



Grand Avenue Primary & Nursery School

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Friday, 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As outlined in the Welcome to Year 6 meeting, as part of our guided reading lessons next half term, Year 6 will be reading *Goodnight Mister Tom* by Michelle Magorian. This much-loved novel is set during the Second World War and follows the story of Willie Beech, a young evacuee who is sent from London to the countryside, where he develops an unexpected friendship with Tom Oakley.

The novel provides many valuable opportunities for discussion and learning. Through the story, pupils will explore themes such as friendship, resilience, kindness, courage, family, loss and the impact of war. It also supports our wider understanding of life during the Second World War.

As with many high-quality children's books, *Goodnight Mister Tom* also addresses some more challenging themes. These include neglect, domestic violence, effects of trauma on children, bereavement, mental health difficulties and the impact of war, including evacuation and air raids.

These themes are handled sensitively within the novel and will be explored in an age-appropriate way in school. We will ensure that discussions take place in a supportive environment and that pupils have opportunities to ask questions and share their thoughts respectfully.

We wanted to make you aware of these topics in advance, as you may wish to discuss them with your child before we begin reading, or be prepared for them to mention aspects of the story or ask questions at home as we progress through the novel.

At the beginning of the Spring term we will show the film *Goodnight Mister Tom* (from 1998). The classes will watch this film during school hours.

This film has a PG classification. **PG means Parental Guidance – General viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children.** This film has been pre-viewed by the teachers and is suitable and appropriate for the Year 6 age group. You can read more about the film and see reviews online; [for example on Amazon](#).

If you would prefer that your child **does not** watch this film, please contact our School Office by **9am on Monday, 14th December**.

If you have any questions or concerns about the text or the way these themes will be taught, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 6 Team



Enjoying Learning - Exceeding Expectations