

06 December 2024

# GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week at Gordonbrock has been filled with festive joy and moments that truly embody the season.

Nursery children captivated us with their enchanting nativity performance on Monday. They sang beautifully and delivered their singing with such confidence that it brought smiles and happy tears to all who attended.

In Reception, the magic of Christmas came alive again today as they presented their nativity. Their energy and wonderful singing lit up the room and reminded us all of the joy this season brings.

A huge well done to the Early Years Team—the children, the staff and Mr Prescott—for their efforts to kick start the Christmas season at Gordonbrock. Thank you to everyone who came along to support their wonderful debuts on the school stage – your presence made the occasion even more special for the children.

On a different note, this week also saw our School Council elections take place. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm of our pupils as they engaged in the democratic process, with candidates

delivering thoughtful speeches and their peers carefully casting their votes. The results will be announced on Monday and we are excited to see the ideas and leadership our newly-elected council will bring.

Next week, we also look forward to Christmas performances from Year 2 (Monday, 2.30pm) and Year 1 (9.15am, Friday). We also have the Christmas Panto for our EYFS and KS1 children. *Oh no you don't... Oh yes we do!*

Please don't forget the Winter Fair on Friday 13 December, too! Thank you in advance to FOG for what promises to be another fantastic event!

Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement as we celebrate the many achievements of our children this term. Wishing you a warm and restful weekend.



*Mrs Wright*

*Thank you!*  
AND FAREWELL

This week, we bid a fond farewell to Miss Goulbourne, a valued member of our Inclusion Team and Breakfast Club manager. She is moving on after over ten years of incredible service. Over the past decade, Miss Goulbourne has made an immeasurable difference, providing unwavering support to pupils across the school and ensuring every child had the opportunity to thrive.

Miss Goulbourne's dedication, compassion and expertise have left a lasting legacy and she will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and families alike. We wish her all the very best in her next chapter and thank her for her amazing contribution to our Gordonbrock community.

## CLUBS—SPRING TERM 2025

Ballots for clubs have now taken place and those successful should have already received a text or email on Thursday and Friday. Payment is due by Thursday 12 December - including for clubs where payment is managed by Gordonbrock and for external clubs, too.

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 and will confirm with tutor your prompt payment.

If you missed the deadline for registration of interest, please email [clubs@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto: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.

**We have a few places available on Monday Chess Y4, Tuesday Football Mixed Y5/6, Wednesday Philosophy Y3-6 and Friday Chess Y3.** Please email Clubs with your child's name, class and club. At this stage, it's first come, first served.



**CRAFTS**

**GAMES**

**Gordonbrock Primary School**  
1905

**Winter Fair 2024**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**3.30-5.30 p.m.**

**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](mailto:friendsofgordonbrock@gmail.com)

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## Busy Bees in Reception

Reception have had a very busy couple of weeks! The children have been exploring shape and sorting them according to their different properties. They have also enjoyed playing the game 'What's in the bag?' and describing the different shapes for their friends to guess!

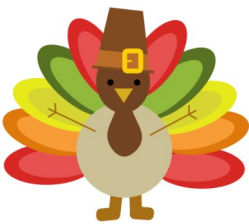
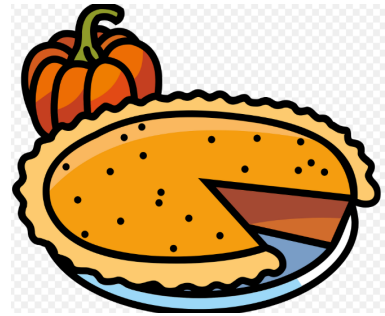
They have also been decorating their own Christmas tree headbands ready for their Christmas performance and have been working hard practising the songs and their lines.



## Happy Thanksgiving in Ms Clancy's Class



Last week, Ms Clancy shared fascinating insights about the history and traditions of Thanksgiving, a holiday celebrated in the United States and Canada. Pupils learned about its origins, the significance of gratitude and how families come together to celebrate. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore cultural traditions and reflect on what we're thankful for here in the UK!



## Amazing work from the Eco team

Members of the Eco-Team attended the first Pupil Climate Network meeting of this academic year at Stillness Junior School. When we arrived we watched a presentation about the amazing garden that they have been working on for the last few years and then we got to visit the garden itself, including a wildlife pond.

Afterwards, we took part in three workshops:

- Composting—finding out what kinds of creatures live in it, what we should and shouldn't put in our home compost.
- Making a zine about worms
- Learning about pumpkins and packaging pumpkin seeds to plant in the summer. We saved some for planting in our gardening club as well.



## Democracy and Art in Year 6

Wow! What a busy week we have had in Year 6! We have been rehearsing for our Christmas performance by learning words and songs in class, and practising our pitch control, tempo and harmonies with Mr Prescott.

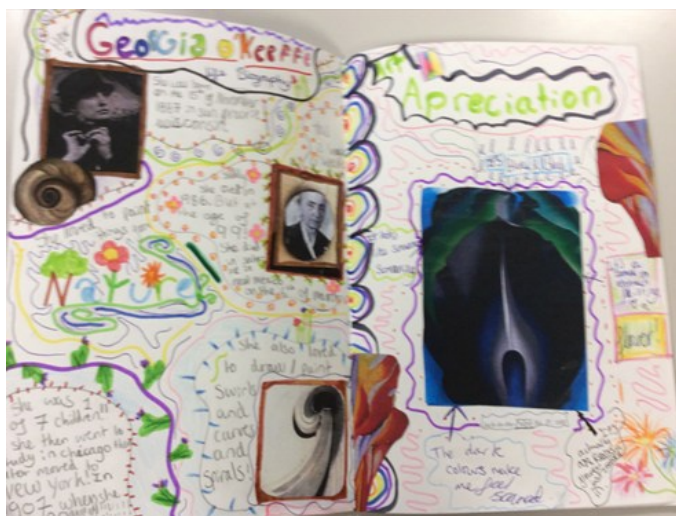
In History, we have been learning about the English Reformation by exploring the roles of different groups of people through drama.

We have also been studying the work of Georgia O'Keefe in Art, learning about her life and how nature inspired her to zoom in on small details.

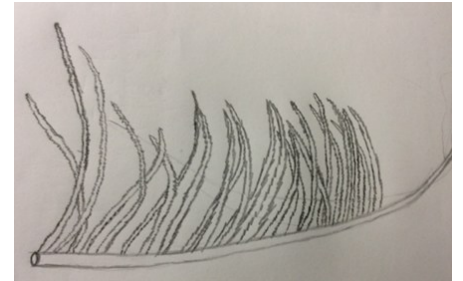
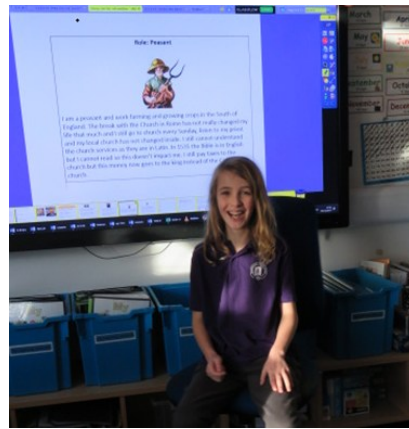
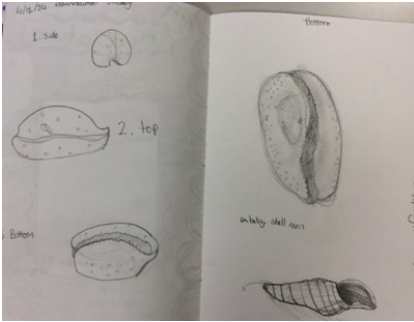
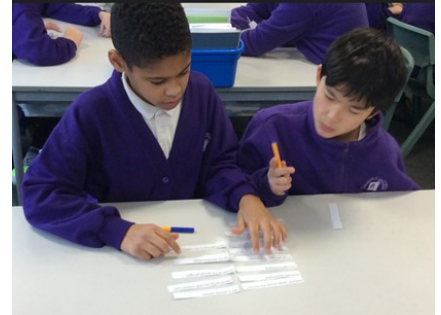
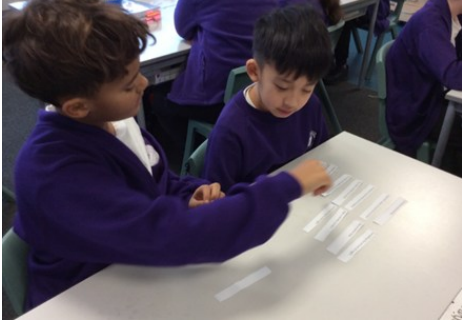
In Samba, we have started the process of deciding who our class performance leaders will be, talking about the qualities required to be both a good leader and good team member.

We have been working collaboratively in Maths to understand division and fractions, and in English to use personification to bring a setting to life. When learning about the etymology of words such as jeans, salary, trivial and whiskey, we had great fun using the Kagan strategy Find the Fiction.

All three classes have now exercised their democratic right to vote for new school council reps. Well done to every child who prepared and presented a manifesto!



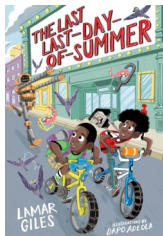
Y6



# Mrs Wright's Recommended Reads



## **The Last-Day-of-Summer** by Lamar Giles



Otto and Sheed are the local sleuths in their zany Virginia town, masters of unraveling mischief using their unmatched powers of deduction. And as the summer winds down and the first day of school looms, the boys are craving just a little bit more time for fun, even as they bicker over what kind of fun they want to have.

**Age 8-12**

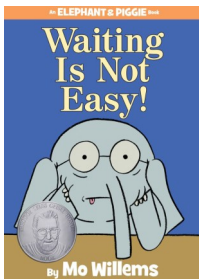
That is, until a mysterious man appears with a camera that literally freezes time. Now, with the help of some very strange people and even stranger creatures, Otto and Sheed will have to put aside their differences to save their town—and each other—before time stops for good.

## **Waiting Is Not Easy!**

**By Mo Willems**

Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. Piggie has a surprise for Gerald, but he is going to have to wait for it.

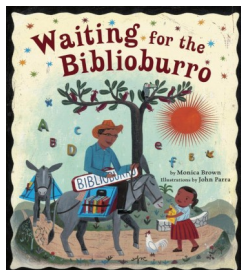
And Wait. And wait... Mo Willems creates another hilarious escapade starring the award-winning duo that will have early readers breaking into laughter from the first page.



**Age 3-6**

## **Waiting for the Biblioburro (Spanih-English Bilingual Edition)**

**Written by Monica Brown**



On most days, teacher and librarian Luis Soriano Bohórquez packs his two burros, Alfa and Beto, with books and makes his way over mountains and through valleys to visit children in far-flung villages in rural Colombia--all for the sake of literacy and culture. Based on the work of a remarkable man and his intrepid burros,

**Age 5-8**

this bilingual English and Spanish edition celebrates the impact that a special mobile library--called the "biblioburro"--has had on the lives of real children.

## 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.

27



FOOD, CLOTHING,  
A SAFE HOME

Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development.

This week, we are highlighting Article 27 of the UNCRC, which states that every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental and emotional development.

As the winter season sets in, this right reminds us of the importance of ensuring all children have access to essentials like warm clothing, nutritious food and safe housing. It's a chance for us to reflect on how we can support one another and make a difference, both in our local community and beyond.

Join us in raising awareness and celebrating the power of kindness and collective action to uphold this vital right for every child.



**Lewisham Donation Hub**

Serving SE postcodes, Bromley & Croydon

Thank you to those who were able to make donations to Lewisham Donation Hub at the end of each performance this week. This charity provides emergency food support, clothing and home essentials, and large electricals and furniture, aligning with Article 27.

We will continue to hold a collection at the end of each Christmas performance over the next two week, so if you can spare some change, it will go to a great cause! Many thanks in advance.

*Thank you*



### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app to determine just how useful it's going to be.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- QUALITY & RELIABILITY**  
Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute. Information on the quality of some of these apps is sparse. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?
- LACK OF PERSONALISATION**  
Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful skills to manage their condition. However, mental health is a long-term condition, and children and young people develop in different ways. These apps struggle to tailor themselves to users. Individual needs and abilities vary widely. It's important to distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extension or specialist advice.
- PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN**  
Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, you may be asked to give the parent directly, saying something along the lines of 'I want to go to the doctor. Let them take a look here.' It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.
- DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT**  
Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a wellbeing app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking to one seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.
- DATA SECURITY**  
As with any other app - not just those for mental health and wellbeing - it's vital to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons. Such as targeted advertising, and if it is using a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required. Is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?
- IN-APP PURCHASES**  
Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects - such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required. Is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP**  
Before you download a mental health or wellbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they got qualifications or are they professionals to create their resources? Also check over the app is available with any government or mental health organisations, as these are good indicators of legitimacy. Research can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many bad ones.
- READ THE PRIVACY POLICY**  
Look into the app's terms of service - especially its privacy policy. Do as by yourself first, then go over it with the child and consider whether the app is suitable for their age. All data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.
- SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT**  
Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the professional advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other approved treatment. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP, or Childline, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1110.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION**  
Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can then be used to share with a professional, such as a child getting stressed about an upcoming event, or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Nonetheless, it's important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.

Meet Our Expert  
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government concerning internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeupWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps>

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The rise in awareness of mental health issues has given way to several easily accessible services to help with such problems – for example, wellbeing apps promising to serve as an assistive tool for anyone in need of support. While these can be useful to some, there are a few risks which are important to consider – especially if a child or young person is using the app.

Of course, it can be tricky to know exactly where the safety concerns lie with a service intended to help and support its users – and it can be harder still to safeguard younger users. This free guide breaks down the online safety risks of mental health and wellbeing apps, before letting you know how best to keep children and young people safe if they ever wish to use these services.

#### Sources

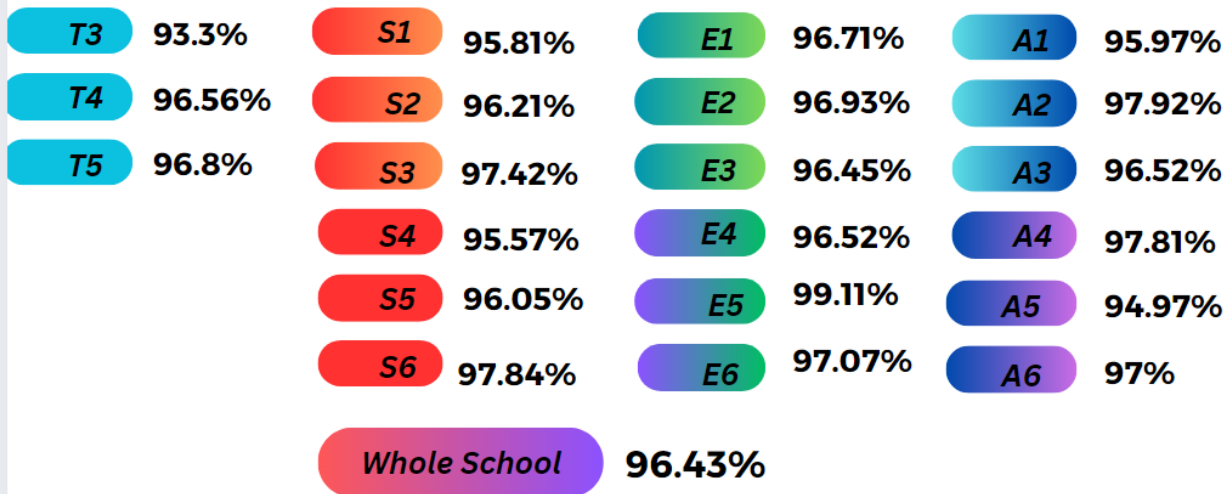
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10785842/>
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/supporting-our-nhs-people/support-now/wellbeing-apps/>

### GB ATTENDANCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Did you know that from the 2nd of September till the 29th of November at GB students have missed **85hrs 52 mins** due to **lateness**? The effects of tardiness include: reduced hrs. of learning, disruption of the learning of the other students and lower performance and achievement.



#### WEEK 9TH TO 15TH OF NOVEMBER 2024



### IMPORTANT DATES

9/12/2024	KS1 Christmas Performance (Y2 Parents) 2:30pm
10/12/2024	Dick Whittington Panto in EYFS 9:30-10:30
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
14/01/2025	Y6 Freshwater Theatre
21/01/2024	Y4 British Museum

