

26th April 2024

GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a great start to the summer term at Gordonbrock. We've had some sunshine and the children have been brilliant, as always!

It's been a busy week in the ball pen with Year 4 and 5 children taking part in trials to try to secure a place on the Y5/6 football teams next year. While competitive, the children showed great sportsmanship and can-do attitude. Mr Costello, our PE Team Leader, and Jason (our Sports Coach), have some difficult decisions to make! On the theme of football, our Y5/6 girls' team play group games and there's the prospect of a semi-final this weekend. We wish them the very best of luck! Go girls!

This term's Contexts for Learning (our History and Geography enquiry questions) have been introduced to the children over the last couple of weeks. The children are very excited for what promises to be an exciting term of learning, with plentiful enrichment opportunities planned, too.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

Mrs Wright

RECEPTION

As part of our new topic "In the Garden", we are learning about different plants and what they need to grow. We planted different seeds and started our own *planting diaries*. We used paint, brushes, tissue paper and real seeds to decorate our own sunflowers.



Year 6

It has been all go in Year 6 this week. We have been writing our historical accounts, answering the question, "How did the lives of people change in Britain during prehistory?" Some of us have also been completing persuasive arguments in the form of a letter to someone who has the power to make changes in an organisation. We practised putting forward relevant arguments during a mini debate. We have been revising measures and shape in Maths. In P.E., we have been practising our throwing and jumping skills as part of our athletics focus. Our team leaders and conductors have been taking the lead during samba drumming lessons, creating and organising the multi-part pieces.



UN Convention on the Right of the Child

Article of the Week

During this term, Mrs Wright's assemblies will focus on the Gordonbrock vision.


Last week, our assemblies focused on What does a successful Gordonbrock learner look like? The children shared some great examples: "has a positive attitude to learning", "resilient", "is Creative", "solves problems", "has a growth mindset", "knows that practice makes progress", "is friendly and has excellent manners", "works well as a team" and "embraces our community and our differences". One child in Year 4 added, "Gordonbrock prepares us for our destiny."

This week's assemblies focussed on aspiration, as one of the key qualities we aim to instil in our children to prepare them as life-long learners.

Mrs Wright has invited the children to think creatively about sharing their aspirations with her – through a PowerPoint presentation, video, song, artwork, writing their own CV, or another creative format. Children can pop along to her office next Wednesday lunch-time to share their outcomes with her, which we look forward to sharing in assemblies at a later date. Why not produce something with your child this weekend? We'd love to see it!

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.

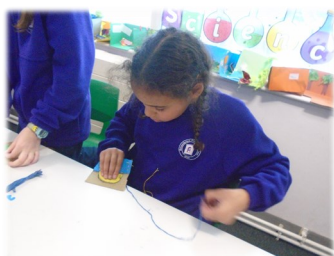
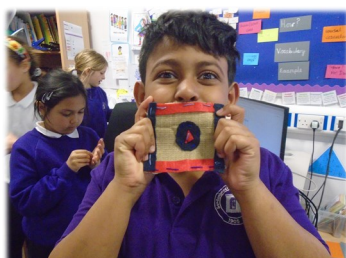
Article 29: Goals of Education
Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.



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AIMS OF EDUCATION

Year 4

This week, Year 4 had a visit from designer Ryan Hawaii as part of our Design Technology (DT) learning. He is an artist and fashion designer from the local area who spoke to us about his practice and his influences. He makes a lot of clothes using repurposed materials which is a key part of our design process. He also ran a workshop for each class where they created their own patches by cutting out their design from felt and stitching them to a background fabric. These patches are going to be sewn onto the bags that we are making for DT. The children really enjoyed it and can't wait to finish off their projects!



Mrs Wright's Recommend Reads



Magic Faces: Heroes of the Pirate Ship written by Esi Merleh & illustrated by Abeeha Tariq

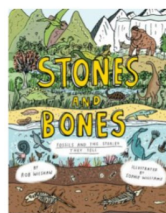


Austin, Alanna, and sausage dog Ozzy have been transformed into pirates! Their mission is to find a golden treasure chest before their time in this world runs out.

When two very suspicious pirates climb aboard the New Leaf ship and start snooping around, Austin and Alanna know they must help their crewmates . . . can they save the ship and complete their mission on time?

Age 5-9

How To Live Forever written by Rob Wilsher

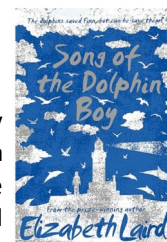


Stones and Bones is like having a friendly guide to show you around Earth's past. You'll learn how fossils are made and what life was like during different periods of history. Each page is full of exciting discoveries waiting to be uncovered. It is full of stunning illustrations, accessible language and rich content, making it sure to ignite a spark of curiosity for Natural History.

Age 6-9

With amazing pictures that make dinosaurs and ancient worlds come alive, this book is packed with fun facts and cool stories.

Song of the Dolphin Boy written by Elizabeth Laird & illustrated by Peter Bailey & Shonagh



Finn has always been different, and in the tiny fishing village of Stromhead he sticks out like a sore thumb. Always told to keep away from the water, he's felt that something was missing until one day he dives in and finds that, swimming with the dolphins, he feels completely at home.

Age 7-11

But his new friends are in danger of being injured by the rubbish that floats out into the water - and now a supermarket is going to release thousands of balloons that could drift out to sea and cause even more damage. Desperate to help the dolphins, Finn goes to the Lighthouse Crew, a group of kids who have always left Finn out. Will they be able to set aside their differences to save the dolphins? And what will Finn discover about his past along the way?

Attendance Matters

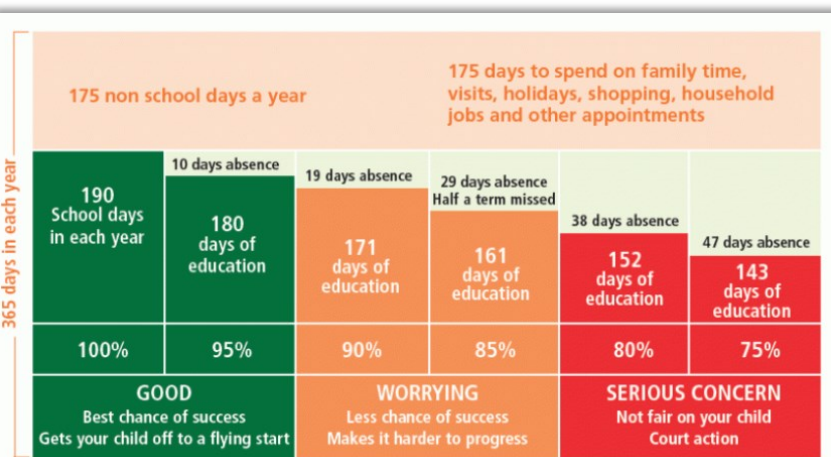
Gordonbrock Primary School is committed to providing a full and efficient educational experience for all pupils. We believe that if pupils are to benefit from education, good attendance is crucial.

We have just had our first visit from the Local Authority Attendance Officer who noted that our attendance is at 97.35% so far this year.

This is really encouraging news—our aim is for each child to attend for at least 95% of the academic year as we mention in our Attendance Policy.

Please see the table to the right for how absence impacts on your child’s learning:

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off Nursery / School when they're unwell. The NHS has compiled very useful information, available at, <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>, to help guide parents / carers on when to keep your child at home and when to send them to school.



The Chief Medical Officer, Public Health Agency and Department for Education has also issued this really valuable document relating to common childhood illnesses . This document is available at, <https://www.gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Do-I-Keep-My-Child-Off-School-1.jpg>

Jean, our Attendance Officer, is also available to offer you some guidance. She is contactable via the school office.

LATENESS: Arriving late into school can affect your child’s learning.



If they are late they have a bad start to the day. If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning.
- They don’t have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- It may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

Lateness = lost learning (Figures below are calculated over a school year)	
5 mins late each day	3 days lost!
10 mins late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 mins late each day	10 days lost!
20 mins late each day	13 days lost!
30 mins late each day	19 days lost!

What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and bag ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.



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.

Quality merchandise, Fair prices, What's not to love?, The possibility of bagging a bargain and the ability to sell your own unwanted items have made online marketplaces like Vinted and Depop into an attractive option for anyone looking to save money or make a little extra cash for themselves in these challenging economic times.

Unfortunately, however, these services (and numerous others like them) can still be misused by scammers, so it pays to remain vigilant for the risks associated with shopping apps.

Fortunately, this week's #WakeUpWednesday guide is on hand with some helpful pointers to protect young people (and yourself) from potential exploitation while doing business with others online.

To the full guide is accessible at: <https://www.gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/shopping-apps-1.pdf>

Our online safety information is taken from The National College #wakeupwednesdaycampaign. For more information about the #wakeupwednesdaycampaign visit: <https://nationalcollege.com/news/wakeupwednesday>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps - such as Temu - allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell things you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MISSING ITEMS:** Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their product. Some reports have been linked to the seller being based overseas. Users can initially contact the seller to see if the item has been shipped, but if they don't hear back within the time limit, they may not be able to get their money back.
- SCAMMERS AND PHISHING:** Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include contacting users via email or text to persuade the user to click on a link or provide their payment details. Some scammers will also use the app's chat function to trick users into providing their account details.
- DATA MISUSE:** Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, and this data can be used for a variety of purposes. Some apps will use your data to target you with ads, while others will use it to sell your data to third parties. It's important to be aware of what data is being collected and how it is being used.
- FAKES OR REPLICAS:** It's essential to understand that poor-quality products can be bought on these apps. Some sellers will use the app to sell counterfeit goods, which are replicas of the original product. These items are often sold at a lower price, but they are not the same as the original product.
- SLOW RETURNS:** Some apps offer a return policy, but it can be difficult to get a refund. Some apps will only offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description. It's important to read the return policy carefully before buying.
- MISLEADING DESCRIPTION:** Some sellers will use the app to sell items that are not what they appear to be. For example, they might sell a pair of shoes that are described as being made of leather, but they are actually made of a different material.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP:** It's important to stay on the app when you are using it. If you leave the app, you may be vulnerable to phishing attempts or other scams.
- CHECK REVIEWS:** Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users - not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying on these apps, check the reviews for any red flags such as frequent requests for items or claims of 'missing items'.
- BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS:** Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages - in any circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, typos and suspicious links. If you do, report any suspicious messages to the app's support team - and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.
- KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER:** Sellers can be targeted just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase on Temu, but receive their goods from a seller who doesn't have a return policy. If you are selling on these apps, it's important to be clear about your return policy and to use a secure payment method. It's also important to be aware of the app's terms and conditions, which may vary between different apps.

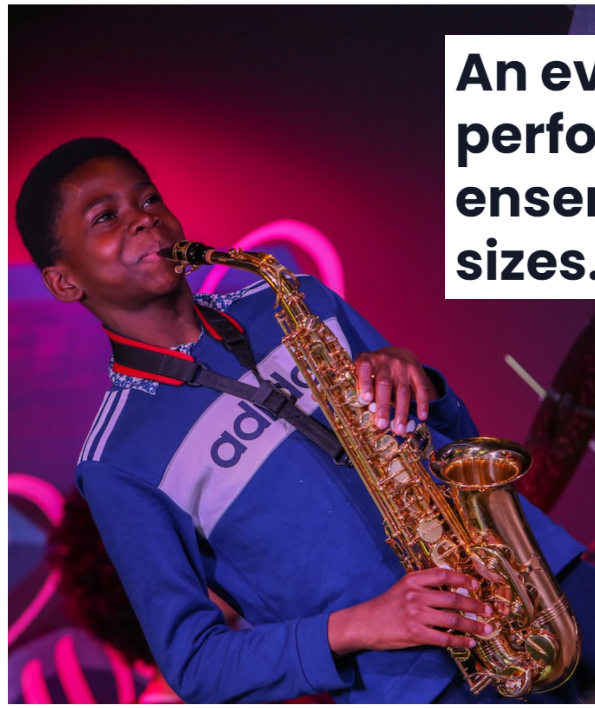
Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Foster is a senior digital consultant at E-Safety Centre, who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools. She has written books on cyber safety and conducted research for the Australian government comparing internet use and seeing behavioural change in young people in the UK and Australia.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

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Live Unplugged



An evening of acoustic music performed by instrumental ensembles of all shapes and sizes.

We look forward to our newly-formed school orchestra performing in Lewisham Music's Live Unplugged event next Tuesday.

Live Unplugged will showcase young instrumentalists from across Lewisham schools and the community. In previous years, Live Unplugged concerts have included orchestras, percussion groups, jazz bands, brass bands, string ensembles, and folk groups.

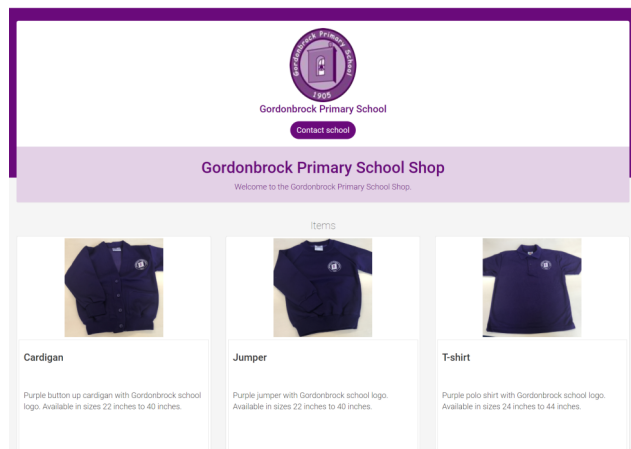
Keep a look out for the next edition of The Arts Bulletin to hear all about their debut performance. Good luck, Orchestra!

IMPORTANT DATES

27/04/24	Girls Football Team: Championship Cup Group Games
29/04/24	Year 1: Reading Morning
30/04/24	Reception: Reading Morning
02/05/24	Year 3: Zoo Lab Workshop
04/04/24	Boys Football Team: Championship Cup Group Games
06/05/24	Bank Holiday (school closed to pupils)
06/05/24	Year 1: Reading Morning
07/05/24	Reception: Hearing & Vision Screening
07/05/24	Reception: Reading Morning
13/05/24—17/05/24	KS2 SATs Week
13/05/24	Year 1: Reading Morning
14/05/24	Reception: Reading Morning
03/06/24	First Day of Summer Term 2—INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)
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
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 (school closed to pupils)
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

ORDERING SCHOOL UNIFORM

Reminder that all items of branded school uniform can be purchased from our new online school uniform shop via the following link:

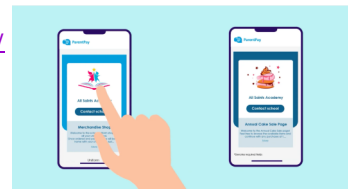


<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=11397>

All orders will be picked and sent home with your child via the class on Thursdays.

If you need need support ordering items? Watch this video.

<https://fast.wistia.net/embed/iframe/qidb4j473s>



PUPIL PREMIUM (Free School Meals)

If any of the following applies to you, you can apply for free school meals for your child.

- ◆ Universal credit with an earnings threshold that does not exceed £7400
- ◆ Income support
- ◆ Income based job seekers allowance
- ◆ Income related employment and support allowance
- ◆ Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC that does not exceed £16,190



Apply online at <https://schools.lewisham.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>