

Gordon School News

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Be the best you can be!

DIARY DATES

The last day of this term (and this school year) was originally set for Friday 17th July. However, the **Nursery, Reception and Year 1** “bubbles” will now be closed on this day as the staff will be hosting a number of virtual Welcome Meetings for the families whose children will be entering Nursery and Reception in September. Therefore, on Friday 17th July we will only be open for **Year 6** pupils and the children in the **Key Worker** bubbles.

We do not plan to be open for any children during the summer holiday and no holiday clubs will be operating here. With six huts being demolished, one hut being refurbished, a multi-use games area being installed and the roofs of two shelters being replaced, the school grounds will not be safe for children to enter. If you need childcare over the summer holiday please visit the **Family Information Service** website that Greenwich council operate: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/kb5/greenwich/directory/home.page>

At present, we plan to open on Friday 4th September for the 20/21 school year. This, of course, is dependent on the status of the Covid-19 pandemic. The media has been awash with suggestions of part-time schooling, rotas and phased returns and the truth is we simply do not know what school opening will look like yet. We will share our plans with you once we have received guidance from the government and had time to work with our governors on what we believe is the best course of action for our school.

Thursday 16th July – last day for Nursery, Reception and Year 1

Friday 17th July – last day of online learning for Years 2, 3, 4 & 5
– Year 6 Day
– last day for Key Worker children

Friday 4th September – proposed first day of the Autumn term

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. There is never any expectation that you should do this, but if you would like to, please consider making a donation to our foodbank instead. The government have decided they will provide vouchers over the summer holiday for families who are entitled to free school meals, but we still have 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.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

In last week’s newsletter we explained that 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. We are looking to form a working party who will advise the school on this, and we would love to have some parents, carers and other community members work with our school representatives, Mrs Cuesta, Ms Newlove and Mr Dean, on this. If you are interested in joining our working party, or would like to share your thoughts and ideas with us, please contact Mrs Cuesta: hcuesta@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk
Thank you!

GO! CLUB

We are hoping to re-open the GO! Club in the Autumn term so we can offer wraparound care. At the moment, we do not know what exactly will be happening in September, but we would like to start planning by gauging interest levels.

Please send an email to the GO! Club at: GO@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk including:

- child(ren)’s name
- year group they will be entering
- details of your requirements (if possible)
- your name and phone number

When it is up and running again, the GO! Club will be operating from 7:30am to 8:55am (£9) and from 3:30pm and 6:30pm (£11). We will be using the building behind the Sports Hall which is currently undergoing refurbishment.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We are all hopeful that the relaxing of the social distancing rule from 4th July is a positive sign that we are combating covid-19. However, it still presents as a significant challenge in school. Our 14 “bubbles” are working really well and we are confident that we are providing safe care for the children and the staff. With the change in social distancing we may be able to take in a few more children from the government’s priority groups but sadly, we will not be able to expand our provision to include children from Years 2, 3, 4 or 5. To do this we would have to re-organise the children in our “bubbles” and this would compromise everyone’s safety.

CHECK-IN SESSIONS

Many children are missing school, their friends and the staff at the moment, so we would like to offer some “check-in” sessions. For the children in **Reception to Year 5**, they will take place in socially distanced groups in the Key Stage 2 playground. The children will have the opportunity to see some of their friends, say goodbye to their current teacher and meet their new teacher. They will also be able to collect items they left in school pre-lockdown, return any reading books they have at home and collect their annual report. The sessions are open to all children in these year groups, including those who are already attending.

In order to manage the group sizes we have split each class in two: **children whose surname begins with a letter between A and L are in Group 1** and **children whose surname begins with a letter between M and Z are in Group 2**. Group 1 will be in the playground from 3pm and will stay for half an hour. Group 2 will be in from 3:30pm. All children will enter through the Earlsall Road gate (near the bandstand) and will leave through the Craigton Road gate (near the Sports Hall). Unfortunately, parents and carers will not be able to enter the site as we need to limit numbers.

- **Tuesday 30th June – Dragon Class** (Turtle Class)
- **Wednesday 1st July – Damysus Class** (Whale Class)
- **Thursday 2nd July – Genie Class** (Stingray Class)
- **Friday 3rd July – Sprite Class** (Jellyfish Class)
- **Monday 6th July – Griffin Class** (Seahorse Class)
- **Tuesday 7th July – Hydra Class** (Penguin Class)
- **Wednesday 8th July – Hippogriff Class** (Oyster Class)
- **Thursday 9th July – Kraken Class** (Octopus Class)
- **Friday 10th July – Sphinx Class** (Dolphin Class)
- **Monday 13th July – Kelpie Class** (Mussel Class)
- **Tuesday 14th July – Pegasus Class** (Lionfish Class)
- **Wednesday 15th July – Phoenix Class** (Lobster Class)

Check-in sessions for the **Nursery** children who are not currently attending will take place between 1pm and 1:30pm in the Nursery outdoor area on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July. Mrs Miller will circulate more information soon.

We hope that every child will be able to pop into school and say “hello and goodbye” to us before the summer holiday.

YEAR 6 NEWS

If you are interested in buying the Year 6 composite photograph, the price has reduced to £9. Please email your order by 29th June to tdavis@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

The children have been working on a socially distanced production of *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* which will be videoed. The children who are not currently in school are invited to attend a singing session on Friday 3rd July from 9:30am to 10:15am in the playground. Please enter through the gate on Earlsall Road.

All of Year 6 are invited to join us between 9am and 2pm on Friday 17th July for the chance to say a final goodbye. They will receive their end-of-year report and watch the *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* video performance.

If you would like to order a Year 6 Leavers 2020 navy hoodie priced at £18, please order via email vicki.springett@hotmail.com or text: 07763 722816. All orders must be placed by the end of today - Friday 26th June - so they will be ready for the last day of term.

GOODBYE & HELLO

Last week we shared the sad news that Mrs Calcott is retiring. She has been dedicated to the teaching of music in our school for many years, ensuring our music provision is of the highest standard. Music is one of the cornerstones of life at The Gordon and one that we are passionate about. Therefore, we are delighted to announce that we have appointed a new, equally dedicated Music teacher! Mrs Hagerty has been known to us for many years as a pupil here herself, a tutor within the Greenwich Youth Band and a parent! We are very excited about Mrs Hagerty joining us and we wish her a long and happy time here.

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