

20 September 2024

# GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic week at school. The children continue to settle back into their routines, and it's been lovely to see their enthusiasm for learning each day.

This week, we've started our Learning Meetings for parents and carers. We've had a great turnout. A big thank you to those able to attend. If you were unable to attend, you should have, by now, received an information booklet which includes all key information for the year ahead. We look forward to Year 4's Learning Meeting on Monday and Year 3's on Wednesday next week.

Our after-school club provision also kicked off this week and it's been wonderful to see so many children getting involved in the range of activities on offer at Gordonbrock. Whether it's been sports, arts or something else, there's been a buzz of excitement around the school, and we're delighted with how smoothly everything has started. A big thank you to Zee in the office for organising the clubs—it's a huge undertaking!

A special highlight this week was Year 5's trip to Catford Broadway Theatre to see a performance of Hamlet. The children were captivated and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to experience Shakespeare in a live setting.

Today, we marked Jeans for Genes Day, and I want to thank everyone for their generous support. It was great to see the children and staff in their denim, raising awareness and funds for such an important cause. If you haven't managed to donate yet and are able to, please use the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/gbjeansforgenesday2024>

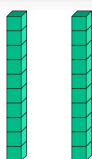
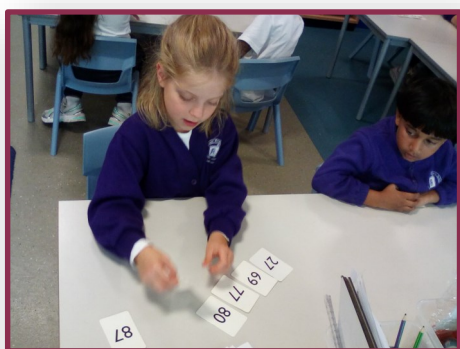


As always, wishing you a wonderful weekend. I look forward to seeing you again on Monday.

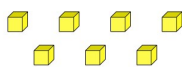
*Mrs Wright*

## Year 2

This week, year 2 have been exploring place value and looking at partitioning in maths. The children are using dienes as one way to represent number.



2 tens  
20



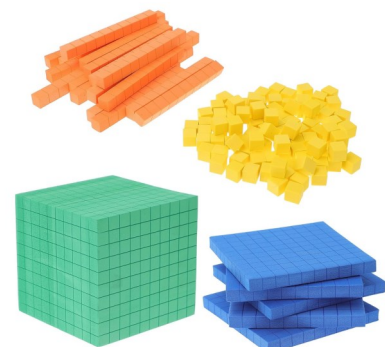
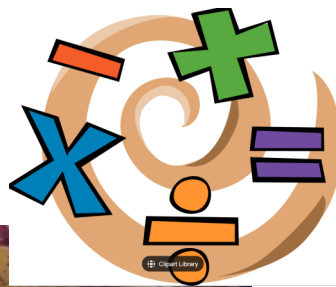
7 ones  
7

27

Dienes provide a concrete way for pupils to explore place value by physically representing ones, tens, hundreds and thousands. They help pupils visualise and better understand number relationships and operations like addition and subtraction.

## Year 2

By manipulating the Dienes cubes, children can physically build and break apart numbers, helping them understand place value, addition, subtraction and regrouping. This concrete experience makes abstract maths more accessible, supporting deeper understanding and confidence in solving problems. As you can see, much fun was had by all!



## Year 5 Hamlet



# Hamlet



Yesterday, Year 5 were fortunate enough to be invited to Broadway Theatre, Catford, to watch a performance of Shakespeare's Hamlet. The children enjoyed how the actors used the set to act out different scenes to tell the story. The children were able to retell the main events in the story and noticed how the actors were able to use their voice and facial features well. They were also introduced to a play being told in 'old English' and were able to name some of the twists in the story. Year 5 were an amazing audience and were a real credit to Gordonbrock. Well done to all!



Ixora- I liked the detailed costumes and even at the beginning when I didn't understand some of the story, I did follow the plot as the story developed.

Fiola – I liked how dramatic it was, and the ending!

Anaiya—The actors used a different type of stage well to set different scenes, which was out of the ordinary.

Ivor—I really liked how they used Hamlet's father ghost to tell him that he was murdered.

Molly—It was a great experience. I really enjoyed it!

Eleanor—I really enjoyed the expressions on the actors' faces.

Ronja – I've never seen Hamlet before and I liked how they kept it how Shakespeare wrote it.

Sybilla—I liked the ending where they used the lighting for a special effect to close the show

Kaidee – I really liked the swordfighting and the costumes.



## Year 3

This week, in Year 3, we have been planning out how to trap the cake-loving troll who is on loose in the school. We then began writing our own instructions, so that this pesky troll can be caught. Outside in PE, we have been enjoying our football lessons and building on our team-working, dribbling and passing skills. In science, we completed a practical enquiry looking at the level of friction created by different surfaces. It was great fun learning which surface created the most friction and as a result, had a greater impact on the distance our toy cars could travel.



# Mrs Wright's Recommended Reads



## UN Convention on the Right of the Child

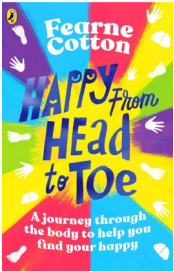
### Article of the Week

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.

#### Happy From Head to Toe

by **Fearne Cotton**



Once again, Fearne brings her breadth of experience as a parent to this second interactive book for children aged 7+. This is full of exciting, colorful activities for your child to draw, write, imagine, and explore their way to getting to know themselves better and feeling more balanced. Fearne encourages kids to learn to process their feelings independently, with a little help from her along the way. This book provides children with the space to manage their own feelings and equip them with emotional skills that they can carry into their teenage years, and beyond.

Age 8-12

#### European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages (EDL) is celebrated across Europe on the 26 September every year. It aims to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for everyone. It was set up by the Council of Europe and was first celebrated in 2001.

At Gordonbrock, we will celebrate the day with special assemblies led by Mrs Barber and Mr Brown and some language learning. We are excited to celebrate the vibrant diversity of languages at Gordonbrock.

#### How To Be A Lion

By **Ed Vere**



In this timely and charming story about the importance of being true to yourself, mindfulness, and standing by your friends, we meet Leonard, a lion, and his best friend Marianne, a . . . duck. Leonard and Marianne have a happy life together—talking, playing, writing poems, and making wishes—until one day a pack of bullies questions whether it's right for a lion and a duck to be pals.

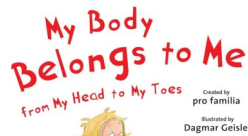
Age 3-7

Leonard soon learns there are many ways to be a lion, and many ways to be a friend, and that sometimes finding just the right words can change the world . . .

#### My Body Belongs to Me

Written by **Dagmar Geisler**

As a child, there are constantly people trying to pick you up, hug you, or tickle you. Sometimes, though, children fall victims to people who try to touch them inappropriately. But how do you tell someone, most likely an adult, that you don't want to be touched? Or, if it has already happened, how do you tell an adult you trust about what happened? You're only a child, and they're the adults. Why would they believe you?



Age 2-7



30

Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live



MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

2



NO DISCRIMINATION

All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

# YET ANOTHER 20 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD OF LANGUAGES

## ENDANGERED UNWRITTEN LANGUAGES

The majority of the languages and dialects in the world are unwritten. In Mexico there are over 100 unwritten indigenous languages and dialects, and India has over 1,000. A study by the MIT estimates that 3,000 of the world's languages are endangered because few children are learning them.

## EIGHT MAJOR ALPHABET GROUPS

are in use today: Arabic, Hebrew/ Aramaic, Armenian, Brahmi, Cyrillic, Georgian, Greek, Latin.

Niamh, Aoife, Fionnuala or Saoirse are all **IRISH NAMES**,



but can you pronounce them correctly? On [edl.ecml.at/irishnames](http://edl.ecml.at/irishnames) listen to how these and many other names from Ireland sound!



In **FRENCH** there are 16 ways of writing the sound "o" within a word: au, aux, aud, auds, aut, auts, eau, eaux, o, ô, ods, op, ops, os, ot, ots.

## Ο ο Ω ω

In the **GREEK** alphabet, the letters omicron and omega are "connected": the first literally means "little o" (o mikron) and the latter is referring to "great o" (o mega).



The **SPANISH** word for olive (aceituna) actually comes from the Arabic word "zaytun" (زيتون). This tells us something interesting about the connection between these two cultures, since both words refer to the olive itself as well as the oil that comes from it.

The two countries with the most native **GERMAN** speakers outside of Europe are Brazil 🇧🇷 and the United States 🇺🇸.

## THE MOST CONFUSING BIRD IN THE WORLD

is called "French chicken" in Greek, "peru" in Portuguese, "hindi" in Turkish and "turkey" in English.



## FALSE FRIENDS

are words or phrases in two languages that resemble each other but have different meanings. E.g. the Italian "squisito" means *delicious* while the Portuguese "esquisito" means *strange*.



The **INDUS SCRIPT** is the oldest script that has not yet been deciphered. It was used around 2600 BC in the Indus valley in today's Pakistan. Maybe you can be the one to crack it and become a decoding hero!

## HELLO AND BYE

The informal Polish salutation "cześć" can be used for both "hello" and "goodbye". The same is true for the Italian "ciao", French "salut" and Austrian "servus".

## תּוֹרְבֵּעַ

**HEBREW** is the most successfully revived language in history. It wasn't used as a mother tongue and in everyday speech for about 15 centuries – until its revival in the 19th century. Hebrew now has over 9 million speakers.



Many languages have their fair share of untranslatable words, e.g. the **SWEDISH** *Gökotta* (to rise at dawn in order to go out and listen to the birds sing), the **ITALIAN** *culaccino* (the wet mark left by a glass on a table) or the **DUTCH** *niksen* (sitting down and doing nothing at all).

In **FRENCH** the word for potato is "pomme de terre", meaning "apple of soil", while in **ITALIAN** the word for tomato is "pomodoro", meaning "golden apple" (pomo + d'oro).



In **GERMAN** many words are created by combining two existing words: Vorfreude (before + happiness), Handschuh (hand + shoe), Zweisamkeit (two + loneliness), Drahtesel (wire + donkey), Luftschloss (air + castle), Lampenfieber (lamps + fever), Ohrwurm (ear + worm), Schadenfreude (damage + joy). Can you work out their exact meaning?

## გამარჯობა

In **GEORGIAN** words are usually pronounced exactly the way you write them, as each letter has a single, fixed pronunciation and in most cases the first syllable of a word is stressed. This makes it relatively easy for foreigners to learn. That is, once you have mastered the Georgian characters! ჭარმატებები!

The word **JANUARY** can be traced back to Janus, the Roman god of portals, gates, and doorways. The words "janitor" and "janela" (Portuguese for "window") have the same origin.



Icelanders buy so many books as gifts for Christmas that they have a word for it: "Christmas Book Flood" (jólabókafloð)

**SCRABBLE** is the king of all word games! Invented in 1931, it currently exists in 38 different language versions, including Faroese and Latin. The best players even battle it out in world championships!

Have you ever heard of **ARAGONESE**? Once widespread, Aragonese is now a hidden gem of Northern Spain. Spoken by around 11,000, it's a fascinating cousin of Spanish with its own unique vocabulary and sounds.

European Day of Languages  
26 September



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

**AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 16**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**ALWAYS ONLINE**

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character as a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation 4/5, and there's no option to play offline.

**VOICE & TEXT CHAT**

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprompted messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your play space.

**VIOLENCE**

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong – more comparable to cartoon or anime styles – but the fact alone may make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not used to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

**POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION**

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engaging, so it's easy to turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like schoolwork.

**REGULAR EXPANSIONS**

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. However, these regular expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young players who play regularly will potentially have the most features available on their calendar, ready to buy in as soon as possible.

**IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE**

Users need to pay £9.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

**FREE TRIAL**

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

**MANAGE PLAYTIME**

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They show you exactly why it's so important to enjoy things outside of gaming and to enjoy play and games with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, as long as they're able to log away and reconnect with the real world.

**PLAY TOGETHER**

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a friend, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it too.

**MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL**

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is generous, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's really dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much on a penny.

**REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16**

Despite its often-repeating nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can engage enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

**Meet Our Expert**

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of GoGoon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety, writing regularly about tech and games. His work has previously been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.

**Wake Up Wednesday**

**The National College**

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasyxiv/>

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Massively multiplayer online roleplaying games – or ‘MMORPGs’ – are a highly popular subgenre, allowing people from all over the world to exist within the same fantasy realm, joining each other on quests or testing their skills against each other. One such title in this genre is Final Fantasy XIV, which released back in 2010 and – despite its initial failure – saw a surge of popularity in later years.

As with any online game, there are plenty of risks associated with Final Fantasy XIV – and it’s vital for parents and educators to understand these safety concerns, in case any children in their care wish to enjoy this title. Our free guide offers expert insight into the potential hazards of playing Final Fantasy XIV and lets you know how best to safeguard any young fans of the game.

**Sources**

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2011/aug/29/world-of-warcraft-video-game-addict>

<https://freetrial.finalfantasyxiv.com/na/>



## Important dates for Secondary School Admissions

### Applications

- schools open for visits: September/October 2024 (please check on school websites for up to date open day/evening information)
- applications open online: Sunday 1 September 2024
- closing date for applications: Thursday 31 October 2024 (we recommend that you submit your online application by Thursday 24 October 2024)
- closing date for supplementary forms (if required) to be returned to the school directly: Thursday 31 October 2024

### Offers

- results for on time applications: Monday 3 March 2025 (you will get an email in the evening telling you where your child has been offered a place)
- deadline for accepting your offer: Monday 17 March 2025 (if you applied via the [eAdmissions website](#) you must accept the offer online – you should keep a record of your login details)

### Appeals

- closing date for appeals for community schools in the borough: TBC (admissions authorities of other schools may set the same or a later deadline)
- appeal hearings: June/July 2025 (if you submit an appeal after TBC, it may not be heard until the start of the academic year in September 2025)



# Confidence Building Fun

Try a **FREE** class  
Drama, dance and singing for 4–12s  
Visit [perform.org.uk/try](http://perform.org.uk/try) to book

St Andrew's Centre, SE4 (Thursdays)  
St William Of York Catholic Church Hall, SE2 (Wednesdays)  
Lochaber Hall, SE1 (Thursdays)  
Church Of The Good Shepherd, SE1 (Wednesdays)  
St Michael and All Angels Church Hall, SE3 (Mondays, Saturdays).

## Boost your child's social skills

Perform's drama, dance and singing classes use the performing arts to

- Build confidence
- Boost concentration
- Enhance coordination
- Develop communication skills

**Why try Perform?**

- Unique performing arts-based games and exercises
- Focus on a different social skill each week
- Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- Specially created scripts, videos and apps to support your child's learning
- End of term presentation for family and friends

**Try Perform for FREE**  
Your child can come and try a class for FREE and there's no obligation to join afterwards. With almost 500 Perform schools, find your nearest and book online at [perform.org.uk/try](http://perform.org.uk/try)

**PERFORM** WATCH YOUR CHILD SHINE

[perform.org.uk](http://perform.org.uk) 020 7255 9120

Looking for musicians wanting to discover the world of Jazz!

Join our **FREE** weekly programme starting this Autumn, Wednesday evenings, 16:45—18:45 Lewisham Music, SE6 3BT

# Jazz Hang

## TRINITY LABAN

X

**TOMORROW'S WARRIORS**

**Lewisham music**

To apply directly and find out more, scan the QR code

## LATENESS IN SCHOOL

Unfortunately, we are already seeing children arriving late into school, there has been 35 occasions since we returned on the 3rd September when a child has arrived into school late. This has resulted in 722 minutes of lost learning.

We make the best use of every minute of learning time at Gordonbrock School. Every minute that your child misses is valuable learning time wasted.

Late arrival in school is disruptive to both the class and the class teacher and the child who is late is often visibly embarrassed by their lateness

Please support us by ensuring your child arrives in school on time each day.

The school bell is rung at 8.55 a.m. for children to line up to go into class; a second bell is rung at 9.00a.m. when the school day starts.

**School bell is rung at 8.55 a.m.**

## REMEMBER

A reminder that your child can bring one piece of fruit to school each day for snack time.

To help us manage allergies in school, please ensure you only send one of the following:



## IMPORTANT DATES

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 26/09/24      | Start of Brass Tuition            |
| 17/10/24      | Y5 Science Museum Trip            |
| 21/10/24      | Y4 Virtual Workshop               |
| 23/10/24      | Open Moring                       |
| 4-8/11/2024   | Y4 Swimming (week 1)              |
| 04/11/2024    | Y1 Horniman Trip                  |
| 07/11/2024    | Y1 Parent Event                   |
| 08/11/2024    | Y3 World War 2 Day– Local walk-AM |
| 11-15/11/2024 | Y4 Swimming (week 2)              |
| 11/11/2024    | Remembrance/ Anti– Bulling week   |
| 14/11/2024    | Y5 Assembly                       |
| 15/11/2024    | Children in Need                  |
| 18-22/11/2024 | Y5 Bikeability Cycle Confident    |
| 19/11/2024    | International Men’s Day           |

**Attendance**  
At Gordonbrock, we celebrate achievement and recognize that attendance is a critical factor for a productive and successful school career. There is an expectation that over the course of an academic year a child's attendance will be 95% or more. Absence that falls below 90% is categorized by the government as persistent absence.

**Attendance Voice mail**  
· Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence. 0208 690 0704 and press 1 for attendance

**Inform**  
· Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards /letters.

**Let us know**  
· If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

**Let us help**  
· If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

### IMPORTANT REQUEST



If you drive to school, we request that you please **do not park** on road markings at or near to the **junction of Amyruth Road and Brockley Grove.**

Parking near to this junction impairs visibility and makes it unsafe for families crossing.



Pupils and parents can access over 1000 levelled ebooks at home with the Big Cat ebook library. perfect for children to practise reading books at the right level at home. To login in to the Collins Big Cat library use the link below and enter your child's username and password <https://ops.collinsopenpage.com/sso/login?service=https%3A//>

### Clubs

We have a few spaces available on the following clubs:

- Chess 5-6 Friday
- Chess Y2 Tuesday
- Philosophy Y 3-6 Wednesday
- Football Y 1 & 2 Monday

If your child attend a Music tuition and is borrowing an instrument please contact [clubs@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:clubs@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk) to get a loan form next week.

Many thanks to all the ones that let us know if your child attends Top Marks after the School Club, it has really help us; if you haven't, please send us an email to add it to your child Club file.

Many thanks

Zee