

Gordon Primary School News

Headteacher: Mr Jason Taylor

Deputy Head: Mrs Charlie Fabian

Assistant Head / SENDCo: Mrs Hannah Cuesta

Be the best you can be.



THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at school, with lots of opportunities for learning, celebrating and coming together as a community.

On Wednesday, we welcomed our Reception parents and carers to our Welcome Meeting. It was a lovely opportunity to share information and help families feel connected as their children begin their school journey with us.

On Thursday, children in **Reception** and **Years 1, 2, 3 and 6** took part in the school's flu vaccination programme. Other year groups will have their vaccinations in November.

Also on Thursday, our **Year 5** children enjoyed an exciting trip to the O2 Arena to watch the Laver Cup tennis tournament. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience top-level tennis and enjoy a memorable day out.

On Friday, we celebrated **National Teaching Assistants' Day**, giving us the opportunity to recognise and thank our wonderful Teaching Assistants for everything they do to support our children and enrich their learning every day.

Our assemblies this week have given us plenty to think about. On Monday, we learned about **Yom Kippur**, exploring its significance and reflecting on themes such as forgiveness, reflection and making positive choices. On Friday, we focused on our school value of **Empathy**, using the wonderful book *Perfectly Norman*. The story provided a great opportunity for children to think about being themselves, accepting others and understanding how other people might feel.

It has been a wonderful week of learning, reflection and community. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a positive one!

CELEBRATING PUPIL LEADERSHIP IN OUR SCHOOL

At Gordon, we strongly believe in giving our pupils meaningful responsibilities. Developing leadership roles - such as our **Friendship Ambassadors**, **Travel Ambassadors** and **School Council** - helps our children build confidence, learn accountability and take pride in contributing to our school community. It empowers them to have a real voice and actively shape the positive environment we share every day.

We are delighted to announce our new **Head Pupils** for this academic year: **Polly** and **Samuel**! Both were elected by staff members for consistently demonstrating our school values and being fantastic role models to their peers. We know they will represent our school brilliantly.

Please keep an eye out for further pupil leadership announcements coming shortly, including our new House Captains.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH & WEAR RED DAY

In October, we will be marking **Black History Month** with special assemblies and classroom activities celebrating the history and contributions of Black communities.

As part of our learning, we are supporting **Show Racism the Red Card**, an educational charity that uses sports and role models to tackle racism and promote diversity.

To show our support, we will be holding a **Wear Red Day** on Monday 12th October. The children are invited to come to school wearing full red or just one red item (such as a jumper, socks or hair accessory) to show their stand against racism. Thank you for your support.



Each week, we ask you to discuss a topic at home with your child and support them in practising the sentence starters provided. The children will then discuss the topic in school. This helps them to develop their confidence in speaking, listening and expressing their ideas clearly. This week our Let's Talk task is linked to the story *Perfectly Norman* which Mr Taylor read in assembly today.

SCHOOL FUND DONATIONS

We have now set up the 2026/27 School Fund donations in the School Shop on **Arbor**.

The School Fund is a voluntary contribution from families that helps us provide additional experiences, resources and opportunities that enhance children's learning and wider school life beyond what can be covered by our school budget.

Parents and carers can donate in £5 instalments making it easy to contribute throughout the year.

Every contribution, however large or small, is greatly appreciated and helps us provide the best possible experiences and opportunities for our children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Thank you

FRIENDS OF THE GORDON (PTA)

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Tuesday 29th September** at **6:30pm** in the **Lower Hall**. We will be electing a committee for the coming year, discussing future projects and planning a programme of social and fund-raising events. Everyone is welcome!

Being a member of the committee is a fantastic way to be involved with the school. If you are interested in standing for one of the posts, please see the information below:

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON

1. To chair the *FoG* meetings on a regular basis.
2. To work within the model constitution.
3. To encourage all members of the school community to support the *FoG*.
4. To assist with the planning of fundraising events.
5. To work in conjunction with school staff.
6. To hold meetings with committee members to forward plan on behalf of the *FoG*.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TREASURER

1. To keep financial accounts on behalf of the *FoG*.
2. To give a financial report at each meeting.
3. To bank monies as and when required.
4. To work within the model constitution.
5. To encourage all members of the school community to support the *FoG*.
6. To assist with planning fundraising events.
7. To work in conjunction with school staff.
8. To attend meetings with committee members to forward plan on behalf of the *FoG*.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY

1. To liaise with the Chair to arrange the *FoG* meetings.
2. To finalise an agenda for each *FoG* meeting with the Chair.
3. To take minutes at *FoG* meetings and distribute them.
4. To work within the model constitution.
5. To encourage all members of the school community to support the *FoG*.
6. To assist with planning fundraising events.
7. To work in conjunction with school staff.
8. To attend meetings with committee members to forward plan on behalf of the *FoG*.

If you would like to support *FoG* but do not feel you can commit to one of the committee roles, we would still love to see you at the meeting. There are lots of ways you can be involved and make a difference to our pupils!

HOUSE POINTS & ATTENDANCE

Congratulations go to all our pupils for their hard work and great attitudes this week. House points have been awarded for showing kindness and respect, working hard and making positive contributions to school life.

Grangehill 468	Rochester 441	Dunvegan 481	Nesbit 459
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Good school attendance is vital for academic success - it helps children keep up with their learning, make progress and enjoy all the opportunities school has to offer.

A huge well done goes to this week's **Attendance Stars** winners:

★ Werewolf ★ Jabberwock ★ Bigfoot

At the end of the term, the class with the most Attendance Stars receives a special treat!

MOVING FROM PARENTMAIL TO ARBOR

A huge thank you to the 93% of families who have already signed up and are regularly using Arbor. We really appreciate your support in helping us make this change a success.

We are now in the final stage of our move from ParentMail to Arbor.



From Monday 5th October 2026

- From Monday 5th October, we will no longer use ParentMail.
- Please note that any messages or information sent through ParentMail after this date will not be received by the school.

Reporting your child's absence

If you currently use ParentMail to report your child's absence, please report absences through Arbor from 5th October.

You can also continue to report an absence by emailing or calling the school office.

For instructions, click here: [How to log an absence on the Arbor Parent Portal and App](#)

How to log an absence on the Arbor Parent Portal and App

What can I use Arbor for?

Arbor will become our main communication platform for parents and carers. You will be able to use it to:

- Receive messages and updates from school
- Report your child's absence or sickness
- Book and pay for clubs and school trips
- Book parents' evenings
- Communicate with the school

Access important information about your child

Haven't signed up yet?

If you have not yet activated your Arbor account, you should receive an email today with instructions on how to log in.

The email will come directly from Arbor, so please:

- Check your junk/spam folder
- Add Arbor as an approved sender
- Activate your account as soon as possible

Important: Your activation link is only valid for 36 hours. If your link expires, please contact the school office and we will arrange for a new one to be sent.

Once you have activated your account through the Arbor Parent Portal, you can download and use the Arbor App on your phone or tablet.

For guidance, please click here: [Arbor - Logging in to the Parent Portal and Parent App](#)

Thank you again for your continued support and for helping us make this transition as smooth as possible for everyone.

We look forward to using Arbor as our main way of keeping in touch with families.

DIARY DATES

September

Tuesday 29th FoG Annual General Meeting ~ 6:30pm / Lower Hall

October

Thursday 1st Lunch Special **new date**
 Tuesday 6th Reverend Juliet visiting **Nursery & Reception** - Harvest
 Thursday 8th **Year 6** visit to Imperial War Museum
 Friday 9th **Year 4** visit to St Luke's Church
 Monday 12th Wear Red Day / Show Racism the Red Card **new date**
Year 5 visit to Eltham Library
 Tuesday 13th Harvest Festival assembly **Years 1 to 3** ~ 2:30pm
 Wednesday 14th Harvest Festival assembly **Years 1 to 3** ~ 9:15am
Year 5 workshop - Bayeux Tapestry
 Thursday 15th Phonics / early reading workshop for **Reception** parents & carers - 9am
 Friday 16th School photographer visit - individual and sibling photos
 Monday 19th **Reception trip** - Autumn Walk
 Open Evening 1 ~ 3:30pm to 7pm
 Wednesday 21st Open Evening 2 ~ 3:30pm to 6pm
 Chartwells taster session (after school)
 Thursday 22nd **Year 1** visit to St Luke's Church
 Friday 23rd Inset Day - school closed
 26th to 30th Half Term holiday - school closed

November

10th and 11th Road safety talks
 Thursday 12th Mr Taylor's Coffee Morning - 9:15am - everyone welcome
 Friday 13th FoG Quiz Night
 Wednesday 18th Height and weight screening (NHS) - **Reception & Year 6** **new date**
 Friday 20th **Dragon** Class Assembly - 9:10am / 2:45pm - Middle Hall
 Friday 27th Flu vaccinations: **Years 4 & 5**
 Monday 30th **Years 3 & 4** Pantomime - afternoon

December

Tuesday 1st **Years 3 & 4** Pantomime - morning
 Thursday 3rd **EYFS** Christmas Sing-along (afternoon)
 Friday 4th **EYFS** Christmas Singalong (morning)
 FoG Christmas discos (after school)
 Thursday 10th **Years 1 & 2** Nativity - afternoon
 Friday 11th Christmas lunch / Christmas Jumper Day
Years 1 & 2 Nativity - morning
 Thursday 17th Last day of Autumn term - school closes at 1:30pm

We are waiting confirmation for a date for our **Year 5 & 6** Carol Concert from the Methodist Church on Westmount Road.

January

Monday 5th First day of the Spring Term - children return to school

Please remember to check the newsletter each week for the latest updates. As dates and arrangements may occasionally change and new events are often added, we encourage you to check regularly to ensure you have the most up-to-date information. Thank you.



Next week, we will be talking to the children about **Harvest** and launching our annual Harvest Collection in support of the **Greenwich Foodbank**.

We will begin collecting donations of **food and toiletries** from next week, and we are very grateful for any contributions you are able to make to support local families in our community.

We are also looking forward to our **Harvest Assemblies**, which will be presented by children in **Years 1, 2 and 3** on **Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th October**. Please look out for further information on **Arbor** about how to book tickets.

GORDON PLANNERS 2026-27

Be organised with a Gordon Wall Planner, pre-filled with term dates and school events. With space to add your own reminders you can stay organised throughout the year. Professionally printed A1 size - £8 each.

Order yours by Saturday 3rd October:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/fogs-shop>

Correct at time of printing - please remember to check the Gordon Newsletter and website regularly for updates and changes.

RECEPTION 2027 SCHOOL TOURS

We are now offering school tours for families interested in a **Reception** place for next year.

If your child will be 4 years old by 31st August 2027, they are eligible for a Reception place for September 2027.

Our school tours include a visit to the whole school and provide an opportunity to find out about our approach to learning, our Early Years provision and what we can offer your child.

We keep tour groups small so that we can offer a more personalised experience and have plenty of time to talk with you in depth about the Gordon offer. We have availability on the following dates:

- 10th, 17th and 24th November
- 3rd, 8th, 10th and 15th December
- 5th and 12th January

Booking details can be found in the **Admissions** section of our website.

If you have friends or family with a child not currently in our **Nursery**, who will be starting Reception next September, please do share this information with them.

We look forward to welcoming prospective families and showing you around our school!

Tours for admission to our **Nursery** take place every Friday and are led by Mrs Cullum, our Nursery Teacher and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Leader. To book your place on an upcoming tour, please contact the school office.

RIDING BIKES SAFELY

We have received reports that some Gordon pupils are riding bikes unsafely before and after school, as well as during the evenings and weekends.

If your child rides unsupervised, please speak with them about staying safe on the roads. We have reminded pupils in school and have road safety sessions planned for later this term. Thank you.



Mermaid (N) - Maisie for her fabulous writing and drawing in a book she made

Baku (R) - Isabella for fabulous engagement and effort in phonics this week

Otsu (R) - Zoe for her enthusiastic and thoughtful contributions in carpet sessions, especially when sharing ideas in maths

Firebird (1) - Darcie for recognising and saying her tricky words in phonics at speed

Kelpie (1) - Neve for always being ready to learn and having a wonderful attitude towards school life

Jabberwock (2) - Artem for his excellent effort and attitude in reading this week

Pegasus (2) - Violet for an excellent set of instructions explaining how to look after Paddington Bear

Cerberus (3) - Oscar for his great pronunciation when learning how to say and "Hello, what's your name?" in French.

Nessie (3) - Emmie for her positive attitude and effort in tennis

Bigfoot (4) - Adveka for her daily attitude and commitment to learning as well as the amazing progress she has made in swimming

Griffin (4) - Lucas S for his attention to detail when drawing during art lessons

Dragon (5) - CJ for his excellent rhythm notation work in music

Werewolf (5) - Marko for his excellent work demonstrating his understanding of rhythm and notation in music

Chimera (6) - Alex for his fantastic oracy skills when sharing his knowledge of the circulatory system in science

Medusa (6) - Olive for insightful contributions when discussing our class book

Contact us: 020 8850 5486 office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

Find us online: www.gordonprimary.co.uk

Instagram: @gordonprimaryschool