

Gordon Primary School News

Headteacher: Jason Taylor

Assistant Head (Curriculum): Amanda Black

Assistant Head (Inclusion): Hannah Cuesta

Be the best you can be.



THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

On Monday, **Ouagadougou Class** visited to King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in Woolwich. The children had a great time and we were delighted to have their exemplary behaviour praised!

Thank you to everyone who has visited the Book Fair. We make commission on all sales so this is a great way to support your child's reading and help us get new books into school.

In Monday's assembly we marked **Dyslexia Awareness Week**. We shared a story about a girl developing an understanding of her dyslexia and the strategies she used to help her manage it, as well as finding out about some inspirational people with dyslexia and their incredible successes. On Friday, we welcomed Revd Juliet Evans from St Luke's Church into assembly and she talked to us about harvest, sharing and being thankful. She also visited the Reception classes.

SPONSORED FUN RUN

The Friends of the Gordon sponsored fun run will be taking place on Friday 20th October. Your friends and family can sponsor your child either by giving a donation in cash or by donating online through JustGiving. Please return the sponsor sheets and any cash donations to your child's teacher or the school office by Friday 3rd November 2023. To donate online through JustGiving, visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/gordonfunrun2023. Thank you!

If you are able to spare some time to help with marshalling on the day, please contact Meghan on 07531 864 481 or email friendsofthegordon@gmail.com.



OPEN EVENINGS

The class teachers are looking forward to meeting you next week for the first Open Evening of the year. You will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss how your child has settled into their new class. You will also be able to look at some of their work. You can book a 10-minute appointment on the following days:

- **Monday 9th October - between 3:30pm and 7pm.**
- **Wednesday 11th October - between 3:30pm and 6pm**

Thank you everyone who has already booked an appointment. If you have not booked yet, there are still spaces available.



Multi-Cultural Evening

Gordon Primary School



Thursday 19th
October 2023



Sports Hall



5pm to 6:30pm

Please bring a
dish to share!

Everyone is welcome

We are looking forward to our Multi-Cultural Evening. This will be an informal event where we will be celebrating the many cultures represented by families in our school.

Please dress for the occasion! We would love to see families wearing the clothes that reflect their culture. We are also hoping that lots of families will be willing to share some food with us. If there is a particular dish that your family loves, we would be honoured if you could make it for us!

If you are feeling adventurous and would like to perform a dance, sing a song, play an instrument or demonstrate a sport, please feel free.

There will be fun activities for the children and lots of opportunities for adults to chat and make new friends!

We hope you will be able to join us!

DIARY DATES

October

Monday 9 th	Memphis Class visit to Royal Horse Artillery Open Evening - 3:30pm to 7pm
Tuesday 10 th	Years 1, 2 & 3 present Harvest Festival - 2pm / Sports Hall
Wednesday 11 th	Years 1, 2 & 3 present Harvest Festival - 9:30am / Sports Hall Open Evening - 3:30pm to 6pm
Friday 13 th	Inset Day - school closed to pupils
Thursday 19 th	Cultural Evening - 5pm to 6:30pm / Sports Hall
Friday 20 th	Friends of the Gordon Sponsored Run / Eltham Park South
23 rd to 27 th	Half Term Break
Monday 30 th	School photographer - individual and sibling photographs
Tuesday 31 st	Deadline for secondary school applications (for September 2024)

November

Friday 3 rd	Friends of the Gordon Quiz Night - 7pm / Sports Hall
Tuesday 7 th	Road Safety workshop
Friday 10 th	Anti-Bullying theatre group visiting Years 4, 5 & 6
13 th to 17 th	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 13 th	Kindness Day / Odd Socks Day
Wednesday 15 th	Height & Weight Measurement Programme - Reception and Year 6
Friday 17 th	Ouagadougou Class assembly - 9:10am and 2:40pm / Middle Hall Year 6 visit to Imperial War Museum
Friday 24 th	Memphis Class assembly - 9:10am and 2:40pm / Middle Hall

December

Tuesday 5 th	Year 3 & 4 Pantomime - 2:00pm / Sports Hall
Wednesday 6 th	Year 3 & 4 Pantomime - 9:30am / Sports Hall
Friday 8 th	Friends of the Gordon Children's Christmas Disco
Monday 11 th	Nursery & Reception Christmas Sing-along - 2:00pm / Sports Hall
Tuesday 12 th	Nursery & Reception Christmas Sing-along - 9:30am / Sports Hall
Thursday 14 th	Year 1 & 2 Nativity - 2:00pm / Sports Hall
Friday 15 th	Year 1 & 2 Nativity - 9:30am / Sports Hall Children's Christmas lunch
Wednesday 20 th	Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert - 4:00pm / Westmount Road Methodist Church
Thursday 21 st	Last day of the Autumn term

January

Tuesday 9 th	Children return - first day of the Spring term
-------------------------	--



HARVEST DONATIONS

As is our tradition, we are asking for **Harvest Donations** again this year. We will be supporting the Greenwich Foodbank and all non-perishable food items will be gratefully received. Please ask your child to take your donations to their classroom. Thank you for your generosity!

EQUALITY PLAN & STATEMENT - CONSULTATION

We have reviewed our Equality Statement and written a new Equality Plan. Please take a look at these documents. You will find them in the **Policies** section, in the **Inclusion & SEND Policies** folder. If you have any feedback for us, please contact office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk. Thank you.

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



Mrs Cuesta - Assistant Head (Inclusion)
huesta@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk



Mrs Black - Assistant Head (Curriculum)
ablack@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk



Ms Newlove - Learning Mentor
lnewlove@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk



Ms May - GO! Club Manager
cmay@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

WHAT PARENTS & CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WHATSAPP

Please scroll to the end of this newsletter to see a useful document about WhatsApp from National Online Safety.

ATTENDANCE

Every Monday we present Attendance Stars in our assembly to the three classes with the highest attendance for the previous week. This week we awarded stars to **Krakow**, **Sydney** and **Memphis** classes! Well done children! At the end of this half term, the class with the most stars will receive a treat!

SCHOOL TOURS

We will be holding tours for parents who are looking for a September 2024 **Reception** place. These will take place on:

- 17th / 31st October 2023
- 7th / 14th / 28th November 2023
- 5th / 13th December 2023
- 9th January 2024

Tours start promptly at 9:15am and last for approximately an hour.

Prospective parents can visit our **Nursery** on 2nd November, at 3:30pm.

Places must be booked our website.

HOUSE POINTS

1 st	Nesbit	981
2 nd	Grangehill	975
3 rd	Dunvegan	953
4 th	Rochester	938

The children from **Year 1 to Year 6** receive House Points for good behaviour and trying hard in lessons. Well done to everyone who has earned House Points so far this term.

INSET DAY

Friday 13th October

School closed



Copenhagen (R) - Mia for using brilliant story language

Beijing (R) - Sebastian for excellent effort in letter formation

Krakow (1) - Sophia for a fantastic effort in maths when using the part-part-whole model

Vienna (1) - Finty for her brilliant attitude towards all areas of her learning

Adelaide (2) - George for a great effort and attitude in all his learning

Sydney (2) - Diego for contributing to class discussions when reading *Paddington at the Zoo* and working hard on his writing

Fuji (3) - Sonny for showing control, accuracy and skill when passing the ball during basketball

New York (3) - Jack for writing an excellent diary entry that included expanded noun phrases and similes

Athens (4) - James S for brilliant problem-solving while using the column method for addition

Cairo (4) - Amina for her enthusiastic and insightful contributions when discussing food webs in science

Memphis (5) - Kore for his enthusiasm and support of his classmates at playtime and in the classroom

Ouagadougou (5) - Edith for writing an informative and interesting biography of Sir Isaac Newton

Delhi (6) - Tasneem for her great effort in French learning verbs related to sports

Winnipeg (6) - Alex for cooperative teamwork and being a fantastic student

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE
16+
13+ REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted - it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes - encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded - so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe - but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' - choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list - so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety