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[Goostrey Primary School | Facebook](#)



Goostrey Community Primary school has been twinned with Elizabethfontein Primary school in South Africa for twenty-one 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. Their motto is *Reach for the stars*, and children are encouraged to *'Enter to learn'* and *'Leave to serve'*.

Below is part of an address that Andrea Swarts (who came to Goostrey in 2005 on the first visit) delivered to a teacher's conference in South Africa recently:

I grew up on a farm with my family and attended Elizabethfontein Primer. I had the honour of serving as Head girl in grade 7 – an experience that taught me leadership, responsibility, and the value of serving others.

During 2005 when I was in grade 5, I was chosen as one of a group of learners who had the privilege of travelling to England to visit GCPS. What an amazing experience we had! The adventure opened our eyes to the world. While in England we were welcomed into homes with incredible warmth and kindness. The hospitality of the families we stayed with made us feel at home and showed us generosity beyond measure and taught us the value of caring for others. The experience built lifelong memories.

One of the highlights of the trip was performing dances at Goostrey Rose Day festival. One of my personal favourites was a hiphop dance to the song 'I believe I can'. I was the lead dancer of the routine. The words of the song are powerful – they remind us that if we believe in ourselves we can achieve great things and rise above any challenge.

I realise that this was Miss Kotze's dream for us and that she chose that song for a reason. Performing that dance, feeling the rhythm and singing in my heart reminded me that dreams are possible and that belief, courage and hard work can truly take you far.

I returned to Elizabethfontein School 4 years ago, starting as an Education Assistant after the very same Miss Kotze offered me the opportunity. Returning to the school as a staff member has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I have had the chance to grow, to help shape little minds and bodies and to stand alongside teachers who made a real difference in my life and are still continuing to do so. I teach the little ones the same dance to the song 'I believe I can' – that I danced to at Roseday all those years ago.

So, this year is also my final year studying to become a professional teacher – I am the first in my family to obtain a degree. So to everyone in the England community, thank you for opening doors that changed my life forever. Because of you all I have been able to reach my dream of becoming a teacher.

The children at Elizabethfontein have a particular reputation for their wonderful dancing and they will perform at Goostrey Rose Day and at other events during their visit.

We are inviting eight children and two teachers from Elizabethfontein to Goostrey in the summer of 2026. 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 16th 2026 and Monday June 29th please email or see Miss Atkins or Mrs Saxton. mrs.saxton@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk

Joshua Cooper and Anvitha Mothe have been awarded the Kindness Award



For the past few months, **Jack (Y6)** has been helping at Squirrels as an 'unofficial' young leader ☺ he loves it and the leaders say 'He is a FAB helper. We love having him'. We are very proud of him and all the help he offers the little ones

School meals report:

I have served the food all week in the dining hall.

Friday—Fish and Chips and Quorn Dippers. I ate with the pupils again who all enjoyed the food but were disappointed that the tomato ketchup ran out!

I asked the catering team to order some more.

Monday I sat with children again—I had three portions of veg with pizza.

Children loved the pizza as well as the sweet corn. The potato wedges were also delicious. There was cake and also a choice of fresh fruit—apples and oranges as well as yogurt.

The gammon, mash, veg and gorgeous gravy was delicious on Wednesday—both Mrs Cowell and I loved it. Mrs Schurer-Lewis, Mrs Cowell and I all ate with the children on Thursday—chicken pasta and macaroni cheese—all lovely with veg.



Mrs Carew asked her Y1 class about the school dinners:

My class share nothing but excitement for the school lunches.

Lots of children are adventurous and try something different. Yesterday, when I was checking on them, lots of them were saying how delicious the BBQ chicken was and were describing the flavours they could taste- such as, sweet but a little spicy (in a good way).

In conclusion the lunches this week have been excellent value for money.

GOOSTREY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

★ **CHRISTMAS** ★

Shop. ★

**SHOPPINGS DAYS START
MONDAY 8 DECEMBER**

**GIFTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY
AND LOVED ONES**

**GIFTS PRICED FROM
£1 TO £5**

CHILDREN WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
DURING THE SCHOOL DAY TO VISIT OUR
POP UP GIFT SHOP

PLEASE BRING MONEY IN A NAMED
ENVELOPE/PURSE

DON'T FORGET A BAG TO BRING THE GIFTS HOME!





ASHA MEANS HOPE

Christmas Gifts

Churches Together in Goostrey are hoping to provide some Christmas gifts for children and adults who attend the Asha centre for Asylum seekers and refugees in Stoke.

We would really appreciate donations of presents. If you would like to contribute please will you wrap and label your present with boy/girl and an appropriate age e.g. 0-1, 2-4, 5-9, 10 – 14, or adult male or female.

Father Christmas will present the gifts to the children and adults at Asha's Christmas party.

The presents can include anything that you think a person would be delighted to receive, for example, toys, books, games, pens, crayons, colouring books, small musical instruments, and toy vehicles. The suggestion for adults is maybe toiletries, gloves, writing materials etc.

Please bring your gift to school on or before Friday 12th December. Your child can give it to their class teacher or to Mrs Carroll at the Reception desk.

If you need more information please contact or email Mrs Saxton. mrs.saxton@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk

Thank you so much.





Goostrey Preschool

CHRISTMAS BRING & BUY

Fri 5th Dec - 2.30pm-3.45pm
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You can help spread joy, love and a little eco-magic this Christmas by donating toys, books and children's items.

Join us for our festive Bring & Buy sale! The perfect chance for a pre-Christmas clear-out, some early gift shopping and to raise funds for our Preschool.

How to Donate:

Drop off your donations by 4th December in box in the Preschool porch.

What to Bring:

Any new or gently-used toys, crafts, books and games in good, clean, condition, suitable for ages 0-5. Please do not donate clothes or perishable items.



Find out more by contacting Catherine (Alister's Mum) or Sabine (Frida's Mum)



HOT OFF THE
PRESS—CUP U LIKE
WILL BE AT THE
BEETLE DRIVE.

£2 (cash) A CUP —
EVERYONE A
WINNER

GOOSTREY SCHOOL PTA

Beetle Drive



Fantastic Family Fun!

Come and join in the fun

Junior Hall

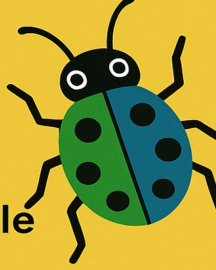
Friday 21st November

6 – 7.30 pm

£2 per person

Prizes to be won!

Refreshments available



If possible, please can you child bring their Children's Society Collection Envelopes back to school by Friday, 28th November or bring to the Christingle Service .

Many thanks

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AT ST.LUKE'S GOOSTREY .
SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 4PM IN CHURCH

All Welcome to this family friendly service
Afterwards all are invited to join the procession to the Bogbean
for GOOSTREY LIGHTS SWITCH ON AT 5PM.



**ST LUKE'S
GOOSTREY**

CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday, 29th November
11.00am – 1.00pm
in the Village Hall
FATHER CHRISTMAS
will be there
Tombola, Raffle, Cakes

Refreshments

Everyone welcome

Key dates for the autumn term

Friday 21st November	PTA Beetle Drive with CUP U LIKE
Wednesday 26th November	Dance Workshop Y5 and 6
Friday 5th December	Christmas Film Night Home Alone
WB 8th December	PTA Christmas Shop for pupils
Friday 12th December	Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 16th December	Infant Nativity 9.30 Village Hall
Tuesday 16th December	Y3/4 Carol Service at St Lukes 1 30
Wednesday 17th December	Infant Nativity 9.30 Village Hall
Thursday 18th December	Y5/6 Carol Service at St Lukes 9 30
Thursday 18th December	Junior Carol Service 5 00pm in jnr playground

Frequently asked questions about holiday requests in term time.

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 School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 make clear that **Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence (holiday) during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances**
- ☐ The Head Teacher and Governing Board 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
 - o 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.
 - o 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

Penalty Notices will be issued for Term time leave:

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 Sessions of Unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 week period: A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a 10 week period. However, we retain the discretion to issue a Penalty Notice before the threshold is met. For example, where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the above thresholds.

Per Parent/Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent per child. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance the fine will be charged at: £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

(Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Second Offence

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Third Offence

On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued. The case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of ‘Failure to send a child to school’ the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000 or legal proceedings under Section 444 (1a) can include a fine of up to £2500

IF A FAMILY GOES ON HOLIDAY IN TERM TIME SCHOOL WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY WORK FOR THE PUPILS. TIME OUT OF SCHOOL, FOR A HOLIDAY WILL RESULT IN THE CHILD/REN MISSING TEACHING AND LEARNING AND THEY MAY FIND IT CHALLENGING TO CATCH UP WITH THEIR PEERS ON THEIR RETURN.

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.



Keep up to date with PTA news and events on our social media pages:



goostrey_primary_school_pta



Goostrey Community Primary School PTA

<https://www.facebook.com/GCPSPTA>

GUIDE TO OUR APP FOR PARENTS & CARERS

School Spider allows you to receive and return information directly to and from the school. Receive instant messages, complete surveys, book your parents' evenings and make payments.

LOGGING IN

Once you have selected the school, you will see posts from the school website. Click parent dashboard to login or create an account. Create an account by pressing "create account" and enter your email address. You must have your email linked with the school.

TAKE A LOOK AROUND

See all action items on your dashboard

Click to respond or book for each child

Click the envelope to see your recent messages

Click these 3 lines to:

- Switch between areas
- Edit your profile
- Logout

DOWNLOAD NOW

Available on the Google play and the App Store



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.

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.

The local clinical network has devised a website where they have put all of the organisations nationally and locally that support children and families that are neurodiverse

[Neurodiversity support pathway - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

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



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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 8.50 AM. Please note no food is served at this club.

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>