

# Gordon School News

**Headteacher:** Jason Taylor

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

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



*Be the best you can be!*

## OPEN EVENINGS

Please remember that our Spring term Open Evenings will be taking place next week – on **Monday** and **Wednesday**. If you have missed the online booking deadline, please contact your child's teacher who will be able to arrange an appointment for you.

We introduced a new timing system last term as we had received feedback from parents about appointments over-running. To help us maintain punctuality, teachers used timers to keep to ten minutes per appointment. This worked very well and we will be using the same system again this term. If you need more time, your child's teacher will happily arrange another meeting. Please bear in mind that if you arrive late for your appointment, you will need to wait until the next free appointment time and possibly wait until the end of the evening.

**Date for your diary:** On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May we will be holding an Open Afternoon. This will be an opportunity for you to come into school, visit your child's classroom and go through your child's learning with them. We will send out more information nearer the time.

## TWIST TENNIS

Twist Tennis is a new club which is starting up at our school. Sessions take place on Thursdays (4:45pm to 5:45pm), Saturdays (9:30am to 10:30am) or Sundays (9:30am to 10:30am). Twist Tennis is for children in Years 2, 3 and 4.

### Contact details:

Lyndall Newton-Early: [hello@twistfizz.co.uk](mailto:hello@twistfizz.co.uk)

Mobile: 0776 9258 208

Booking: <https://www.twistfizz.co.uk/get-playing/kids-tennis/>

## WALKING BUS

The Walking Bus is a great way for your child to travel to school. Our next Walking Bus will be next Thursday. We will meet at Eltham Park car park at 8:20am. From the park we walk along Glenesk Road, turn left into Earlshall Road, where we cross at the Methodist Church, and continue along Earlshall Road to the school. You can leave your child with us at any point on the route and we will safely walk them to school, or you are welcome to walk with us.

## ATTENDANCE

Well done to Pug, Greyhound and Collie classes for their great attendance last week.

## SCHOOL NURSE

At the end of last term we advertised some drop-in sessions with the school nurse. Unfortunately, these sessions have been cancelled. There has been a change in the school nursing service and we are waiting to have a new nurse allocated to us. We apologise to everyone who came along to meet the nurse on Tuesday. We will let you know when the sessions have been rearranged. Thank you.

## HOUSEPOINTS

Grangehill 383 Rochester 367  
Dunvegan 373 Nesbit 342

## GET WELL SOON

We seem to be plagued with staff illness and injuries at the moment. As well as a virus going around the staffroom, Mrs Reed will be off for a few weeks recovering from an operation and Mrs Black will be away while her broken arm mends! The rest of the staff are working really hard to cover classes so that teaching and learning are not affected.

## PUPILS' MOBILE PHONES

It is our policy that pupils do not bring mobile phones to school and this includes Year 6 pupils who walk to school unaccompanied. There have been incidents where primary-aged children have had a mobile phone stolen from them on the way to school and we do not want to put our pupils at risk. Thank you for supporting us with this.

## NURSERY APPLICATIONS

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January is the deadline for Nursery applications. If you have not submitted your application form yet, please do so promptly. We will begin to allocate places during the following week and will inform parents and carers by the end of this half term.

## CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET

Increasingly, issues regarding children using social media sites and apps outside of school are coming into the classrooms. There have been a few cases where children have sent or received unkind and upsetting messages. We would like to remind you that social media sites such as Instagram have a minimum age restriction of 13 and that these sites are not appropriate for primary-age children. Even the “child-friendly” sites and apps are causing problems. We strongly urge you to monitor your child’s internet use. Please ensure:

- your child does not have access to the internet unless an appropriate adult is present;
- you regularly check **all** messages – sent and received;
- you go through your child’s “friend list” to ensure they only befriend people they actually know and can talk about;
- your child knows that if they ever see anything online that worries them they must tell an adult.

If you discover there has been a problem, particularly between children, please let us know so we can help you to address it. Further advice on the safe use of the internet and cyberbullying can be obtained from your child’s teacher or Miss Carter, our Computing subject leader. In addition, there is a lot of information on our website. Please go to the **Keeping Children Safe** section on the home page where you will find our safeguarding policies and a range of guidance materials.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February is **Safer Internet Day** and the teachers are planning e-safety activities for the children. We are also hoping to arrange an after-school workshop for parents and carers. Please look in next week’s newsletter for more information.

Does your child have a mobile phone, tablet or computer in their bedroom at night? If so, how do you know what websites they are accessing, who they are talking to or who is messaging them?



**DID YOU KNOW?** Studies show that the light emitted from mobile phones and tablets disrupts sleep. A poor night’s sleep reduces the children’s ability to focus on their learning. Please make bedrooms a device-free zone at night. Thank you!

**WELL DONE**

## PUPIL COMMENDATIONS

**Alsatian (N):** Oliver for making a fantastic model of Tower Bridge out of wooden blocks

**Basset (R):** Sofia for excellent writing

**Beagle (R):** Charlie for great effort in phonics

**Corgi (1):** Ruby V for her fantastic effort in maths

**Collie (1):** Esme for working hard on finding missing numbers

**Dachshund (2):** Rosie for working hard in all areas of her learning

**Dalmatian (2):** Nadia for superb dedication and attitude in lessons

**Great Dane (3):** Gracey for her great attitude towards swimming

**Greyhound (3):** Celina for recognising remainders when dividing

**Pointer (4):** Sadie H for using beautiful descriptive language when writing poetry

**Pug (4):** Sofia for fantastic effort when retelling a narrative in English

**Red Setter (5):** Bobby for working independently on adding and subtracting fractions

**Retriever (5):** Ruby for working hard to develop her understanding of fractions

**St. Bernard (6):** Sienna for great work in English

**Spaniel (6):** Aimy for super reasoning in maths

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Primary School

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