Issue 448 13th November 2026

# 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 a busy and meaningful week across the school, filled with learning, reflection and community events! We kicked off the week on Monday with a special assembly celebrating **Diwali**, where pupils heard the story of Rama and Sita, explored the Festival of Lights and its themes of hope, joy and new beginnings.

Safety was also a major focus, with pupils taking part in interactive **Road Safety** talks on Tuesday and Wednesday to build essential skills for staying safe on and around our roads.

Midweek brought an opportunity for quiet reflection as staff and pupils gathered in classrooms on Wednesday to observe a minute of silence for **Remembrance Day**, honouring and remembering those who have served and lost their lives.

We brought our week to a close on Friday with our **Inter-Faith Week** assembly, celebrating our diverse community and reflecting on the shared values of kindness, understanding and respect.

### ATTENDANCE STARS

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

⭐ **Dragon** ⭐ **Nessie** ⭐ **Bigfoot**

### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES
### TICKET ALLOCATION & SAFETY REMINDERS

Preparations for our Christmas performances are well under way, and the children are busy rehearsing. We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of a few key details that help keep our performances safe and enjoyable for everyone:

**Ticket Allocation:** Due to venue capacity limits, we are able to offer a maximum of **2 tickets per family** across each pair of performances. To ensure every family has the chance to attend and to keep the space safe and comfortable for everyone, please do not bring additional guests or book for both performances.

**Access Requirements:** If you have access requirements and will need a reserved seat or early access to the hall, please contact office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

**Photography & Video:** Please remember that no photography or video recording of the children is permitted during the performances.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

Please check the calendar section of this newsletter for the performance dates. We will share the start times once we have finalised the runtime for each show.

# Let's Talk...

This week's **Let's Talk** activity is an autumnal odd-one-out exercise. Please discuss this at home, so your child is ready to share their thoughts and ideas in class next week.






**Which of these autumn images is the odd one out – and why?**

## STEP OUT IN STYLE FOR ODD SOCKS DAY

Odd Socks Day

MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

On **Monday 16th November**, we are inviting all children, parents and staff to join in with celebrating Odd Socks Day!

Odd Socks Day marks the start of **Anti-Bullying Week**. It is a fun, easy and inclusive way for everyone to come together, express ourselves, and take a stand against bullying.

Our **Friendship Ambassadors** will also be organising a fun crafting event using spare odd socks. If your child can bring in a spare odd sock on Monday, we would be very grateful! Thank you!

## HOUSEPOINTS

Congratulations to all our pupils for their consistent hard work and great attitudes this week. It has been a pleasure to see so many children demonstrating our core values every day. House points have been awarded to recognise those who have stood out for showing kindness and respect to others, putting maximum effort into their learning and making positive contributions to school life. Thank you for making this such a successful week!

| Grangehill | Rochester | Dunvegan | Nesbit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 355 | 345 | 373 | 342 |

## CAKE SALE – FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER / 3:15 PM

- KS1 Playground *(weather dependent)*
- Cakes £1 each

**Donations:** Home-made or shop-bought cakes are very welcome! Drop them at the school office on Friday morning or bring them straight to the sale.

**Helpers needed:** Can you volunteer? If so, please email friendsofthegordon@gmail.com

*Allergy info: While we try to avoid nuts, cakes may contain traces of nuts and other allergens.*

# Quiz Night

It's not too late to sign up for our Quiz Night. It's taking place this evening, from 7pm in the Sports Hall. Entry is £10 per person and you can have up to 7 people per team. Please bring your own food and drink.

**Tickets are still on sale:** www.trybooking.com/uk/HBHK or you can pay on the door.

To enhance our fund-raising efforts, we will have a **raffle** at the Quiz Night, so we are kindly asking for raffle prize donations! If you could contribute a small gift such as a box of chocolates, a bottle of wine or luxury toiletries, we would be incredibly grateful. Thank you!

## WHITE RIBBON DAY

On **Wednesday 25th November**, our school community will mark **White Ribbon Day**, which coincides with the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

As a **silver award-winning Rights Respecting School**, we are dedicated to teaching our children about their rights, reminding them that these rights are **universal** (for all children, everywhere) and **unconditional**. Marking White Ribbon Day directly supports our pupils' understanding of:

- **Article 2:** the right to non-discrimination – ensuring every child is treated fairly and respectfully, regardless of who they are.
- **Article 19:** the right to protection from violence.

As part of our ongoing work around kindness, healthy relationships and personal safety, we will use this day to take a stand against harm in all its forms, while helping our children understand the importance of respect, equality and peace for everyone.

We know how sensitive these topics can be, and as a team, we are especially mindful of delivering messages in a way that feels safe, reassuring and uplifting for our pupils. Our focus will be on reinforcing that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and respected both at school and in the wider world.

**How we are marking the day:**

- **Wear something white:** We encourage all children to come to school wearing an item of white clothing or a white ribbon to show our shared commitment to kindness, equality and peace.
- **Whole-school display:** Together, the children will create a bright whole-school artwork using handprints, where each child will write a message of solidarity, friendship or a personal pledge to treat others with respect.



If you have any questions or would like to know more about how we are exploring these rights and themes with the children, please feel free to reach out to us at office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk
Thank you, as always, for your partnership in making our school community a safe and nurturing place for every child.

## FREE CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic abuse, coercion or violence against women, there is free and confidential support available 24/7 via the **National Domestic Abuse Helpline**: 0808 2000 247 / https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/

## CALENDAR

### November 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday 16th | Anti-Bullying Week & Odd Socks Day |
| Wednesday 18th | Height and weight screening (NHS) – **Reception** & **Year 6** |
| Friday 20th | **Dragon** Class Assembly – 9:10am / 2:45pm – Middle Hall |
| Wednesday 25th | White Ribbon Day **new date** |
| Friday 27th | Flu vaccinations: **Years 4 & 5** |
| Monday 30th | **Years 3 & 4** Pantomime - afternoon |

### December 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 1st | **Years 3 & 4** Pantomime – morning |
| Thursday 3rd | **EYFS** Christmas Sing-along (afternoon) |
| Friday 4th | **EYFS** Christmas Sing-along (morning) |
| | FoG Christmas discos (times to be confirmed) |
| Tuesday 8th | Ballet performance of *Princess & the Pea* for pupils |
| Thursday 10th | **Years 1 & 2** Nativity – afternoon |
| Friday 11th | Christmas lunch / Christmas Jumper Day |
| | **Years 1 & 2** Nativity – morning |
| Wednesday 16th | **Year 5 & 6** Carol Concert - Westmount Road Methodist Church -3:45pm |
| Thursday 17th | Last day of Autumn term – school closes at 1:30pm |

# Outdoor Play And Learning

Have you seen the information we sent out earlier this week about the **OPAL** project that we will be starting soon? We would love to hear your thoughts on playtimes, so please complete our survey. Click **here** and submit your responses by Friday 20th November.

**Thank you!**




## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DISCOS

To buy tickets, please click **HERE**. (Please note, our ticket site, Zeffy, offer FoG free services and ask ticket buyers for a tip to cover their costs. This is voluntary.)

**Ticket sales close on 30th November**. After this date, tickets will only be available on the door, on the day of the discos.

**We need volunteers!** If you can spare some time, please register **HERE**. Thank you!

Please note, after-school clubs won't run on 4th December, although Go! Club will be open as usual. Please see our *Disco Instructions* (sent out via Arbor) for more details.

**Donate a ticket** to help FoG offer free tickets to families that might appreciate a little help at this time of year. These are "pay what you can" to allow you to decide how much you can donate. Our tickets vary from £2:50 to £5. Any tickets donated will be recorded by FoG and allocated by the school office.

## SWITCH OFF FORTNIGHT




As part of our Climate Action Plan, our **Eco Team** are running a **Switch Off Fortnight** campaign to help us reduce our energy consumption and raise awareness about sustainability.

Every lunchtime for the next fortnight, our **Eco Team** will check classrooms to see if electronic devices, screens and lights have been turned off when not in use. Classes that successfully switch off their electronics will earn a smiley face each day, and the class with the most smiley faces at the end of the two weeks will be awarded the official *Switch Off Fortnight Award*!

As an extra challenge, every class is tasked with holding an "Electricity-Free Hour" during the fortnight, spending an hour learning without using any electricity. We are running this initiative to help our pupils understand the importance of saving electricity, reducing our carbon footprint, and developing habits that protect the environment both at school and at home.

## EXPLORING A HALAL SCHOOL MENU

We are currently looking into the possibility of moving to a halal menu for our school lunches. Our goal is to ensure that our catering is as inclusive as possible and reflects the diverse needs of our school community.

Moving to a halal menu will not change the taste, quality or variety of the meals. Halal simply refers to how meat is sourced and prepared, rather than a specific style of cooking or seasoning - meaning our favourite recipes and flavours will remain the same.

At this stage, we are simply exploring this option and would welcome your thoughts. If you have any questions or feedback regarding this possible change, please get in touch with us: office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

Thank you.




**Mermaid (N)** – Vicky for her engagement in phonics sessions this week

**Baku (R)** – Ethan for using fabulous mathematical language

**Otsu (R)** – Antonia for super drawing and writing about her family members

**Firebird (1)** – Louis for showing confidence when using his phonic knowledge to read and spell new words

**Kelpie (1)** – Astrid for fantastic effort and care to improve her handwriting

**Jabberwock (2)** – Mia for her wonderful attitude and effort in spellings this week

**Pegasus (2)** – Tilly for fantastic effort in all areas of her learning

**Cerberus (3)** – John for trying really hard this week in all areas of his learning

**Nessie (3)** – Kaia for her hard work reading scales with varied intervals

**Bigfoot (4)** – Muhammad for writing amazing dictated sentences and using wonderful language for thinking

**Griffin (4)** – Dante for his brilliant effort and positivity during swimming lessons

**Dragon (5)** – Aisha for her great effort in choosing vocabulary for effect in her informal letter

**Werewolf (5)** – Isabelle for her fantastic efforts when solving problems involving negative numbers

**Chimera (6)** – Ewan for expertly combining formal tone with ambitious vocabulary in his MI5 report

**Medusa (6)** – Rory for drafting a superb formal and precise MI5 report