

# Gordon School News

**Headteacher:** Jason Taylor

**Assistant Head (Curriculum):** Amanda Black

**Assistant Head (Inclusion):** Hannah Cuesta



*Be the best you can be!*

## WELCOME BACK

Although we are only physically open to a minority of our pupils at the moment, we would still like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to learning. We hope that everyone who is engaging with learning at home is feeling connected to the school and is enjoying the activities that have been set. We recognise that many parents are working from home and/or caring for more than one child, that access to computers may be limited and Wi-Fi can be unreliable. We appreciate your efforts to support your children under very difficult circumstances and we know you are doing the very best you can. We are here to help and please remember that if home learning feels overwhelming at times, take a break and do something a little less stressful!

Thank you for all of the positive feedback about the live check-in sessions we introduced this week. We are looking to develop these further in the coming weeks. Please look out for more details.

## MATHS NO PROBLEM BOOKS

To support home learning, we would like you to collect your children's *Maths No Problem* book. The teachers will be using these in their lessons from next week. We will place the books in the Lower Hall so you can come in and collect them on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. We have allocated different times for each Year group but if you have children in more than one Year group, you can collect them all in one go:

- 10:00am to 10:30am – Year 1
- 10:45am to 11:15am – Year 2
- 11:30am to 12:00pm – Year 3
- 12:15pm to 12:45pm – Year 4
- 1:00pm to 1:30pm – Year 5
- 1:45pm to 2:15pm – Year 6

**Can't make it on Monday?** Don't worry! You can pop in between 9:30am and 2:30pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Please enter through the Grangehill Road gate, collect the books from the Lower Hall and then leave via the gate on Craigton Road (by the Sports Hall). Thank you.

The *Maths No Problem* books will need to be returned once the school re-opens. Please take good care of the books and only complete the sections directed by the teachers. Thank you.

## GAMES AREA

At the end of last term we announced a competition for a name for our new games area. Thank you to everyone who submitted a suggestion. We have decided on **THE GREEN** as the name! Congratulations go to **Monty** and **Aylin** (both from Octopus Class) and **George** (Lobster Class). When we return to school, the children in **Octopus Class** and **Lobster Class** will be the first to play on The Green! Congratulations!

## LAPTOPS

All of our available laptops have been lent out to pupils. However, we are in the process of applying for some government funded laptops and we hope they will arrive soon. The notification we have received from the DfE indicates that we should be entitled to about 25 laptops – this is 5% of our school population and should enable us to support the families in greatest need. If you would like to go on the waiting list for a laptop, please contact the office: [office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)

You may be interested to know that you can access **Google Classroom** via **Xbox** and **PlayStation**. Please follow the link for more information: <http://bit.ly/2XozODE> This guidance refers to the option of using a keyboard with these devices. We are checking through our ICT resources to see if we have any spare keyboards that we can lend out. Please let us know if a keyboard would help.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We have been in contact with the Greenwich council regarding free school meals. They are anticipating an official announcement from the Government which will set out plans for supporting families. As soon as we know more we will let you know.

If you are worried about feeding your children whilst we are waiting for the free school meals situation to be resolved, please let us know. We have made up some more food parcels from donations we received recently. If you would like to collect a parcel (maybe when you come in for your child's *Maths No Problem* book) please send an email to Mrs Cuesta: [hcuesta@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:hcuesta@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)

## COVID-19 ADVICE AND SUPPORT

We have circulated a range of information about coping with COVID-19 in the past few months and felt that now we are, once again in a national lockdown, it might be helpful to share some links again:

**Parentkind** - <http://bit.ly/2JWyMLQ>

Advice for parents on safety, wellbeing and supporting learning

**Young Minds** – <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

An online mental health support for children and tips from their Parents Helpline to promote family wellbeing.

**Covibook** – <https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>

An interactive resource designed to support and reassure children (available in several languages).

**NSPCC** - <http://bit.ly/2L1AWug>

Advice on how to support your child's mental health during lockdown

**NHS Talking Therapies** - <http://bit.ly/3hNWZAu>

Talking therapies are effective and confidential treatments delivered by fully trained and accredited NHS practitioners. They can help with common mental health problems like stress, anxiety and depression.

**mind.org.uk** - <http://bit.ly/3hUKS4v>

mental health support

**Carers UK** - <https://www.carersuk.org/home>

Advice for carers

## RECEPTION APPLICATIONS

The deadline for Reception applications is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. Mr Taylor's final online Q&A session for prospective parents will take place via Zoom on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6pm**. If you wish to attend, please email for the access code: [office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:office@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk)

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

The government has issued confirmation that all Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assessments due to take place in the summer term have now been cancelled. This includes:

- Key Stage 1 (Year 2) Teacher Assessments
- Key Stage 2 (Year 6) Tests and Teacher Assessments
- Phonics Screening Check (Year 1 and some Year 2 pupils)

Arrangements for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile for Reception have not yet been confirmed. We will update you once we have received further information.

## TERM DATES

### Spring Term 2021

**First half** ~ Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

**Half-term holiday** ~ Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Second half** ~ Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

### Summer Term 2021

**First half** ~ Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May

**Half-term holiday** ~ Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

**Second half** ~ Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July



The **Winter Wonderland Walk** has finished. Huge thanks go to everyone who participated. The amazing artwork and displays can now be seen on the FoG website <https://friendsofthegordon.wixsite.com/schoolpta/winter-wonderland-walk> where you will also find the link for making donations. Thank you!



We have been allocated more places in the Big Half Marathon (scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021). If you would like to enter and raise funds for FoG please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/3997E4T>

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Facebook:

Friends of Gordon  
Primary School

Website:

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