

# Gordon School News

**Headteacher:** Jason Taylor

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

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



***Be the best you can be!***

## REMINDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

- Only book bags and drawstring bags are allowed in school – no rucksacks, satchels or shoulder bags please.
- Long hair (boys and girls) must be tied back.
- Head bands must be plain with no adornments – no bright colours, glitter, flowers, etc. Hair bows must be no larger than the size of your child's palm and navy blue in colour.
- Black school shoes (with black soles and black laces if they have laces) must be worn.
- PE kit consists of a white t-shirt and blue shorts – no football tops please.
- No jewellery (including wristbands) – with the exception of stud earrings. Watches can be worn.
- Written permission for your child to walk home without an adult (Year 6 only) must be provided.
- Children must not bring mobile phones to school.

## AUTUMN TERM START DATES

Please note the following Autumn Term start dates:

- The **children moving from Nursery to Reception** return on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. The Reception children will have shorter days and finish at 1:40pm until their first full day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September.
- The **children moving into Years 1 to 6** will return on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- The **children who are staying in the Nursery** will return on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September.
- We have given individual start dates to the families of the children who are new to the school and who are joining the Nursery or Reception.

## AUTUMN TERM WELCOME MEETINGS

Please add these dates to your diary. Thank you.

**Reception** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September ~ 1:40pm

**Years 1 to 5** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September\*

**Year 6** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September ~ 6pm (see overleaf)

\* The Welcome Meetings for Years 1 to 5 take place at 3:45pm, 4:05pm and 4:25pm. This is to enable parents with children in a number of different year groups to attend a meeting for each child.

## THANK YOU!

We would like to express our gratitude for your support this year. Thank you to everyone who has helped out in the classrooms, accompanied children on trips, attended FoG events, taken on the various requests we have put in the newsletters, supported charity events and come along to productions, meetings, assemblies, concerts, workshops, Open Evenings, exhibitions, etc. We hope you have a great summer holiday and we look forward to working with you again next year.

## THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

Ten members of GSG took part in the Eltham Festival on Saturday and sang brilliantly. Year 6 presented their amazing production of *The Wind in the Willows* on Tuesday evening and they thoroughly enjoyed yesterday's Leavers' Disco. The Nursery were enthralled by *Minibeast Madness* at the Environmental Centre on Wednesday. We gave out two final commendations this week – well done to Max in Beagle Class for excellent counting and to Aamna in Dachshund Class for working so hard all year! Well done!

## AFTER-SCHOOL FRENCH CLUB

For details of next year's French Clubs please call Angie on 07951 543 470.

**Mondays – existing pupils, Years 3 & 4**

**Tuesdays – existing pupils, Year 1 & 2**

**Thursdays – new pupils, Years 2 & 3**

## FOG (PTA) UPDATE

Last Friday's Barbeque and Disco raised an incredible £2510.55! Well done! Enormous thanks go to the committee members for organising yet another great event – and of course, the evening would not have been possible without the help of our fantastic volunteers! Please look out for the FoG newsletter; it contains lots of information about the great things they've achieved this year. Thank you, FoG!

## HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

This summer we would like the children to produce an A4 poster about a special day. They might like to focus on a day trip or a family event – anything exciting that happens during the school holiday. The posters can include writing, drawings, photos, etc. but must be eye-catching! Please bring the posters into school on our first day back – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you.



The **Summer Reading Challenge** is back! Children can choose whatever they like - fiction, fact books, joke books, picture books, audio books - just as long as they are borrowed from the library. The children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate for everyone who completes the Challenge.

We hope every child in our school will take part. They are welcome to bring their certificates into school in September so we can celebrate their great achievements! Good luck!

## DINNER MONEY

Thank you to everyone who has settled their outstanding dinner money bill. We have now received most of the money owed. If you are yet to pay, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

As we explained earlier in the year, the cost of meals is heavily subsidised by the school and we cannot afford to sustain this. From 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the daily cost of a school meal will increase to £2.40. The weekly cost will increase to £12.

## NEW YEAR 6 PARENTS' MEETINGS

We will be holding a meeting for the new Year 6 parents on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September** at 6pm in the Middle Hall. We will be talking about how you can support your children in their final year of primary education, the latest information about SATs and the process of applying for secondary school places. We will also give out information about the School Journey to Swanage which will be taking place from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This meeting will be for parents only; please do not bring the children along. Thank you.

## ATTENDANCE

Our overall attendance for the year is 95.5%. We set ourselves a challenging target of 97% so we are disappointed that we did not quite meet it. However, we awarded 104 pupils with a 100% attendance certificate for this term and, most impressively, 26 pupils received certificates for 100% attendance for the whole year! Well done! Our three highest attending classes for this year are: Collie (97.3%), Pointer (96.6%) and Red Setter (96.1%). High attendance is a key factor contributing towards success in school. Well done to everyone who individually met or exceeded our 97% target!

## TERM DATES 2018/19

### Autumn Term 2018 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Half

First day ~ Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Last day ~ Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

### Autumn Term 2018 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Half

First day ~ Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
Last day ~ Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

### Spring Term 2019 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Half

First day ~ Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
Last day ~ Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

### Spring Term 2019 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Half

First day ~ Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Last day ~ Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

### Summer Term 2019 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Half

First day ~ Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
Last day ~ Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

### Summer Term 2019 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Half

First day ~ Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Last day ~ Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October** and **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November** are Inset Days and the school will be closed to children.

## SATS DATA ERROR

We were informed this week that there has been an amendment to our Year 6 SATS data. This has not affected individual children but has caused slight improvements across all subjects at a whole-school level. We are delighted that we have continued our tradition of having results above the national average. The data will have its final validation in the autumn and we will report it to you when we receive it.

## GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to the Year 6 children who are moving on to their new schools. They have been an amazing year group; we have thoroughly enjoyed teaching them and we have many great memories. We wish them every success and happiness for the future and hope they will come back from time to time and let us know how they are getting on.

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