

Gordon School News

Issue 211

20th November 2020

Headteacher: Jason Taylor

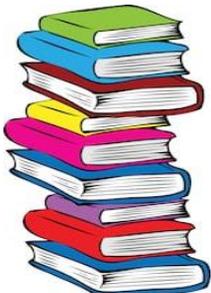
Assistant Head (Curriculum): Amanda Black

Assistant Head (Inclusion): Hannah Cuesta



Be the best you can be!

STORY BOOK DAY – FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER



Thank you to all the children who have donated their unwanted books to our **Book Swap** event. It will take place next Friday as part of our “**Story Book Day**”. The books will be sorted into packs and a pack will be delivered to each classroom. Every child will then be able to select a book or two which they will take home and keep.

Don't forget that this is also a fund-raising event. In return for leaving their uniforms at home and wearing something cosy and comfortable (What could be better when snuggling down to hear a story?) we would like the children to make a donation to our book fund. We will use this money to buy some new books for classrooms. Thank you for your support.

COOKED LUNCHES

We are delighted that the kitchen will be offering hot meals from Monday. Please remember that if you have ordered cooked meals you need to pay in advance via Parentmail. Once you have decided whether your child is having a school meal or bringing a packed lunch from home, you need to keep to that decision for the term. We are unable to cater for daily or weekly changes. Changes can be made at the beginning of next term.

UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Despite being referred to as “free” the meals that are provided for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are not fully funded by the government. There is a shortfall of 20p for every meal every day. Over the year this amounts to nearly £7000 which has to come out of our budget.

Like all schools, we have been faced with huge budget cuts this year and we have to look at ways to become more efficient. This is why we are now wondering if any families of the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 would be willing to make a voluntary donation of the 20p per meal per day shortfall. This amounts to £1 per week and £38 for the year. We know that this is not possible for all families, but all contributions will make a huge difference to our budget.

We will send out a payment schedule on Parentmail. If you are able to help us, we would be exceptionally grateful! Thank you.

SCHOOL FUND REMINDER

Huge thanks go to everyone who has donated to our School Fund. We use this money for a wide range of “extras” such as playground equipment, wet-play games, cooking ingredients, music licenses and other “bits and bobs” teachers need for their classes. If you would like to make a donation you can do so via parentmail. Thank you.



Our first ever virtual Quiz Night was a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended. Special thanks go to one of our brilliant dads – Ian Colley – for his technical expertise; ensuring all of the breakout rooms worked and for keeping us to time!

We have some other parents who have taken on tasks for FoG and we would like to show our appreciation to them too. Thank you Amina Hussain for taking care of the Christmas Card project, and Celine Roberts for designing the button badges for the scavenger hunt. Your help is invaluable!

The next FoG event will be the very exciting **Winter Wonderland Walk** in December. Please see the flyer we sent out on parentmail last week or visit the FoG website for details about how to get involved:

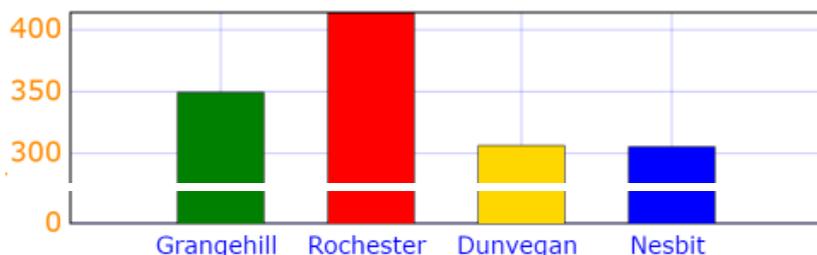
<https://friendsofthegordon.wixsite.com/schoolpta>

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

We have been focusing on Anti-Bullying in school this week. We published our latest Anti-Bullying Newsletter, wore “odd socks” on Monday, listened to stories and watched some assemblies.

We have talked to the children about what to do if they think they are being bullied and reminded everyone that if we all follow our rules **Be Safe** and **Be Respectful**, there will be no bullying in our school.

HOUSE POINTS FOR THIS HALF TERM



COVID-19 PROCEDURES

Thank you to everyone who is remembering to maintain social distancing and wear a face covering in the queues at the gates and when in the playground. **Unless you have a legitimate reason not to, you should wear a face covering when you drop-off and collect your child.**

Whilst we acknowledge that the majority of parents and carers are supporting the school to stay safe, Mr Taylor and the Governors would like to remind everyone that it is vital we all follow the national guidance and pull together.

If your child displays even very mild COVID-19 symptoms, you must keep them at home and arrange for a test immediately. Do not bring them back to school until you have received a negative test result. If we inform you that your child cannot be in school or call you to collect your child, please do not become cross with us. We are following the national guidance and trying to prevent transmission.

We have also heard that a few children are attending play-dates or parties with their friends. This cannot happen at the moment – even if the children are in the same bubble in school.

We know that some children are finding increased hand washing and the regular use of hand-sanitiser are causing skin irritations. We use a hand-sanitiser which has a moisturiser in it, but this may not be mild enough for all children. We are happy for you to send in your own hand-sanitiser if your child has sensitive skin. You may also want to send in an emollient cream such as e45 for your child to use too.

For details about how to book a COVID-19 test, please go to: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

We will include all of our Christmas details in next week's newsletter. However, in the meantime and in response to a few parents who have asked, yes the children will be able to send Christmas cards this year. We will have a post box in each classroom and will be asking the children only to send to other children in their bubble. Look out for more information next week.

HEAD LICE

To help prevent the spread of head lice, we ask that all children with hair that touches their collar have their hair tied back. Thank you.

WELL DONE

Clownfish (N): Zachary for great improvement in listening and following classroom expectations

Conch (R): Louie for great effort in phonics

Coral (R): Noah for persevering with writing his name and staying on task

Dolphin (1): Adam for super effort using his phonics in his writing

Jellyfish (1): Albie for excellent work on addition in maths

Lionfish (2): Molly for always doing her very best in lessons

Lobster (2): Maia for a lovely piece of extended writing

Mussel (3): Ria for always being a helpful and kind member of the class

Octopus (3): Otilija for careful and detailed art work based on the theme of *hope*

Oyster (4): Gracie for creating a brilliant persuasive poster

Penguin (4): Sonny for excellent team work in PE this week

Seahorse (5): Eleanor for a fantastic diary entry

Stingray (5): Lois for making a super effort with her home learning while in isolation

Turtle (6): Henry for great explanations when multiplying fractions

Whale (6): Alfie P for a fantastic painting of a sunrise

JOB VACANCIES

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent advert for ad hoc Meal Supervisors. It has helped us increase our pool of people we can call on when we need to cover staff absences. We are looking for more people, so please contact the school office for an application form if you are interested.

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Facebook:

Friends of Gordon
Primary School

Website:

www.gordonprimary.co.uk