

Gordon School News

Issue 194 19th June 2020

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Be the best you can be!



MORE BUBBLES!

We will be introducing three Foundation Stage bubbles and a third Key Worker bubble next week. This takes our number of bubbles up to 14 and means we are accommodating over 150 children and are now working at full capacity. Whilst we are very pleased that we have been able to welcome back pupils from all of the years and groups that the government has prioritised – something that many schools have not been able to do on the scale that we have – we know that lots of you are disappointed and frustrated that we cannot admit greater numbers. We are missing all of the children who continue to be at home and we remain hopeful that the situation will change soon and we will be able to relax our safety measures.

HUTS UPDATE

A dramatic change in the appearance of the huts awaited us when we came in to school on Monday. Up until that point all of the work had taken place inside the buildings. However, last weekend the contractors began dismantling the roofs and it finally feels like this project has now gone beyond the point of no return!



On Tuesday we had a meeting with the team who will be drawing up the final plans for the multi-use games area and next week contractors who will be bidding to carry out the final demolition work and refurbishment of the hut behind the Sports Hall will be visiting us. We are very excited about these amazing developments for our school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We are working hard to help the children remember and follow the 2m social distancing rule in school. We would like to remind parents and carers that we need them to reinforce this rule by being good role models when they drop-off and collect their children by keeping a safe distance when chatting with other adults. Thank you.

THE POWER OF READING

Our curriculum for English is embedded in the *Power of Reading* project. We love this approach to teaching as it centres around using brilliant children's books. We have drawn up a list of books which the children would currently be studying if they were in school. If you are looking for something new for your child to read, you might want to try some of these:

Nursery

Stanley's Stick by John Hegley

Billy's Bucket by Kes Gray

Reception

The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers

How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers

Whatever Next! by Jill Murphy

Sharing a Shell by Julia Donaldson

Tiddler by Julia Donaldson.

Year 1

Jack and the Beanstalk

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Little Red Riding Hood

Harry & the Dinosaurs series

Katie & the Dinosaurs by James Mayhew

Year 2

The Princess & the White Bear King

Traditional Fairy Tales

Year 3

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Greek Myths (Theseus and the Minotaur)

Year 4

The Lion & the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes

Friend or Foe by Micheal Morpurgo

Year 5

London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

The Last Wild by Piers Torday

The Dark Wild by Piers Torday

Year 6

Macbeth (A Shakespeare Story) by

Andrew Matthews and Tony Ross

1001 Arabian Nights (Oxford Story Collections)

BLACK LIVES MATTER

One of the strengths of our school community is the way in which we are bound together by our values of inclusion and equality. During these troubled times, if we are to bring about change, we must recognise that it is not enough to be aware of racism; we must be purposefully anti-racist and seek to guide our children in this endeavour.

In school, we have started to think about ways in which we can strengthen our commitment to equality and support children to better understand what the term '*Black Lives Matter*' means. You may also be interested in the statement issued by the Royal Borough of Greenwich last week reaffirming their commitment to eradicating racism in our society. You can find the statement here:

https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/article/1636/royal_greenwich_stands_together_against_racism

CLASSES FOR 20/21

We had a great response to our online vote for class names. The children overwhelmingly chose **Sea Life** as the theme. Here are the class names and teachers for next year:

Nursery – **Clownfish Class** – Mrs Miller

Reception – **Conch Class** – Mrs Cullum
Coral Class – Mrs King & Mrs Beattie

Year 1 – **Dolphin Class** (ex-Sphinx) – Ms White
– **Jellyfish Class** (ex-Sprite) – Ms Kemp

Year 2 – **Lobster Class** (ex-Phoenix) – Mrs Abrey & Mrs Cuesta
– **Lionfish Class** (ex-Pegasus) – Ms Carter

Year 3 – **Mussel Class** (ex-Kelpie) – Mrs Hill
– **Octopus Class** (ex-Kraken) – Mrs Faiers

Year 4 – **Oyster Class** (ex-Hippogriff) – Mrs Altiparmaki
– **Penguin Class** (ex-Hydra) – Ms Whiting

Year 5 – **Stingray Class** (ex-Genie) – Mrs Olding
– **Seahorse Class** (ex-Griffin) – Mrs Sanders

Year 6 – **Turtle Class** (ex-Dragon) – Ms Deacon
– **Whale Class** (ex-Damysus) – Ms Morton

THANK YOU GIFTS / FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We know that lots of children, parents and carers like to thank the staff at the end of the school year with a gift. The staff have requested that as an alternative this year you might like to make a donation to our foodbank. The government have decided they will provide vouchers over the summer holiday for families who are entitled to free school meals, but there are still many families who need a little extra help. Any donations of food that you can drop off will be gratefully received and we will package them up and deliver them at the beginning of the school holiday. Thank you.

PACKED LUNCHES

Please remember that we are a nut-free school and there must be no nuts or food containing nuts in the children's packed lunches. Thank you.

GOODBYE

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to some members of staff this term. Mrs Calcott, who has done such an amazing job teaching music in the school has decided to retire. Mrs Counsell is also retiring and will be missed greatly in her role as one of our fabulous Higher Level Teaching Assistants. We are very sad to say goodbye to Mrs King, a wonderful Senior Meals Supervisor and Teaching Assistant, who will be leaving us to support her husband with his business. Finally, Ms Cheung, another one of our fantastic Teaching Assistants will be moving on to a post at a secondary school. We are sad to see all of these wonderful people leave. We wish them the very best of luck and thank them for everything they have done supporting Gordon children.

YEAR 6 NEWS

On Friday 17th July we will be inviting the whole year group in for the day so they can have the proper send-off they deserve before heading to their new secondary schools.

We have been in touch with PGL and they have confirmed that the school journey to Osmington Bay will not be going ahead. We are currently working out arrangements for refunds and will provide more information as soon as we can.

Usually, in the Summer term we have class photographs taken. That cannot happen this year so the photographer who took the individual shots in the Autumn term has agreed to combine them into a composite photograph instead. Photographs should be ready by 6th July and will cost £12. If you are interested and would like to place an order, please email Mrs Davis: tdavis@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

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