part of their learning was to explore how we can help to slow down global warming. The children got to see how many different products can be recycled so they don't end up in landfill - it was a lot more than they thought. At the centre, they had different areas for clothes, metal, glass, books, cooking oil and much more. Their visit concluded by meeting a very special bird (Bella the Harris Hawk) who helps to scare away seagulls from the site to maintain hygiene, we especially loved getting to see her fly and being able to stroke her.



## Christmas at Goat Lees

Year 5 and year 6 went to the Marlowe Theatre to get into the Christmas spirit to watch Aladdin. The show was brilliant and we were all amazed to see Aladdin flying on his carpet and doing flips in the air. We all had a fantastic time and even some children who were adamant they did not want to join in were caught having a sing and dance, and we all joined in with the traditional ghost busters, after all - it's the law!



Our choir took part in 'Carols by Candlelight' at the Ashford International Hotel. We joined other schools within the CARE trust and the singing was beautiful!

We have seen 3 wonderful performances this year - KS1 Hosanna Rocks, KS2 - The Magical Christmas Jigsaw and Billy Class' Nativity. Well done to all of the children who learnt lines, songs and dances and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Thank you to everyone who was able to come and be part of the audience.



We had a fantastic time at our Christmas parties last week, we had a lot of fun playing party games and dancing in our classrooms. Thank you to the staff involved and making it fun and a big thank you to everyone who provided the food.



On Wednesday 13 December our kitchen team, led by Kay, worked incredibly hard to produce a delicious Christmas lunch for almost 200 children. We particularly loved the pigs in blankets and the Yorkshire puddings and of course Katie's cakes were delicious as always!



### Reading Ambassadors

Our Year 6 reading ambassadors held an assembly this term to talk about the importance of reading and how they can help children in the school to develop a love of books. From next term, they will be running a 'Book Doctor's Clinic' to help anyone who is finding it hard to choose a new library book. They will also be running the book swap again although this will be slightly different to last year. As we are not able to use our reading shed in the winter, they decided to read to the children in KS1 at lunchtime in the library which is a big hit.



*We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 3 January 2024.*

