

29 November 2024

GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a week it's been—a whirlwind of activity, filled with unforgettable experiences.

Our choir shone brightly during their performance at Lewisham Music's Turning of the Year event at Blackheath Halls on Tuesday, demonstrating their talent and dedication. Meanwhile, our KS2 orchestra took part in Music for Youth's Creative Project, featuring BBC Ten Pieces, performing at none other than the iconic Royal Albert Hall—a truly magical moment for all involved.



Year 6 had a special treat with a visit from Trinity Laban students, who brought the excitement of Tracy Beaker: The Musical into our school, inspiring our children with music and theatre, as well as exploring key PSHE themes, including resilience, overcoming challenges, building positive relationships and developing empathy.

To top it all off, we welcomed Ofsted this week. While visits like these are always significant, they give us the chance to showcase the incredible work of our staff and children. We will share the outcome with you as soon as we are allowed to.

A huge thank you to everyone—staff, children and families—for making this such a memorable week. Together, we've shown the power of creativity, teamwork and resilience in everything we do!



Next week, Nursery start our programme of festive events with their Christmas Performance at 2.30pm on Monday, 2 December. Reception's performance is at 2.30pm on Friday 6 December. Keep a look out for Edition 10 of The Arts Bulletin, too—due next week!

Don't forget, if you are able to help at the Winter Fair, please contact FOG—see details below. Thank you in advance!

Wishing you a wonderful and restful weekend!

Mrs Wright

Winter Fair 2024
Friday 13th December
3.30-5.30 p.m.

Activities: CRAFTS, GAMES, FESTIVE FOOD, MULLED WINE, RAFFLE, FACE PAINTING

Sponsored by **pedder** South East London's premier agent

Friends of Gordonbrock
If you're able to help in advance or on the day, please email: friendsofgordonbrock@gmail.com

CLUBS—SPRING TERM 2025

Thank you to all those (Y1-6) who have expressed an interest in clubs for Spring Term 2025.



We are currently in the process of allocating clubs and aim to complete this process by 5 December. If successful, you will receive a text or email on this day with the offer. Payment is due by Friday 12 December - for clubs where payment is managed by Gordonbrock and for external clubs, also.

TeachSport will contact those with offers directly, via email, with details to make payment.

For Chess and Taekwondo, please keep a look out for a paper letter which includes payment information.

If you missed the deadline for registration of interest, please email clubs@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk stating your child's name, class and the club(s) you are interested in. Your child will be added to the waitlist.

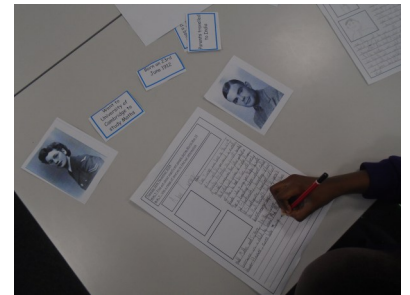
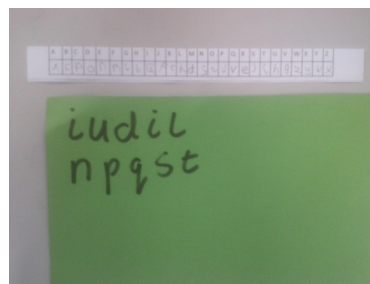
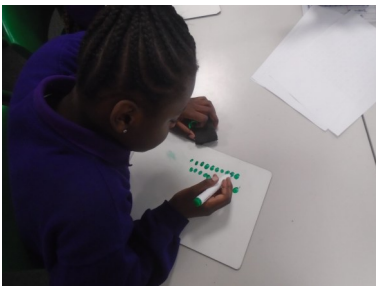
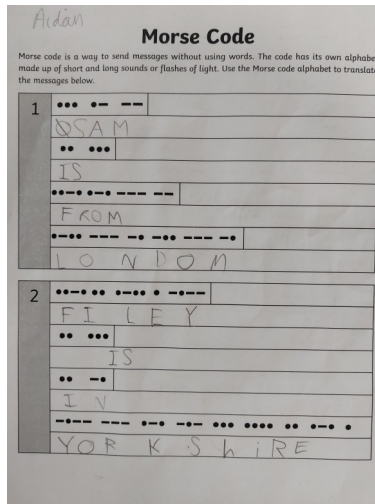
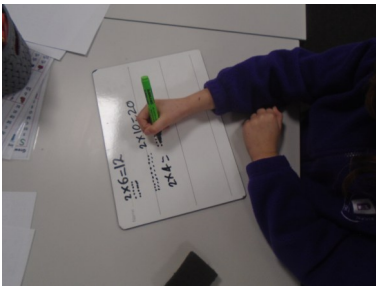
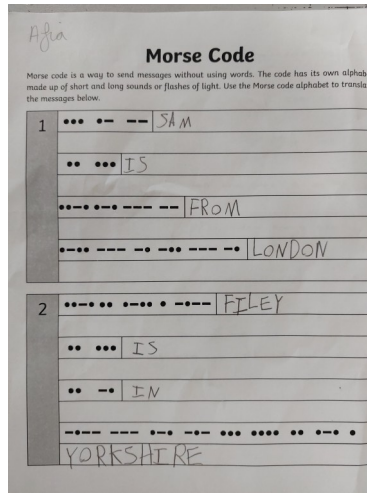
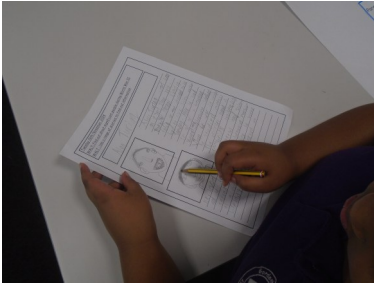
Happy 100th Birthday, Mr Turtle! Love from, Nursery

This week has been an exciting blend of learning and celebration, with the highlight being a truly special occasion: Mr. Turtle's incredible 100th birthday party! The children not only developed important life skills, but they also played a hands-on role in preparing for the festivities. They practised using utensils as they made delicious birthday and jam sandwiches, carefully spreading the jam and gaining confidence with each step. The anticipation for the party grew as the children crafted vibrant party hats and colorful playdough cupcakes, each one reflecting their unique creativity. On the big day, the celebration was in full swing with lively games like musical chairs, musical bumps and musical statues. The classroom was filled with laughter, excitement and plenty of movement as the children danced and played to the rhythm of the music, making Mr. Turtle's 100th birthday a memorable event for everyone!



Cranes, Code Breaking and Creativity in Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have been learning how religious beliefs and ideas can be expressed through the arts. We have been talking about the importance of peace following a conflict and we discussed times that we have felt frustrated or experienced arguments with friends and how best to resolve such situations in a calm and peaceful way. We learnt about why the origami crane symbolises peace and where the idea came from and then we had a go at making our own. In Art, we started our new unit on Still Life and began by learning about four very different artists and their contributions to this genre. We then created our own artist appreciation pages where we explored their work further and shared our thoughts. In History, we learnt about Alan Turing and Joan Clarke and the work they did at Bletchley Park, we then made our own factfiles about their lives. Finally, in Maths we've been looking at the relationship between the 2 and 4 times tables and practised creating arrays using concrete resources and drawing.



Year 4's Roman Shield Challenge

The children in Year 4 have truly impressed us with their creativity and effort in completing their home learning task: designing and constructing Roman shields. Each shield was carefully crafted at home, showcasing the children's understanding of Roman history and their artistic talents. The shields featured bold designs, vibrant colors and intricate patterns, reflecting the distinct style of Roman legionaries. We took this learning to the next level during our PE lesson, where the shields became part of an exciting and interactive activity. The children worked together to recreate the famous Roman "tortoise" formation or *testudo*. This defensive strategy, used by Roman soldiers, required teamwork and coordination, as the children arranged their shields to create a protective shell. The activity was not only a fun way to immerse themselves in Roman history but also an excellent opportunity to develop collaboration and communication skills. It brought history to life, blending physical activity with learning in an engaging and memorable way!

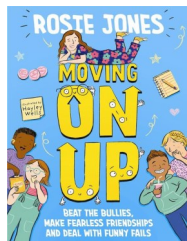


Mrs Wright's Recommended Reads



Moving Up: Beat the bullies, freindships and deal with funny fails

by Rosie Jones



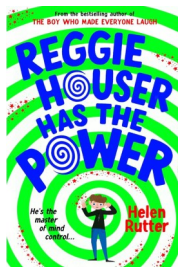
Age 8-11

No one knows quite as much about friendship fails, dealing with bullies and being TOTALLY embarrassed, then Rosie Jones. You name a completely awkward situation, and she's been there, got the t-shirt and probably done it all again. Rosie knows just how hard growing up can be, but she also knows that you can overcome the difficult and embarrassing moments with the help of good friends and a good sense of humour. So, sit back, grab a packet of crisps and crunch your way through this super handy guide to navigating all the tricky growing up stuff.

Reggie Houser Has the Power

By Helen Rutter

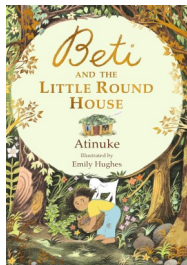
This is the story of how hypnosis saved a boy with ADHD and struggles to make friends. But when he sees a hypnotist perform on stage becomes obsessed with learning the skills of mind control - and he discovers he has an incredible talent for it! But then a group of mean kids make him use his hypnosis for bad: stealing a chocolate bar. Reggie must decide to use his skills for good only and come to trust his own brain to make decisions.



Age 7-10

Beti and the Little Round House

Written by Atinuke



Age 5-8

Beti lives in a little round house in the woods with Mam, Tad, Baby Jac, her cheeky goat Naughty and many other farm animals. Written in Atinuke's rhythmic, heartfelt style and brought to life by Emily Hughes' lush, warm illustrations, this exquisite collection of four stories centred around a strong-willed little girl is a celebration of having adventures with our friends in the lush wild with each changing season. Every page is rich in humour and filled with touching observations of the family's wild and enchanting way of life. It is escapism at its finest and will inspire readers to reconnect with nature, to find happiness on their doorstep among the love of friends and family.

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.



AIMS OF EDUCATION

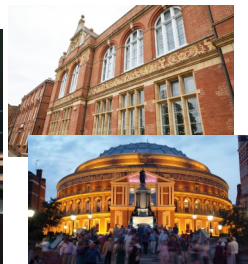
Every child has the right to an education that helps them develop their personality, talents, and abilities to the fullest. This week, we've seen this right in action as children explored history through creative projects, developed life skills, and worked collaboratively in fun, engaging activities.

This week, we're spotlighting **Article 29: Aims of Education**. Education goes beyond academics—it's about nurturing every child's unique talents and helping them reach their full potential!

Our choir and KS2 orchestra exemplified this beautifully through their outstanding performances this week. The choir took centrestage at Lewisham Music's *Turning of the Year* event at Blackheath Hall, showcasing their hard work and passion for singing. Meanwhile, the orchestra participated in Music for Youth's Creative Project, featuring BBC Ten Pieces, performing at the iconic Royal Albert Hall.

These incredible experiences not only celebrated the children's musical talents but also their dedication, creativity and teamwork!

We look forward to showcasing the events in full in the next The Arts Bulletin, out next week.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

EDUCATING CHILDREN ON SPENDING AND SAVING

Evidence shows that children's spending habits begin to form as early as seven years old. With primary schools in England not required to teach financial literacy, many young people are reaching adulthood without knowing the basics of budgeting. This guide explains some ways to teach young people about money in a practical way, giving them the understanding to become savvy spenders and savers.

- 1 PROVIDE POCKET MONEY**
Giving children money – even a small amount – can help them learn to make their own budgeting decisions about how to spend or save it. Research shows that young people who receive pocket money are more likely to become adults with strong financial skills and significantly less debt.
- 2 USE A PREPAID CARD**
Being able to pay by card is essential these days, with many retailers offering young people accounts for children from the age of 11. Encouraging them to get used to spending like they will as adults reduces the risk of dipping into an overdraft. Learning about money is like learning to swim – you need to get in the pool and have a go!
- 3 PRACTISE BORROWING**
Although official borrowing is only available to over 18s, kids need to understand how debt and interest works before they become adults and are exposed to credit cards or buy now, pay later schemes. For a safe means of teaching them about this, parents could offer them extra pocket money but explain that it needs to be paid back by a certain date, plus an extra couple of pounds as interest.
- 4 ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATION**
Chatting about money and how much things cost will teach children that money is a part of everyday life and not some "icky adult thing". Parents can involve them in budgeting for the weekly shop, for example, working together to get everything on the list while keeping the total below a certain number. Letting young ones make spending decisions is a safe space to build up their confidence regarding money.
- 5 DISCUSS THE PRESSURE TO SPEND**
Whether it's YouTube ads or a hint of envy at a friend's recent purchase, spending triggers are everywhere. Encourage children to notice how clever ads design like placing sweets at the checkout and others such as 2 for 1 deals entice us to spend more. Challenge them to resist impulse buys by getting them to sleep on it before deciding to spend.
- 6 TELLING 'NEED' FROM 'WANT'**
Learning how to prioritise spending is an important life skill. The difference between life essentials and "nice to have's" is key to budgeting. At children's parties, for example, while shopping, it's the perfect time to say "That's a want. We're getting our needs first. You could show how you budget for food, electricity and so on before buying fun things."
- 7 ENCOURAGE SAVING**
Getting children saving early can set them up with a useful habit for their adult life. Suggest that they put something aside every time they receive money and help them set a target for how much to put away so they feel motivated to continue. For example, encouraging them to save for a reward they really want can get children much more invested in what they buy.
- 8 SPARK INTEREST IN INTEREST**
Motivate children by telling them about interest: you can describe it as a reward for saving money. Explain how everything they put away will grow over time. As an exciting example, explain that if doubled every day for a month would amount to approximately £20 million! Some prepaid cards for young people also offer interest: parents and carers could also add a little to supplement what their child saves and show how it works.
- 9 PAYING FOR CHORES**
This is a complex debate with no right or wrong answer, it depends on what works for each individual family. However, it can be one of the best ways to teach children that money needs to be earned and helps to create more mindful spending. If parents aren't keen on paying for everyday chores, they could ask the children to suggest their own ideas for earning a little extra.
- 10 PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SCAMS**
Scams are a frustratingly easy way to lose money, and children are generally more likely to be taken in due to a lack of experience with these financial criminals. As a minimum, make sure they're aware of the most common ones they could be exposed to – by text, email and phone, for instance. Young people should not be treated as adult about any unexpected message or call and never give out their personal information.

Meet Our Expert
GoHenry is a prepaid debit card and financial education app with a mission to make every young person smart with money. Co-founder and CEO Louise Hill is a passionate advocate for better financial literacy among school children and strongly believes that money management is a crucial life skill.

WakeUp Wednesday | **The National College**

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/spending-and-saving/>

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Managing money can be a difficult skill to master, even for adults. As such, it's incredibly important for children and young people to learn all they can before they reach an age at which they'll be responsible for their own finances. Teaching strategies for saving and responsible spending early on can be a huge help to youngsters, in a way that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

It can be tricky to know the best approach for teaching money management to children, however, especially in terms of giving them practical experience with this important life skill. This guide – made in collaboration with financial education app GoHenry – provides you with expert advice on how to educate children and young people on both spending and saving their cash.

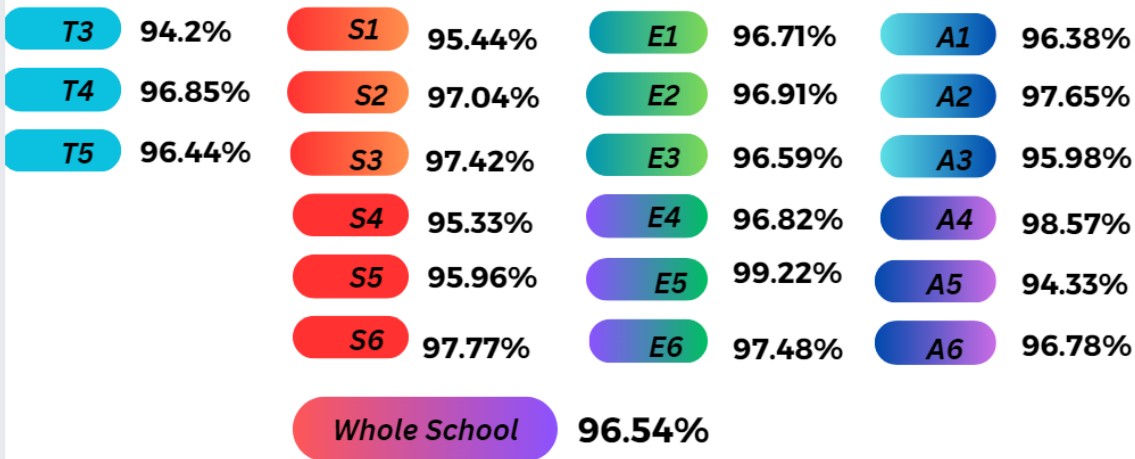
Sources

<https://www.ing.com/Newsroom/News/Features/Feature/Pocket-money-boosts-money-management-skills-in-adulthood.htm>

GB ATTENDANCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE



WEEK 9TH TO 15TH OF NOVEMBER 2024



IMPORTANT DATES

1/12/2024	Disability History Month
2/12/2024	Nursery Singing Performance 2:30pm Reception and Y6 Height and Weight Checks
6/12/2024	Reception Christmas Performance 2:30pm
9/12/2024	KS1 Christmas Performance (Y2 Parents) 2:30pm
13/12/2024	KS1 Christmas Performance (Y1 Parents) 9:15am Winter Fair
16/12/2024	Year 3/4 Performance 2:30pm
17/12/2024	Y5/6 Performance 2:30pm
18/12/2024	Christmas Dinner <i>Wear a festive jumper!</i>
20/12/2024	Last Day of Term
06/01/2025	Return back to School
09/01/2024	GB After School Clubs start
10/01/2025	Y3– Trip to Imperial War Museum

Reminder

End of Autumn—Clubs 2024

Please note: Chess, Choir, Design, French, Coding, Taekwondo, Philosophy and Yoga Clubs ended this week.

All Football clubs run up to and including Thursday, 12 December.

Due to the Christmas Fair, the final Basketball and Multi-Skills last session is on Friday, 6 December.

Please make sure you have pick-up arrangements organised. Many thanks.

Winter Fair 2024
Friday 13th December
3.30-5.30 p.m.

CRAFTS
GAMES
FESTIVE FOOD
MULLED WINE
RAFFLE
FACE PAINTING

Friends of Gordonbrock
 If you're able to help in advance or on the day, please email: friendsofgordonbrock@gmail.com

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Uniforms

School Uniform orders are processed on Thursdays.

We will send you a text message to let you know your order is ready to collect from the office pick up time.

You will be able to check the sizes or make changes.

If you are unable to pick it up we can send it with your child the next working day.

[Click here to go to the GB Shop](#)