

Gordon School News

Issue 202 11th September 2020

Headteacher: Jason Taylor

Assistant Head (Curriculum): Amanda Black

Assistant Head (Inclusion): Hannah Cuesta

Be the best you can be!



RECEPTION WELCOME MEETINGS

We had planned to hold **welcome meetings** for the parents and carers of the children in **Reception** on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th September. These would have taken place in the hall. However, due to the changes in social gatherings that the government has announced, we have decided to hold these meetings online via Zoom instead.

We will send out some information and the link to the zoom meetings, and if there are any questions, we will answer these at the meetings. The meetings will take place at 2:15pm on each day.

SECONDARY TRANSFER MEETINGS

The **secondary transfer** meetings for the parents and carers of the children in **Year 6** will now be online via Zoom. We have made some changes to the times and dates we originally advertised. The meetings will now take place as follows:

- **Turtle Class** - Monday 21st September at 6pm
- **Whale Class** - Tuesday 22nd September at 6pm

Please remember that the deadline for secondary school applications is Saturday 31st October 2020. For more details, visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/admissions. Applications must be made online, so if you have not yet set up an account, please go to the e-admissions website: www.eadmissions.org.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA – KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

A number of the older children are setting up WhatsApp groups on their phones despite it having an age rating of 16. We know from experience that children are not able to cope with the nuances of this type of communication and, invariably, become upset by unkind comments, social exclusion or general misunderstandings. This affects their mental health, relationships and learning.

We strongly encourage you not to allow your child to use WhatsApp or other social networking sites and to closely monitor your child's phone use. We all remind children to tell an adult if something upsets them, but research shows that they don't do this when it comes to phones because they worry their phone will be confiscated. This provides the potential for online bullying to take place unchallenged. Please protect your child – talk to them about appropriate online behaviour and check their phones regularly!

BUILDING WORK UPDATE

Now that the huts have been demolished we are beginning to appreciate just how much additional space we will have. The ground is being levelled in preparation for the next stage of development which includes laying tarmac in the Reception playground, extending forest school with a grassy area and preparing the footings for the ball court.

We are awaiting final permission to be granted for the interior changes we want to make to Hut D and then refurbishment will begin. In terms of our school environment, these are exciting times!

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Individual instrumental lessons will be starting up again from next week (Monday 14th September). All lessons will take place in the main music rooms at the top of the school and timetables will be confirmed shortly. If your child has had lessons previously, you should have been contacted about this by your instrumental teacher already. We are not able to start steel pan lessons yet, but we will keep you posted about when they can resume.

Whilst we are able to resume individual instrumental lessons, school ensembles such as the band, are not able to restart currently. We will keep you updated when guidance changes.

If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and interested in instrumental lessons, please contact our music teacher Mrs Hagerty: ahagerty@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk. Our visiting music tutors offer lessons in the flute, clarinet, violin, guitar, drums, trumpet and trombone.

GO! CLUB

We are delighted to be able to offer you wraparound care at the GO! Club once again. If you are interested in booking sessions, please visit the Schoolsbuddy.com web portal.

CHANGES IN PROCEDURES FOR THE START AND END OF THE DAY

Now that we've been back in school for a week, and have had time to review our procedures, we have identified changes we want to make to the start and end of the day. We are getting the children in through the gate very quickly in the mornings, but there is a lot of waiting around in the playground. To enable us to take the children in earlier and start lessons sooner we will be changing to a two-group system from Monday 14th September. The children in **Reception to Year 6** will be divided as follows:

Group A – families with a surname beginning A to F.

- children attending the GO! Club.
- childminders who look after children from more than one family.
- children who are participating in certain intervention groups and have received notification from the class teacher
- children with siblings in our Nursery

Group B – all other children

Please be prompt bringing your children in to school. The Earlshall Road and Craigton Road gates will be locked at 9:20am. If you arrive after 9:20am you will have to enter through the main gate on Grangehill Road.

We have also amended the end of the day slightly and pushed back the collection times. Group A will need to be collected at 3:10pm and Group B will need to be collected at 3:20pm.

	Start	End	Drop-Off	Collection
Group A	9:00am	3:10pm	Please queue at either the Earlshall Road gate or the Craigton Road gate. At the "start time" your child will be allowed into the playground and will join their line. Only Reception parents and carers can enter the playground.	Please queue outside the Earshall Road gate (by the band stand). At your child's "end time" you will be allowed into the playground to collect your children. You will then exit through the Craigton Road gate (by the Sports Hall).
Group B	9:10am	3:20pm		
Nursery	8:45am	11:45am	Please enter through the Grangehill Road gate and bring your child to the Nursery playground.	Please enter through the Grangehill Road gate and collect your child from the Nursery playground.
	12:30pm	3:30pm		

We would like to remind everyone that you need to:

- socially distance whilst queueing outside the gates
- wear a face covering, if possible, whilst you are waiting
- collect your child and leave the playground immediately
- communicate with staff via email and telephone

Thank you for your support, patience and understanding.

We will also be adjusting the times of the **GO! Club** in the afternoons. From Monday, it will start at 3:10pm and close at 6:10pm.

FRIENDS OF THE GORDON (PTA)

The Friends of the Gordon (otherwise known as FoG) is our PTA and is open to anyone in the community who would like to help us increase the range of experiences we provide for the children by supporting a range of events and raising funds. Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Tuesday 29th September at 7pm. The meeting will be held online via Zoom and we will send out the link nearer the time.

We are looking to re-elect our current committee as well as hoping to appoint a treasurer. This role would particularly suit someone who has an interest in social media and communication. Information about the committee roles is available on our website.

We are already planning events and fund-raisers for the coming year, and information will be shared with you soon. We had to cancel several events last term, so we are keen to build FoG back up to the fantastic group it was prior to Covid-19! Thank you in advance for your support.

School office: 020 8850 5486
e-mail: office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk

Facebook:
 Friends of Gordon
 Primary School

Website:
www.gordonprimary.co.uk