

# Gordon Primary School News

**Headteacher:** Jason Taylor

**Assistant Head (Curriculum):** Amanda Black

**Assistant Head (Inclusion):** Hannah Cuesta

**Be the best you can be.**



## WELCOME BACK

Welcome to a new school year. We hope you and your children had a wonderful summer break. The staff would like to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts they received at the end of last term. Gifts are not necessary or expected, but they are very much appreciated.

We are very excited to have the children back in school. The staff have been working hard to prepare for their new classes and lots of exciting learning experiences are being planned. Please check the **Diary Dates** section below for information about upcoming events and remember to check it each week for updates.

## DIARY DATES

### September

Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Nursery</b> re-opens Welcome meetings for <b>Years 1 to 5</b> - 3:25pm / 3:45pm / 4:05pm Safer Neighbourhood Policy Ward Panel Meeting - 6pm / Lower Hall
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 6</b> Information Meeting (6pm)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Reception</b> Welcome Meeting - 1:30pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	First full-day for <b>Reception</b> pupils
25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup>	Cycle to School Week
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Nasal flu vaccinations
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Anglo Saxon workshops for <b>Year 5</b>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	FoG Annual General Meeting - 7pm / Lower Hall
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Book Fair (until 4 <sup>th</sup> October) - available after school in the Lower Hall

### October

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Evening - 3:30pm to 7pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Years 1, 2 + 3</b> present Harvest Festival - 2pm / Sports Hall
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Years 1, 2 + 3</b> present Harvest Festival - 9:30am / Sports Hall Open Evening - 3:30pm to 6pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Inset Day - school closed to pupils
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cultural Evening - 5pm to 6:30pm / Sports Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term Break
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Deadline for secondary school applications (for September 2024)

**More dates will be coming soon. Please check the newsletter each week for updates.**

## FRIENDS OF THE GORDON (PTA)

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. 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 VICE CHAIRPERSON

1. To support the Chairperson in performing their role.
2. To deputise for the Chairperson in their absence.

### 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!

## LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is stored in the shed in the Key Stage 2 playground. Please check the shed if your child has lost any of their belongings.

We have a huge number of unclaimed items left over from the end of the Summer Term. If any of these items are still unclaimed by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September we will include them in our second-hand uniform sales (if they are in good condition) or dispose of them.

## INFORMATION FOR YEAR 6

**YEAR 6 INFORMATION MEETING** - we will be holding a Year 6 Information Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in the Middle Hall. As well as providing guidance on how to apply for secondary school places, we will also talk briefly about SATS and give you some information about next year's School Journey. It is important that ALL Year 6 parents and carers attend this meeting. Children do not need to attend.

## WELCOME MEETINGS

We will be holding Welcome Meetings for **Years 1 to 5** on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. They will take place at the following times: 3:25pm / 3:45pm / 4:05pm so you can attend meetings for more than one class if necessary.

There will be a meeting for **Reception** on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 1:45pm.

## PUNCTUALITY



Arriving at school on time sets a child up for a successful day. Please remember that our official start time is 8:45am. We have a "soft start" in place and allow children to arrive between 8:45am and 8:55am. By 8:55am your child should be in their classroom, not walking through the gate. If you arrive at 8:55am your child is late and will miss the start of their learning. Please support us by ensuring your child arrives on time every day. Thank you.

## GOVERNING BODY VACANCY

We have a vacancy for a parent governor which we need to fill as soon as possible. We know parents are interested in the education of their children and keen to see that the school provides a challenging education for all pupils. If you have enthusiasm and a willingness to work as a member of a team, you could be just the person we are looking for!

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that pupils receive high quality education and that the conduct of the school reflects this aim. The governors work with the Headteacher in the strategic planning and management of the school. Their responsibilities include the consideration and agreement of the aims and policies of the school, discussion and approval of objectives for improvement, appointment of staff, setting and monitoring the budget and monitoring the performance of the school.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please see the information we have circulated via ParentMail. The deadline for applications is noon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. If you would like more information please speak to Mr Taylor in the playground at the start or end of the day or email [headteacher@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)

Please do not assume that there will be others coming forward who are better equipped for this role. Our existing governors are very experienced and will provide plenty of support. We will also provide training for you.



## RULES AND REMINDERS

We would like to share some rules and reminders with you. Please note that rules and policies are reviewed regularly and do sometimes change, so please read through the points below. Thank you for your support.

Children need to wear <b>school uniform</b> every day. This includes black school shoes - not trainers. The list of uniform items is available from the office and the school website. Please also remember to label everything.	With the exception of <b>Year 6</b> children who are developing their independence, we expect all <b>children to be accompanied</b> to and from school. If your <b>Year 6</b> child walks to or from school without an adult, please inform us in writing.
Children must wear <b>PE kit</b> for their PE lessons. Kit consists of navy shorts, plain white or navy t-shirts, and trainers/plimsolls. Navy/black track suits can be worn during the winter.	No <b>jewellery</b> should be worn to school. The only exceptions are stud earrings and watches. Please keep friendship bracelets and plastic wristbands at home. No smart watches please.
<b>PE and swimming</b> are statutory parts of the curriculum. In most cases, if a child is well enough to be in school, they are well enough to participate in these lessons. If you feel your child is not able to take part, please inform the class teacher.	We are a <b>Healthy School</b> and do not give out sweets or cakes on children's birthdays. Stickers, fresh fruit, boxes of raisins, pencils, rubbers or a book dedicated to the class are great alternatives if you wish to mark your child's <b>birthday</b> in school.
<b>Dogs</b> can only come onto school premises if they are carried. If your dog distresses the children, you will be asked to keep it at home.	Please ensure you are not <b>parking</b> on the zigzag lines, yellow lines, near junctions or across our neighbours' driveways.
If you <b>have a concern</b> about something that has happened in school you need to see the class teacher in the first instance. If you have not been able to resolve the concern at this stage you should see a member of the Senior Team - Mr Taylor, Mrs Black or Mrs Cuesta.	Please keep us informed of your child's <b>medical needs and allergies</b> . You will need to complete an <i>Administration of Medication</i> form if prescribed medication is needed during the school day. If there are any changes to medical needs, please let us know. Please make sure that your child's medication is in date.
If your child is <b>unwell</b> please let us know as soon as possible. If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea they can return once they are feeling better. They do not need to be clear of symptoms for 48 hours.	<b>Long hair</b> should be tied back at all times. Headbands and hair clips must be small and plain. Bows must be navy and no larger than your child's palm.
We expect children to complete the home-learning activities we set. To make the best progress, children need to read (or be read to) at home. A few minutes of regular reading makes a huge difference.	If possible, please raise concerns with your child's teacher via <b>email</b> - addresses are on the website. Teachers are very busy and will respond as soon as they can but we cannot guarantee it will be the same day.
<b>Toys and games</b> should stay at home. Children get very upset if their belongings are lost or damaged.	Children must not bring electronic devices, including <b>mobile phones</b> and <b>smart watches</b> to school.
Taking <b>photographs and videos</b> of events in school, including assemblies and performances, is not permitted. This is for child protection reasons.	We produce a weekly <b>newsletter</b> . Please ensure that you check it for information every week. We send it out by ParentMail and it is also available on our website



## SWIMMING

Weekly swimming lessons for **Year 4** started this week. The lessons will continue until the Spring Term half term holiday in February 2024.

The children walk to the Eltham Centre where they will have a 45-minute swimming lesson with trained instructors. The children will need **close fitting trunks** (no baggy beach shorts) or a **one-piece costume** (no bikinis), a **swimming hat** and a towel in a **waterproof bag**.

We are asking for a £9 donation towards the cost of swimming which works out at approximately 50p per session. If you are able to support us with this donation, we would be very grateful. You can make your donation via ParentMail.

The children in **Year 3** will begin their swimming lessons after the Spring Term half term holiday in February 2024.

## GIRLS' FOOTBALL

We have sent out information about the clubs we provide. At present we have lots of space in the Girls' Football club which runs on a Wednesday morning at 8am. It is open to girls in Year 3 to 6. Let's try to create some future Lionesses!

## WEBSITE

A new Gordon School website will be launched soon. We have listened to your comments about how the website can be improved and we look forward to sharing it with you. Whilst we are in this transition phase you may find that updates are not quite as regular as before. If you cannot find the information you require on our current website, please check the newsletter or contact the school office. We will let you know when the new website is ready. Thank you for your patience.

## PLAYGROUND SAFETY

We have reminded the children that they should not ride bikes or scooters in the playgrounds or use the climbing equipment at the end of the day. Please support us by reminding your child about these rules. Thank you.



**Copenhagen (R)** - Ema for brilliant sewing

**Beijing (R)** - Gilda for following instructions and helping others know where the equipment is stored

**Krakow (1)** - the whole year group for a fantastic transition to Year 1

**Vienna (1)** - the whole year group for a fantastic transition to Year 1

**Adelaide (2)** - Anton for a good start to the year

**Sydney (2)** - William for super effort in all his learning this week

**Fuji (3)** - Tara for her thoughtful contributions to the class charter

**New York (3)** - Kacie for her creativity and enthusiasm when planning her adventure story

**Athens (4)** - Avery for carefully planning her adventure story

**Cairo (4)** - Hazel for always giving thoughtful input to our classroom discussions

**Memphis (5)** - Maia for her focus and hard work this week in all lessons

**Ouagadougou (5)** - Jessica for great organisation and being a very smiley and happy member of the class

**Delhi (6)** - Summer for her great contributions during English when planning a narrative

**Winnipeg (6)** - Alex for his enthusiastic contributions to class discussions

Contact us: 020 8850 5486

[office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)

[www.gordonprimary.co.uk](http://www.gordonprimary.co.uk)

## GORDON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN TEAM

If you have concerns regarding a child's well-being, care or safety, including bullying, please contact a member of our Child Protection Team: Mr Taylor, Mrs Cuesta, Mrs Black, Ms Newlove and Ms May Alternatively, you can call Greenwich Council (020 8921 3172) or the NSPCC (0808 800 5000). In the case of an emergency where you feel a child is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999.



**Mr Taylor - Headteacher**  
[headteacher@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)



**Mrs Cuesta - Assistant Head (Inclusion)**  
[huesta@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:huesta@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)



**Mrs Black - Assistant Head (Curriculum)**  
[ablack@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:ablack@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)



**Ms Newlove - Learning Mentor**  
[lnewlove@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:lnewlove@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)



**Ms May - GO! Club Manager**  
[cmay@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:cmay@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)

## PE KIT

If you have any items of PE kit at home that your child has grown out of, please bring them into school for us to use. Our stock of spare kit is very low. Thank you!