

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 have had an incredible week filled with exciting trips, engaging workshops, and insightful discussions across the school! We kicked off the week on Monday with our **Wear Red Day** in support of **Show Racism the Red Card**. In our assembly we continued our celebration of **Black History Month** by exploring the achievements of inspiring historical and present-day figures.

This week was a brilliant demonstration of how we enrich our curriculum through exciting, hands-on experiences that bring learning to life beyond the classroom:

- **Year 5** started the week with a visit to Eltham Library, followed by a dynamic history workshop on Tuesday, where they explored scenes from the **Bayeux Tapestry** and discovered how historians use sources as evidence to understand the past.
- **Years 1, 2 and 3** showcased their confidence, community spirit and beautiful singing during their wonderful Harvest Festival assemblies.
- **Year 2** immersed themselves in interactive drama with the Freshwater Theatre Company to recreate the events of the **Great Fire of London**.
- **Years 5 and 6** sent a team over to Avery Hill Park on Wednesday to compete in a local Cross-Country event. The children showed wonderful resilience on the course and represented our school with fantastic team spirit and sporting grace. We are thrilled to share that we brought home three awards from the Cross-Country event:
 - **Year 5** Girls: 3rd place overall
 - **Year 5** Boys: 3rd place overall
 - **Oscar** (Dragon Class): 3rd place in the Year 5 Boys' Race

A big thank you to all the **Reception** parents and carers who attended our Phonics and Early Reading Workshop on Thursday morning - we hope you found the session informative and helpful.

To round off the week, Friday's assembly brought us back to our **Black History Month** focus. Our **Friendship Ambassadors** spoke about **Show Racism the Red Card** and shared an amazing video they have made about how everyone in our community is important, valued and respected.

Finally, the school photographer was in today taking individual and sibling photos. We will send out ordering details and information on how to view your child's photos shortly.

Please be mindful when parking near the school at drop-off and pick-up times. To keep our community safe and maintain good relationships with our neighbours, please ensure you do not block residents' driveways. We thank you for your help with this.

SCHOOL PHOTOS UPDATE

The children had their individual and sibling photographs taken today! We have given out a leaflet containing details of how to make orders. Please check your child's book bag. Thank you.



We have discussed powerful and positive role models as part of **Black History Month**, and this is the inspiration for this week's **Let's Talk** topic.

OPEN EVENINGS

We are looking forward to meeting with you to talk about your child's learning and progress at our Open Evening meetings next week:

- Monday 19th October, 3.30pm to 7pm
- Wednesday 21st October, 3.30pm to 6pm

Chartwells, our school meals provider, will be offering menu tasters in the Lower Hall on Wednesday 21st October, between 3:15pm and 4:30pm. Come along, try some dishes and ask the team any questions.

Details of our **Relationships and Sex Education** (RSE) curriculum will be available for you to see on Monday 19th and Wednesday 21st October in the Middle Hall. Please take a few minutes to pop along.

WHOLE-SCHOOL PROJECT - POPPY GARDEN



We are excited to share that this year for Remembrance Day, we are planning to create a beautiful collection of poppies in the school grounds. To make this display truly special, every child will have the opportunity to craft their very own poppy.

To help bring this project to life, we would be incredibly grateful for your support. If you have any empty plastic bottles (fizzy drink or water bottles work best) and black plastic bottle lids at home, please send them in with your child by Thursday 22nd October.

Thank you for your support in making this a meaningful project for our children and school community.



Parents and carers of the children in **Year 2** are welcome to join us for a maths workshop on **Wednesday 4th November at 9am in the Middle Hall**. We will be sharing information about how you can support your child's learning at home, and you will also have an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and see maths learning in action.

HARVEST APPEAL FOR GREENWICH FOODBANK

A huge thank you to everyone who has so generously donated food items for our Harvest appeal in support of Greenwich Foodbank. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and will make a real difference to local families.

ALLERGY SAFETY & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS (BENEDICT'S LAW)

As part of our commitment to pupil safety, our Healthy School status and recent statutory guidance introduced under **Benedict's Law**, we are updating our policy on food brought into school.

Benedict's Law sets clear standards to help schools strictly manage allergen risks and protect children with severe allergies. Under this guidance, we must tightly monitor all food brought onto the premises that has not been directly provided by our official school catering team or staff.

What this means for packed lunches:

While our packed lunch guidelines remain unchanged, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all families of two vital safety rules:

- **Strictly nut-free:** We are a nut-free school. Please ensure your child's packed lunch does not contain nuts or any items containing nuts (such as peanut butter, chocolate spread or certain cereal bars).
- **No Sharing Food:** To protect pupils with severe allergies, children are instructed not to share or swap food from their packed lunches with others.

What this means for birthday celebrations:

- **No food items:** Until now - cakes, sweets and biscuits, etc. have not been allowed as birthday treats. Moving forward, please also do not send in "healthy treats" such as boxes of raisins.
- **Non-food alternatives:** If your child would still like to mark their special day with their classmates, you are very welcome to send in small non-food items, such as stickers, pencils, small toys or a book for the class reading corner.

We will soon be sharing a draft of our Allergy Safety Policy with you and would really appreciate your feedback and suggestions. Please look out for notification of this in future newsletters.



JOIN US FOR COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Pop in for our next Coffee Morning on Thursday 12th November from 9:15am to 10:15am.

Whether you'd like to chat about school life, ask a few questions or simply drop in for a friendly catch-up, Mr Taylor and Mrs Fabian would love to see you there.

There's no formal agenda - just conversation and a chance to connect. Everyone is welcome, and we can't wait to see you!

FRIENDS OF THE GORDON QUIZ NIGHT

Test your knowledge by joining FoG and Quiz Master Mr Taylor at the Gordon Quiz Night on **Friday 13th November**, 7pm until late. Adults only! Invite your friends and family. Come as a team or join one of our mixer tables to meet other parents. £10 per person. Up to 7 per team.

This is no ordinary Quiz Night - there are always few extra games thrown in to maximise your fun!

Tickets on sale now: www.trybooking.com/uk/HBHK

A vibrant poster for 'Gordon's Favourite Night Out: Quiz Night'. The background is a deep red with vertical pleats, resembling a stage curtain. Several large, 3D yellow question marks with red outlines are scattered around the central text. At the top right, a small black silhouette of a school building contains the text 'Friends of the Gordon PTA' in white and blue. The main title 'GORDON'S FAVOURITE NIGHT OUT' is in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, 'QUIZ NIGHT' is written in large, glowing yellow and white letters inside a red, rounded rectangular frame with a border of small yellow lights. Underneath the frame, 'ADULTS ONLY' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. A yellow circular badge on the right side says 'Tickets £10 per person'. The date and time 'FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER' and 'SPORTS HALL, 7PM TIL LATE' are enclosed in a white rounded rectangle. At the bottom, 'Tickets on sale at' is followed by the website 'www.trybooking.com/uk/HBHK'. A black banner at the very bottom reads 'BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & SNACKS' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**GORDON'S
FAVOURITE NIGHT OUT**

**QUIZ
NIGHT**

ADULTS ONLY

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER
SPORTS HALL, 7PM TIL LATE

Tickets
£10
per person

Tickets on sale at
www.trybooking.com/uk/HBHK

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & SNACKS

ATTENDANCE

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. Each week, we award **Attendance Stars** to the classes with the highest attendance. A huge "well done" goes to this week's winners:

★ Dragon

★ Nessie

★ Griffin

DIARY DATES

October

1st to 31st

Monday 19th

Wednesday 21st

Thursday 22nd

Friday 23rd

26th to 30th

Saturday 31st

Black History Month

Reception trip - Autumn Walk

Open Evening 1 ~ 3:30pm to 7pm

Open Evening 2 ~ 3:30pm to 6pm

Chartwells taster session (after school)

Year 1 visit to St Luke's Church

Inset Day - school closed

Half Term holiday - school closed

Closing date for secondary school applications (for September 2027 entry)

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please remember that the closing date of ordering Christmas cards is 3rd November. If you have mislaid the code we sent to you last week, please email us: office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk and we will help you place your order.

November

Monday 2nd

Tuesday 3rd

Wednesday 4th

10th and 11th

Thursday 12th

Friday 13th

Monday 16th

Wednesday 18th

Friday 20th

Friday 27th

Monday 30th

Pumpkin Carving Competition

Anti-Bullying and Belonging Parent meeting - 9am

Closing date for Christmas Card orders

Maths Workshop for **Year 2** Parents & carers - 9am

Road safety talks

Mr Taylor's Coffee Morning - 9:15am - everyone welcome

FoG Quiz Night

Anti-Bullying Week

Odd Socks Day

Height and weight screening (NHS) - **Reception** & **Year 6**

Dragon Class Assembly - 9:10am / 2:45pm - Middle Hall

Flu vaccinations: **Years 4 & 5**

Years 3 & 4 Pantomime - afternoon

December

Tuesday 1st

Thursday 3rd

Friday 4th

Thursday 10th

Friday 11th

Wednesday 16th

Thursday 17th

Years 3 & 4 Pantomime - morning

EYFS Christmas Sing-along (afternoon)

EYFS Christmas Singalong (morning)

FoG Christmas discos (after school)

Years 1 & 2 Nativity - afternoon

Christmas lunch / Christmas Jumper Day

Years 1 & 2 Nativity - morning

Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert - Westmount Road Methodist Church - 3:45pm

Last day of Autumn term - school closes at 1:30pm

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.

HOUSE POINTS

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. Here are the totals for this term so far:

Grangehill 1402	Rochester 1340	Dunvegan 1351	Nesbit 1388
--------------------	-------------------	------------------	----------------

PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

WHEN:

Monday
2nd
November

WHERE:



1. CARVE A
FRIENDLY PUMPKIN!

2. PLACE £1
IN YOUR PUMPKIN!
(All funds raised support the
school garden)

3. INCLUDE YOUR
NAME & CLASS!



JOIN THE GORDON GREEN TEAM!

HELP US GROW OUR GARDENS!

We're looking for family volunteers to
help maintain the green spaces in
the school playground!



PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL
OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN TEAM

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, or 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**.

HALF-TERM THEATRE CLUB

We are pleased to share details of an exciting holiday club running at Blackheath Prep School during the upcoming half-term break! Full details and booking information can be found on the flyer sent home alongside this newsletter. Gordon pupils can claim a discount of £10 off per day.

Be sure to check the flyer for details on how to book and secure your child's place!

DAFFODIL COMPETITION

It's that time of year again! After winning several prizes in the **London Children's Flower Society Daffodil Competition**, including gold last year, we'd love as many children as possible to take part again.



For just £1, the children will receive two bulbs, a pot and a set of growing instructions. We will let you know when to return the pots for judging. Photographic evidence is also accepted.

Please check your Arbor inbox for details.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Please note that we break up for the half-term holiday next week on Thursday, 22nd October. The school will close at the usual time and will re-open on Monday, 2nd November.

Congratulations!

Mermaid (N) - Susannah for being a fantastic explorer in Forest School

Baku (R) - Zula for her wonderful attitude to learning

Otsu (R) - Sebastian for sharing interesting observations about signs of autumn

Firebird (1) - Ryvan for partitioning two-digit numbers into tens and ones

Kelpie (1) - Taylah for her wonderful effort and improvement in writing

Jabberwock (2) - Leo for his wonderfully detailed picture of the *Great Fire of London*

Pegasus (2) - Mason for having a brilliant week and remaining focused on all his tasks

Cerberus (3) - Marnie for her fabulous ball skills in tennis and use of accurate sporting vocabulary

Nessie (3) - Robyn for her fantastic solo performance in our Harvest assembly

Bigfoot (4) - Finty for her fantastic and accurate explanation and reasoning of how to round to the nearest 1000

Griffin (4) - Finley for his excellent mathematical reasoning when discussing rounding to the nearest 1000

Dragon (5) - Yilu for her brilliant continuous line self-portrait

Werewolf (5) - Kaythan for his excellent work comparing and ordering quantities of money in maths

Chimera (6) - Aria for her well-crafted formal letter including subjunctive mood and emotive language to engage and persuade

Medusa (6) - Heloisa for her fantastic and insightful understanding of our English class text

Contact us: 020 8850 5486

office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

Find us online: www.gordonprimary.co.uk

Instagram: @gordonprimaryschool