

17 May 2024

# GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

We expected our Year 6 pupils to be amazing this week, and true to form they have been!

We'd like to congratulate the all the Year 6 children for working so hard this week with their KS2 SATs. They demonstrated such a positive, mature and resilient attitude during the entire week. We are so proud of the way you have been so supportive of one another throughout the week. Well done to all of you, you have made us very proud!



BIG NEWS! I am pleased to announced that our Summer Fair is going to be held after school on Friday 12 July. Don't forget - we also have Cake and Fruit Day on Friday 24 May too!

Just another gentle reminder, as the weather is getting warmer, please ensure that your child has had sunscreen applied before coming into school on sunny days and that they have a sun hat and a full water bottle with them.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Wright*

## Year 3



*This week in Year 3, we started our new Maths topic on money. We have been converting between pounds and pence and adding and subtracting amounts of money together.*

*We have also been working hard at developing our ideas for fables. We have learned that this is a special kind of story which has a moral at the end of it and that the characters are usually animals. Therefore, we decided to make paper plate animals based on the characters that we wanted to use in our stories.*



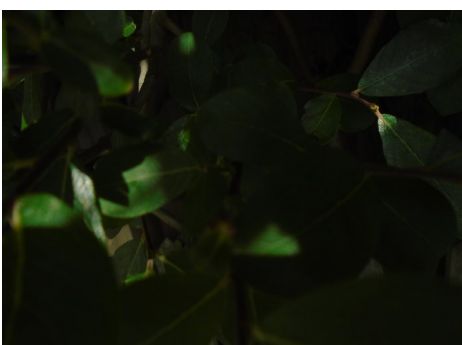
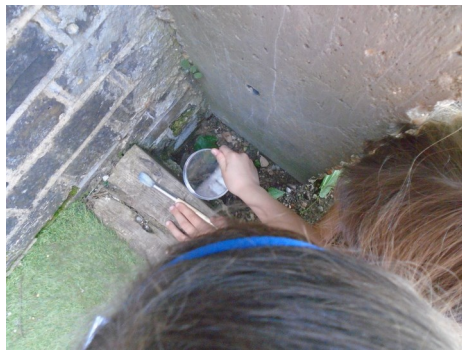
*We then planned out the events using our boxing up grids and have just started writing them.*

*Finally, in Geography, we have been learning about biomes. To help us understand this concept, we are creating mini terrariums using glass jars, soil, moss and two types of sedum. Thank you to everyone who donated a jar for this project!*



## Year 4

For our science unit, All Living Things, Year 4 have been looking around our local area to see what living things we could find. We used magnifying glasses to look closely at the living things so that we could identify them and categorise them. We made a tally of how many we saw and took observational drawings of some of them. We also learnt why certain animals are adapted to certain environments. It was a lovely day learning in the sun.



# Mrs Wright's Recommended Reads



## The Last Bear

Written by Hannah Gold

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life . . .



Age 8-11

## Leo and the Octopus

Written by Isabelle Marinove

The world was too bright for Leo. And too loud. "I must be living on the wrong planet," Leo thought. Leo struggles to make sense of the world. He doesn't understand the other children in his class, and they don't seem to understand him. But then one day, Leo meets Maya. Maya is an octopus, and the more Leo learns about her, the more he thinks that perhaps he isn't alone in this world, after all.



Age 7-12

## What can Citizen Do?

Written by Dave Eggers And Shawn Harris

This is a book about what citizenship—good citizenship—means to you, and to us all: Across the course of several seemingly unrelated but ultimately connected actions by different children, we watch how kids turn a lonely island into a community—and watch a journey from what the world should be to what the world could be.



Age 5-8



## UN Convention on the Right of the Child

# Article of the Week

We are very proud to be a Unicef Rights Respecting School, having achieved the **Unicef UK Silver - Rights Aware Award**.

To help children carry on the discussion at home, we will be focusing different articles of the convention in each newsletter so that our families can explore the rights and meanings together.

Did you know you have the right to a name and to belong to a country?

Governments should make sure you have a legally registered name and nationality and also to know who their parents are.

This freedom of expression can be linked to Article 7 of UN Convention: **Name and Nationality**.

Children must be registered when they are born and given a name which is officially recognized by the government. Children must have a nationality (belong to a country). Whenever possible, children should know their parents and be looked after by them.

## Congratulations to

All year 6s for their amazing effort, concentration and resilience this week during your SATs.

We are very proud of you all!



New technologies inspire children to be creative, communicate and learn. However, while the internet is a great resource, it is important that children and young people are protected from the risks they may encounter.

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE**

Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a term used to refer to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. It's often rooted in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. The rate of children who miss school more than 10% of the time in England has more than doubled since before the pandemic rising from 10.8% in 2018-19, to 22.3% in 2022-23.

**UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE**  
School avoidance is sometimes understood by general terms such as truancy or school refusal. This could include something going on for the child or young person before the start of school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, be anxious, or a child with special educational needs, learning difficulties or an anxiety disorder. It may also be a result of a child's experience of moving from primary school to secondary school.

**REASONS FOR ABSENCE**  
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**PATTERNS OF ABSENCE**  
There may be a pattern to the absence, such as on certain days of the week or at certain times of the day. It may also be a result of a child's experience of moving from primary school to secondary school.

**COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS**  
There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on the days of the week or at certain times of the day. It may also be a result of a child's experience of moving from primary school to secondary school.

**ADVICE FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS**

**WORK TOGETHER**  
If there is a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school or young person's school. This ensures a consistency of approach between home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

**MANAGING OVERWHELMING FEELINGS**  
If a child is avoiding school, make sure they have access to more stimulating activities at home. Encourage them to spend time with friends, family, or a trusted adult. Encourage them to spend time with friends, family, or a trusted adult.

**FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES**  
Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, such as getting up, brushing teeth, and getting dressed. It could also be a bedtime routine, such as reading a book and going to bed.

**REDUCE STIMULATING ACTIVITIES AT HOME**  
If a child is avoiding school, make sure they have access to more stimulating activities at home. Encourage them to spend time with friends, family, or a trusted adult.

**Meet Our Expert**  
With 30 years experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive leader, Anne Brennan has a unique understanding of what works to improve school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health grant project.

**Wake Up Wednesday**  
The National College

Source: See full reference list on page 10 of <https://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/guides/school-avoidance>

Icons: @wake\_up\_weds, www.thenationalcollege, @wake.up.wednesday, @wake.up.weds

Years of this guide go as at their discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.05.2024

School avoidance is a sharply increasing phenomenon, with tangible negative effects on children’s wellbeing and education. The factors that come together to make a child consciously avoid seeing their classmates and teachers can be much more complicated than is often assumed. A careful, mindful approach from parents, carers and educators is required to help children return to an environment that may be causing them intense anxiety. This guide aims to help you understand the issue of school avoidance – not only its potential roots and ramifications, but also what you can do to help children and young people navigate these obstacles and continue their education.

Sources:

- Pellegrini, School non-attendance: definitions, meanings, responses, interventions, 2007  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02667360601154691>
- Gregory and Purcell, Out of school: a phenomenological exploration of extended non-attendance, 2014

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282446577> Out of school a phenomenological exploration of extended non-attendance

Hughes, E K, Gullone, E, Dudley, A and Tonge, B (2010). A case-control study of emotion regulation and school refusal in children and adolescents; Journal of Early Adolescence, 30, 691–706., 2010  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237067765> Hughes EK Gullone E Dudley A Tonge B 2010 A case-control study of emotion regulation and school refusal in children and adolescents Journal of Early Adolescence 30 691-706

Lyon and Cotler, Toward reduced bias and increased utility in the assessment of school refusal behaviour: The case for diverse samples and evaluations of context, 2007  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/pits.20247>

Children’s Commissioner, Attendance is everyone’s business, 2023

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/attendance-is-everyones-business/>

Has someone done something online that has made you or a child or young person you know, feel worried or unsafe? Make a report to one of CEOP’s experienced Child Protection Advisors <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>





## Sharing REAL with Parents

(Raising Early Achievement in Literacy)

A fun, 4-week course with crèche available

Booking is essential

### Would you like to

- Meet other mums and dads, share ideas to support your child's early learning.
- Learn new ways to support your child's interest in books, early writing songs & rhymes.
- Find out how to make use of the print that is all around us.
- Take home Free Resources each week.

**Come and join one of our free fun workshops!**

**FREE Creche is available for under 5s only, needs to be booked in advance, places are limited.**

### 4 Weekly sessions at

- **Beecroft Garden Primary School, Brockley Road SE4 2BS**  
Monday 10th June – Monday 1st July 9.30-11.30am
- **Ladywell Children & Family Centre 30 Rushy Mead SE4 1JJ**  
Monday 10th June – Monday 1st July 1.00-3.00pm
- **Eliot Bank Children & Family Centre SE26 4BU**  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> July 9.30-11.30

**Register by using the QR code or contact**

Angela Russell or Paul Nash

07432 739032

or email

[arussell@ncb.org.uk](mailto:arussell@ncb.org.uk)

[Paul.Nash@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Nash@lewisham.gov.uk)



**UNITED FOR A BETTER CHILDHOOD**



## PANTHERS HOCKEY CAMP

May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> 2024  
11am - 4 pm

[St Dunstan's College Jubilee Ground](#)  
Canadian Avenue, Catford, SE6 4SW

Cost: £50 per day (sibling discount of 15%)

- Years 3-10 (complete beginners welcome)
- Skills and games, led by enthusiastic coaches who love the game
- Shin pads, gum shields and packed lunch required

World Cup tournament at the end of each day with prizes

To book, email:

[samisports@gmail.com](mailto:samisports@gmail.com)  
07888723544

Sam Djavit  
Head Coach

LEVEL 3 ENGLAND HOCKEY COACH

27 years' experience of coaching the stars of tomorrow and growing the game. I've coached many of the current GB squad.

## IMPORTANT DATES

03/06/24	First Day of Summer Term 2— INSET DAY ( <i>school closed to pupils</i> )
20/05/24	Year 1: Reading Morning
21/05/24	Year 5: Gurdwara Trip
21/05/24	Reception: Reading Morning
22/05/24	Reception: Assembly (9.15am)
22/05/24	Eco Team: Trip to Pupil Climate Network
24/05/24	London History Day
27/05/2024 - 31/05/24	Half - Term
03/06/24	INSET Day ( <i>school closed to pupils</i> )
04/06/24	Year 6: Knife Crime Workshop
04/06/24	Reception: Reading Morning
05/06/24—06/06/24	Class Photos
07/06/24	Year 6: Urban Synergy Workshop
07/06/24	Year 3: Trip to Kew Gardens
17/06/2024	Reception: Hearing & Vision Check
18/06/24	Reception: Reading Morning
24/06/2024	London Maths Week/Buddy Week
26/06/2024	Y6 Lion King @ Lyceum Theatre
28/06/2024	Sports Day
2/07/2024	Mass Choir Event, Royal Opera House

# Cake and Fruit Day!

Friday 24th May 2024



£1 Suggested donation on the day

**CAKE AND FRUIT DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Please label with your child's name and class and drop off on the day to either playground.

Please bring a Tupperware or reusable bag to carry cakes and fruit home.

Any cakes brought in specifically for children with allergies should be taken directly to the child's classroom.

**IMPORTANT**  
NO NUTS,  
PEANUT BUTTER,  
NUT FLOURS,  
SESAME AND NO  
BAKEWELLS!

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO HELP IN  
ADVANCE OR ON THE DAY, PLEASE EMAIL:  
FRIENDSOFGORDONBROCK@GMAIL.COM



We endeavour to be a **NUT-FREE SCHOOL**

Please help us to achieve this aim by not sending any nuts or nut containing products into school. This extends to sesame seeds, too. Thank you for your support in this matter.

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables!



The children should go to <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/3584> and login using their login details.

Little and Often: In order to get the best out of Times Tables Rock Stars children should regularly play for short bursts so we would ask you to allow your child to play for 5-10 minutes at a time.

If your child cannot remember their login details please contact the school office who will be able to send a reminder home.