

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

We began this week with a Harvest theme. In our Monday assembly, we explored where our food comes from and its journey to our plates, while learning about the vital importance of supporting those who don't always have enough to eat. During the week, **Years 1, 2, and 3** have been hard at work rehearsing for our upcoming Harvest Festival assemblies which are scheduled for 13th and 14th October. The children are looking forward to sharing their performance items with you.

In Friday's assembly, we marked the start of **Black History Month** alongside **National Poetry Day**. The children celebrated by exploring the inspiring works of renowned poets Joseph Coelho, Valerie Bloom and Benjamin Zephaniah.

SUPPORTING WELLBEING - LUMI NOVA WORKSHOPS FOR KEY STAGE 2

As part of our activities raising awareness for **World Mental Health Day** (10th October), we are planning to hold workshops for our Key Stage 2 pupils on **Wednesday 7th October** delivered in partnership with the Greenwich Mental Health in Schools Team.



The interactive sessions will introduce children to **Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage** — a digital therapeutic game developed alongside the Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust. Designed for children aged 7-11, Lumi Nova offers a fun, safe and engaging way to help young people manage worries, face challenges and build everyday resilience.

We look forward to bringing this exciting NHS-supported resource to our pupils. Stay tuned for further details!



THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY - FOUNDATION STAGE

As you may already know, we are excited to offer children in the **Early Years** the chance to join the late Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a free book-gifting programme funded by the Royal Borough of Greenwich that delivers a high-quality, age-appropriate book to your child every month until they turn 5.

To sign up, we need your consent to share a few details (your name, email address and your child's name and date of birth). Please see communications from the Office to participate.

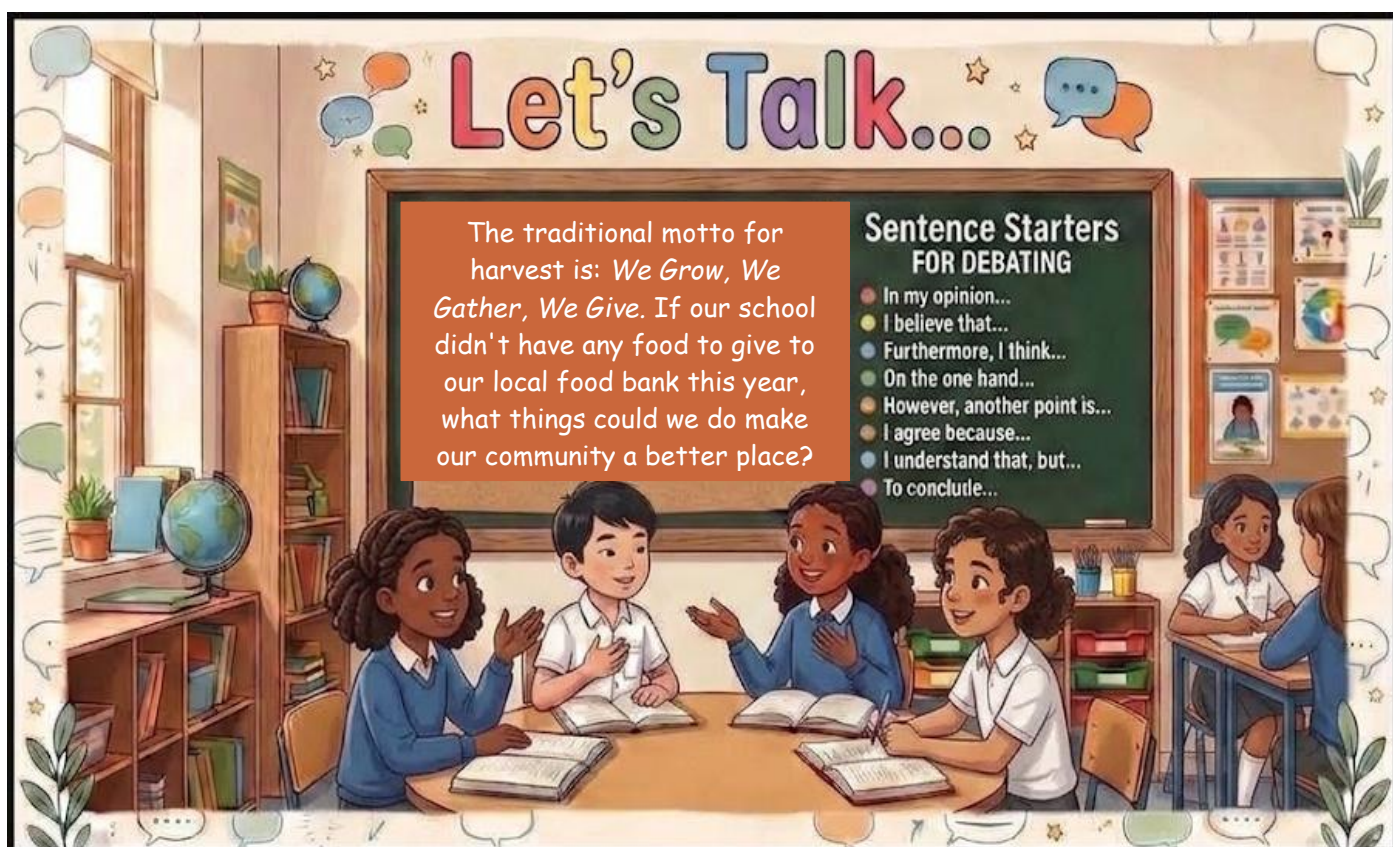
In the words of Dolly - Dream More, Learn More, Care More, Be More!

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 achievements 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.

OPEN EVENINGS

We are looking forward to meeting with you to talk about your child's learning and progress at our Open Evening meetings. This term they take place on:

- Monday 19th October, 3.30pm to 7pm
- Wednesday 21st October, 3.30pm to 6pm (including Chartwells taster sessions)

Booking opens at 6pm today and closes at Midday on Thursday 15th October. **Booking is via Arbor, so please check that you can login to Arbor in advance of the booking window opening and refer to the guidance below for help if necessary.**

Appointment times are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so we recommend booking early to get the time that suits you best. If you have more than one child at the school, you will need to book a separate slot for each of them. Please leave a gap between the appointments so you have time to move from one classroom to the next.

Appointments are 10 minutes long and children are very welcome to attend with you.

FRIENDS OF THE GORDON (FOG) UPDATE

A big thank you goes to everyone who joined us for the Friends of the Gordon meeting on Tuesday evening. It was wonderful to welcome new faces alongside our long-term supporters.

We are pleased to announce that Marilyn has been re-elected as Chair, Jeremy as Treasurer and Natalie as Secretary. A huge thank you to all three for agreeing to stay on in these vital roles for another year! We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Sian, who is stepping down as Co-Chair. Sian, your hard work, dedication and support over the years have been immensely appreciated.

We discussed an exciting lineup of events for the coming year! Mark your calendars for our first big event: **Quiz Night** on Friday 13th November — more details will be shared soon.

On the fundraising front, we are thrilled to agree on a major new project that we know is close to many parents' and carers' hearts: increasing shade and shelter across the school playgrounds. Keep an eye out for further updates!

Finally, thank you once again to everyone who supported FoG last year. It was our most successful fundraising year ever, and the pupils are already benefiting every day from the massive IT upgrade that your hard work funded! You are amazing!

If you're interested in getting involved, please email: friendsofthegordon@gmail.com or join our FoG Helpers WhatsApp group here: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Di9UbDiDYH81ZLP1MI8keO>

HOUSE POINTS

Congratulations go to all our pupils for their hard work and great attitudes this week.

Grangehill 724	Rochester 687	Dunvegan 696	Nesbit 702
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ATTENDANCE

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

★ **Nessie** ★ **Jabberwock** ★ **Bigfoot**

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

ANTI-BULLYING NEWSLETTER

The latest edition of our Anti-Bullying Newsletter is now available to read. You can find it in your Arbor inbox or view it directly on the school website.

The newsletter is packed full of valuable information highlighting our ongoing work to ensure our school remains a safe, welcoming and respectful environment for everyone. Highlights in this issue include:

- **Class Charters** and creating respectful classrooms
- Celebrating **Disability Pride Month**, **Young Carers** and **LGBT+ Pride Month**
- Updates on our **Smartphone-Free Childhood Parents Group**
- Supporting the **Greenwich Women's Safety Charter**
- Details on our upcoming **Wear Red Day** (as part of Black History Month)
- Our plans for **Anti-Bullying Week**

Please take a few moments to check it out!



RECEPTION PHONICS WORKSHOP

We're excited to welcome all **Reception** parents and carers to the Middle Hall on **Thursday 15th October at 9am**. We'll share everything you need to know about how we support your child on their amazing journey to becoming a confident reader and writer! Don't miss this opportunity to empower your child's learning - see you there!

ARBOR TRANSITION UPDATE

A huge thank you goes to everyone who has signed up and is actively using Arbor! With **98%** of our families now onboard, this is a fantastic start. Thank you for helping us make this transition a success!

If you have not yet set up your account, please make sure to download the Arbor app and complete your registration as soon as possible so you don't miss out on important school updates. From Monday 5th October, we will no longer be using ParentMail.



Haven't signed up yet?

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

PLEASE DONATE!

FoG are collecting Preloved Costumes & Christmas Jumpers



We hope to hold Christmas Jumper sales
in November and Costume sales before
Halloween & World Book Day

Please leave donations inside the FoG Uniform Box
(by the Lost Property Shed)

DIARY DATES

October

1 st to 31 st	Black History Month
Tuesday 6 th	Reverend Juliet visiting Nursery & Reception - Harvest
Thursday 8 th	Year 6 visit to Imperial War Museum
Friday 9 th	Year 4 visit to St Luke's Church
Monday 12 th	Wear Red Day / Show Racism the Red Card Year 5 visit to Eltham Library
Tuesday 13 th	Harvest Festival assembly Years 1 to 3 ~ 2:30pm
Wednesday 14 th	Harvest Festival assembly Years 1 to 3 ~ 9:15am Year 5 workshop - Bayeux Tapestry
Thursday 15 th	Phonics / early reading workshop for Reception parents & carers - 9am Freshwater Theatre visiting Year 2 new date
Friday 16 th	School photographer visit - individual and sibling photos
Monday 19 th	Reception trip - Autumn Walk Open Evening 1 ~ 3:30pm to 7pm
Wednesday 21 st	Open Evening 2 ~ 3:30pm to 6pm Chartwells taster session (after school)
Thursday 22 nd	Year 1 visit to St Luke's Church
Friday 23 rd	Inset Day - school closed
26 th to 30 th	Half Term holiday - school closed

November

Monday 2 nd	Pumpkin Carving Competition new date
Tuesday 3 rd	Anti-Bullying and Belonging Parent meeting - 9am new date
10 th and 11 th	Road safety talks
Thursday 12 th	Mr Taylor's Coffee Morning - 9:15am - everyone welcome
Friday 13 th	FoG Quiz Night
Monday 16 th	Anti-Bullying Week new date Odd Socks Day new date
Wednesday 18 th	Height and weight screening (NHS) - Reception & Year 6
Friday 20 th	Dragon Class Assembly - 9:10am / 2:45pm - Middle Hall
Friday 27 th	Flu vaccinations: Years 4 & 5
Monday 30 th	Years 3 & 4 Pantomime - afternoon

December

Tuesday 1 st	Years 3 & 4 Pantomime - morning
Thursday 3 rd	EYFS Christmas Sing-along (afternoon)
Friday 4 th	EYFS Christmas Singalong (morning) FoG Christmas discos (after school)
Thursday 10 th	Years 1 & 2 Nativity - afternoon
Friday 11 th	Christmas lunch / Christmas Jumper Day Years 1 & 2 Nativity - morning
Wednesday 16 th	Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert - Westmount Road Methodist Church -3:45pm
Thursday 17 th	Last day of Autumn term - school closes at 1:30pm

January

Monday 5 th	First day of the Spring Term - children return to school
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Please remember to check the newsletter each week for the latest updates.



We have launched our annual Harvest Collection in support of the **Greenwich Foodbank**.

We are now collecting donations of **food and toiletries**, 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 the 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 now by clicking on the link:

<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.

2026 -

2028



OUR SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We are pleased to share our School Development Plan with you. These important goals are created together with our staff and Governors, and help us to work towards them as a team. **Together, we are helping every child to learn well, feel included, grow in confidence and be ready for the future!**

Excellent Learning for Every Child

We want every lesson to help children learn, practise, talk, think hard and remember more. We will do this by making sure:

- Classrooms are calm and organised
- Teachers will help pupils to explain their ideas and use new vocabulary
- Pupils learn strategies to stay focussed, organise their work and remember more
- Teachers check understanding during lessons and give the right amount of help

The Right Support for Every Child

We want every child to receive the help they need to feel included, confident and successful. We will do this by making sure:

- Extra help in reading, writing, maths and communication is carefully planned
- Small group support and special technology helps pupils practice important skills
- Staff work with experts when pupils need extra advice or support
- Pupils become more independent and feel ready for the next stage of school

Every Child Belongs and Uses their Voice

We want every child to know they belong, have their voice heard and become global citizens. We will do this by making sure:

- Pupils will have more chance to lead, share ideas and make a difference
- We enjoy many trips, visitors and clubs, and have new experiences
- Playtimes will become an even better part of school life
- Pupils will learn about their wellbeing, their rights, equality and keeping safe

Lifelong Learning for Everyone

We want everyone to work as a team to make sure every subject and every part of the school day keeps getting better. We will do this by making sure:

- Teachers work together to make learning exciting and memorable
- Staff will share ideas and learn from one another
- Governors will visit school to understand more about the learning going on
- We check on how different groups of children are doing so no one is missed

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

If you have a concern regarding a child's well-being, care or safety — including concerns about bullying — please contact a member of our Safeguarding Team: **Mr Taylor, Mrs Fabian, Mrs Cuesta, Ms Newlove, and Mrs Warner.** You can also report concerns externally to **Greenwich Council** (020 8921 3172) or the **NSPCC** (0808 800 5000). In an emergency where a child is in immediate danger, please call **999**.

TRAVEL TRACKER

October sees the start of all classes using the Travel Tracker in their classrooms. It is a platform where children record how they travel to school -walk, cycle, scoot, drive, etc. The aim is for children to adopt healthier, more active and environmentally friendly habits, turning daily activity into a fun, rewarding challenge through interactive tracking and monthly badges. By swapping short car trips for active travel, the initiative aims to boost children's physical health and mental well-being while dramatically cutting traffic congestion and air pollution around the school gates to create a safer, cleaner environment for everyone.

COMMUNITY HERO: WELL DONE, TEDDY



We love hearing about the wonderful things our pupils achieve outside of school, and this week we were incredibly proud to learn about **Teddy** in Year 1.



Teddy has been out and about with his litter picker, helping to keep our local community clean and tidy. What a kind, thoughtful and responsible thing to do! Well done, Teddy — you are an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations!

Mermaid (N) - Casper for brilliant and careful sewing

Baku (R) - Musa for settling well into our morning routines

Otsu (R) - Federico for good listening and joining in at all our carpet sessions

Firebird (1) - Ottily for independently naming the different parts of a plant

Kelpie (1) - Rory for his excellent effort to independently apply his phonic knowledge when writing

Jabberwock (2) - Jaxson for his wonderful contributions to class discussion in History this week

Pegasus (2) - Kristina for her fantastic resilience in Maths when using the part-whole model this week

Cerberus (3) - Lena for her fantastic explanations using mathematical vocabulary to explain her thinking

Nessie (3) - Zachary for his enthusiasm and effort when contributing to maths lessons

Bigfoot (4) - Eddie for working so hard on his handwriting and for being amazingly independent when writing

Griffin (4) - Tibbi for showing an excellent understanding of character when speaking in role as the *Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon*

Dragon (5) - Ella for her fantastic explanations using mathematical vocabulary to explain her thinking

Werewolf (5) - Rosa for writing a fantastic travel brochure for the town of *Glockenheim* based on our English text

Chimera (6) - Pariza for creating an amazing piece of graffiti art based on her name

Medusa (6) - Tyler for an excellent understanding of long division including remainders

Contact us: 020 8850 5486

office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

Find us online: www.gordonprimary.co.uk

Instagram: @gordonprimaryschool