



10 January 2025

GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a lovely break!

A huge thank you again to FOG for a wonderful winter fair at the end of last term. They've **raised an incredible £5525** for the school.

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome everyone back to school for the spring term. It has been wonderful to see the energy and enthusiasm as the children and staff settle back into their routines and reconnect with friends and learning.

This term, we are starting with a positive focus on our aspirations for the year ahead. In today's assembly, we explored the theme of hope and setting goals that inspire us to grow both individually and as a community.

It's was heartening to hear the children share their thoughts about how they can make 2025 a year of kindness, collaboration and achievement.

Today, our Year 3s enjoyed a trip to the Imperial War Museum, bringing their history learning to life. They had a brilliant time!

Next week, our Year 6s are in for a treat with a visit from Freshwater Theatre. Through drama, they will meet some of Britain's earliest residents as part of their Stone and Iron Age history learning.

Year 5 parents, this week you should have received an email with important information about School Journey. Please ensure you have read this and complete the form in good time.

To stay informed about events both in and out of school, please check the dates for your diary on the final page of the Weekly.

Thank you, as always, for your support as we embark on another exciting term!

I hope you have a great weekend and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

Mrs Wright

CLUBS—SPRING TERM 2025

Club allocations have now been finalised. We still have a few places available in the following clubs. If your child would like to take part, please email clubs@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk and if successful, you will receive a message:

- Monday Chess Y4, Choir Y3/4
- Tuesday Football Y5/6
- Wednesday Philosophy Y3-6
- Friday Chess Y3, Choir 3/4

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.

Kind regards,
Zee Carrington



Thank you to those able to attend the winter fair and for your amazing donations. You raised an incredible: **£5525!**

A huge thank you to the Friends of Gordonbrock team who work incredibly hard to make this happen.

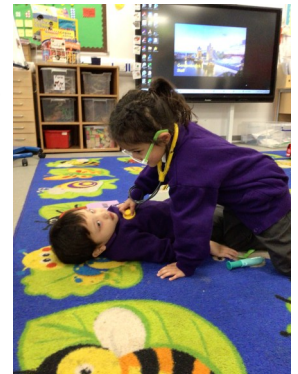
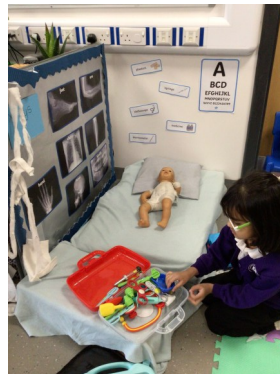
We look forward to planning how we will spend the money on further enriching the children's experiences at school.



Kicking Off the Term with Heroes in Action!

We've had a fantastic start to the new term, diving into our exciting topic, *People Who Help Us!* This term, we are learning about the different types of jobs people have to help us in our everyday lives. We have been discussing familiar roles, like doctors, nurses, firefighters and teachers, and encouraging the children to think about whether they know anyone in their own lives with these important jobs.

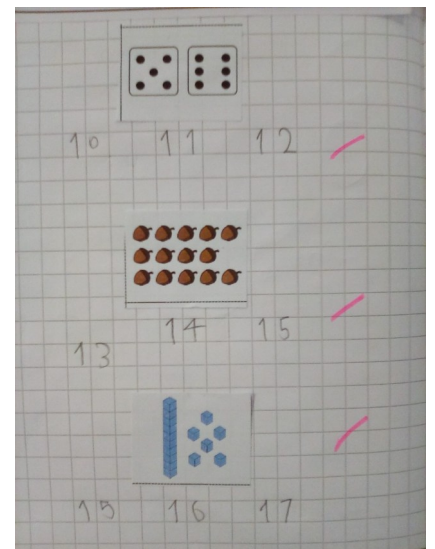
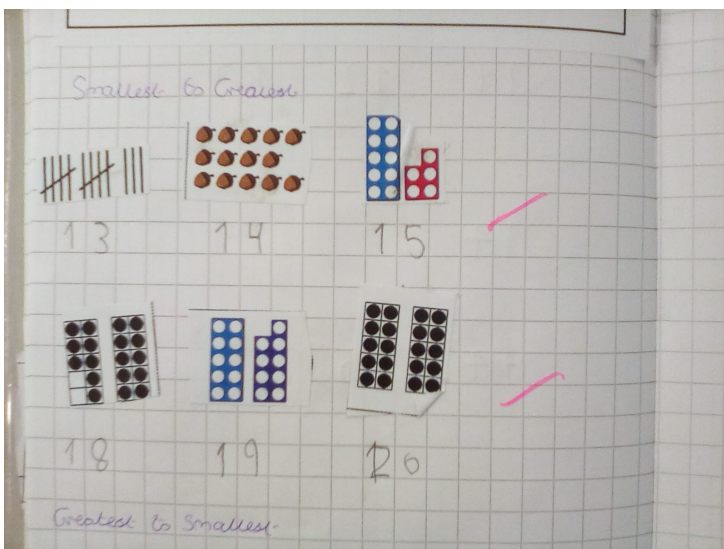
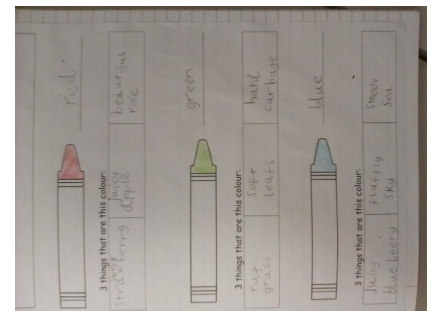
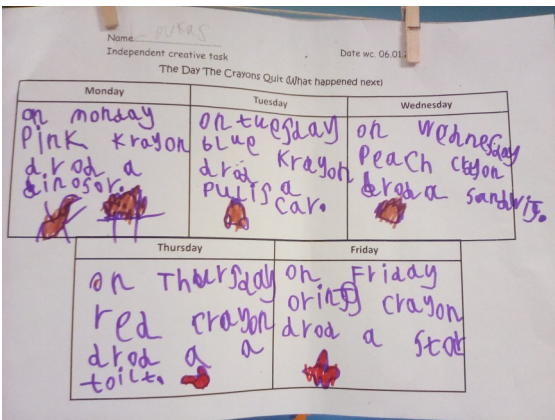
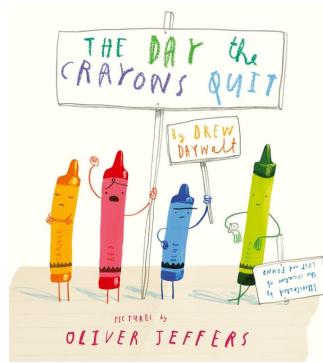
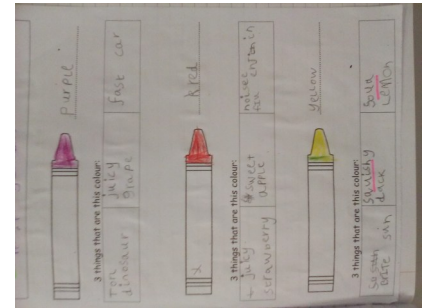
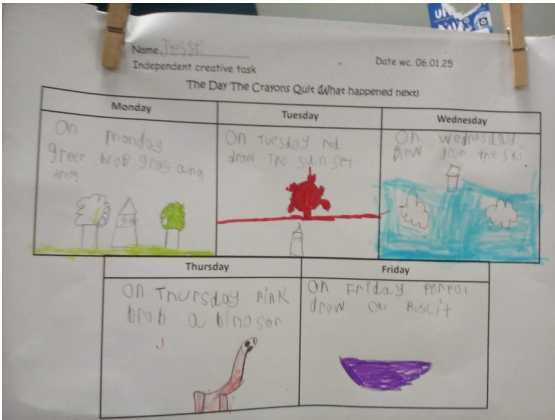
In the home corner, the children have been busy playing pretend doctors, using toy doctors' tools to take care of each other and the toy babies. It's been wonderful to see their nurturing sides and teamwork shine through as they role-play looking after others. What a great start to the term!



The Crayons Have Quit in Year 1!

We have had a great start back in Year 1! This week, we started a new story called, 'The Day The Crayons Quit.' This story is about a boy called Duncan who finds a pile of letters one day from the crayons in his crayon box telling him that they have quit! After thinking about things we could draw using different coloured crayons, and describing them with adjectives, we planned our own letter to Duncan. We imagined we were the different crayons and thought about what would make us not want to colour in any more! Next week, we will be writing our letters to him. Will the crayons change their minds and decide to come back to the crayon box? We will have to wait and see!

We have also started working with numbers to 20 in Maths and have been finding one more and one less than these numbers. We have also been comparing and ordering these numbers using pictorial and abstract representations.



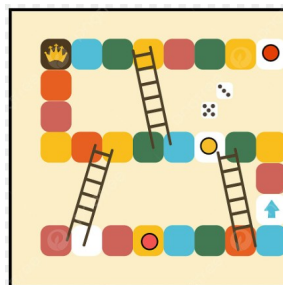
Maths Mania in Year 4!

It's been a busy week in Year 4!

We have been learning our times table facts, including the inverse. We learned how to use a counting stick and played some fun new games – SLAP TABLES and WHAT'S ON YOUR FOREHEAD? which helped us to practise.



In English, we have been writing adventure stories linked to a board game! We move our piece to the next place on the map, draw a card and roll a dice. The instructions then advised us on what happened in the next paragraph. We enjoyed finding new ways to generate ideas.



A Brilliantly Busy First Week Back in Year 6!

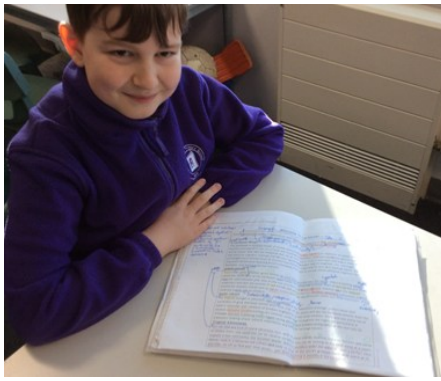
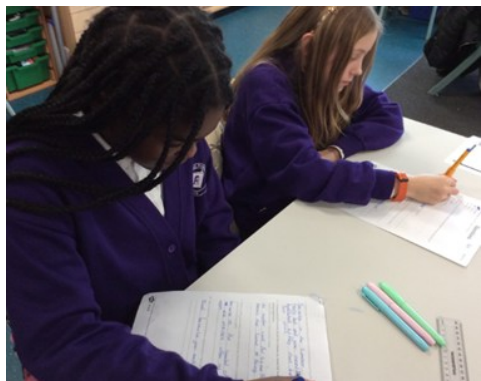
Y6 have had a great start to Spring term. In English, we have started the new year by analysing the features and language used in travel guides with a view to writing our own about an island that we will create.

In R.E, we have studied Ramadan and Eid as part of our learning about Islam.

In P.E., we have been dodging, ducking and diving as well as throwing and catching in Dodgeball.

In D.T. we have been learning about 3D computer modelling and how to draw exploded diagrams to show how the components of a design fit together.

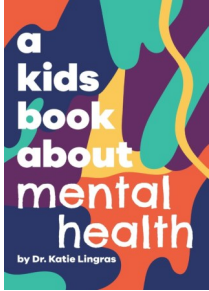
In Art, we have been working on our sketching skills and using acrylic paint to create abstract pieces.



Mrs Wright's Recommended Reads



A Kids Book About Mental Health by Katie Lingras



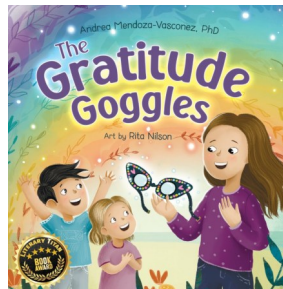
Age 5-9

What is mental health? Did you know it's something we all have? It's true! A person's mental health simply means how they understand their own thoughts, feelings, actions, and interactions with others. Sometimes our mental health is positive, and other times it's not. Learning we all have mental health reminds us that we aren't alone. We're so grateful you're here!

The Gratitude Goggles: A Children's Book About Positivity and Appreciation of Life

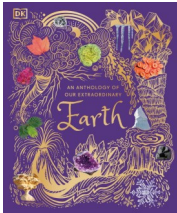
By Andrea Mendoza-Vasconez

The Gratitude Goggles guides children as they imagine a special pair of goggles that can appear by simply feeling gratitude. These are goggles that reveal the world in its true, colorful splendor. The book explains the pitfalls of comparison and want, which can cast a gray pall over everything-as if we were wearing gray goggles. But fear not; we can always trade our gray goggles for the sparkling gratitude ones, thereby illuminating life's wonders!



Age 4-8

An Anthology of Our Extraordinary Earth Written by Cally Oldershaw



Age 5-10

Explore the beauty and majesty of planet Earth in this compendium, with more than 100 incredible stories and images. The world is so much more complex than young minds can fathom, from molten-hot rock and smoldering volcanoes to icy glaciers and bubbling springs.

This book about the Earth for kids aged 7+ unlocks all the mysteries of our living, breathing planet. An Anthology of Our Extraordinary Earth looks at our constantly changing planet, with striking images and scientific ideas that are easy for children to understand.

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 focussing different articles of the convention in each newsletter so that our families can explore the rights and meanings together.



AIMS OF EDUCATION

Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) outlines the fundamental aims of education, emphasizing its role in the holistic development of children. Education, as articulated in this article, goes beyond academic achievement, aiming to nurture children's personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.

As we step into a new year, it's a time for setting resolutions and embracing the promise of a brighter future. At the heart of this lies a fundamental principle: every child has the right to hope and the chance to dream of a better tomorrow.

This right is enshrined in Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which emphasises education that nurtures personal growth, ambition and the development of talents.

In the spirit of the new year, we are encouraging our pupils to reflect on their hopes and dreams. Whether it's striving for kindness, working harder in their learning or dreaming big about their future careers, this is a time to remind every child that their voice matters and their aspirations are valid.

Schools and families play a vital role in fostering this right by creating environments where children feel valued, supported and empowered.

Together, let's ensure that 2025 is a year filled with hope, resilience and the fulfilment of dreams for every child at Gordonbrock.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

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 comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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

IMPORTANT DATES

14/01/2025	Y6 Freshwater Theatre Visit
21/01/2025	Y4 British Museum Trip
23/01/2025	Year 3/4 Maths Parent Event (8.20-8.45am) Jazz on Tour Performance
24/01/2025	Y6 Talk Consent Workshop
27/01/2025	School Journey Meeting for Y5 Parents only (5.30pm)
27/01/2025	Buddy Week
29/01/2025	Year 1 Assembly (9.10am)
01/02/2025	LGBT + History Month
03/02/2024	Children's Mental Health Week

NHS
South London Children and
Young People's Community
Immunisation Service

Missed your flu vaccine?

Live or go to school in the borough of Lewisham? Aged 4-16?
Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect yourself this winter!

Wednesday 8 January 15:30 - 17:00
Downham Health & Leisure Centre, BR1 5EP

Thursday 9 January 15:30 - 17:00
Downham Health & Leisure Centre, BR1 5EP

Friday 10 January 15:30 - 17:00
Downham Health & Leisure Centre, BR1 5EP

**No appointment necessary.
Call 020 3903 3635 for more
information**

GB ATTENDANCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Attendance chart for Autumn Term 2024

The following table presents the attendance per class over the autumn term. Remember the benefits of pupils with good attendance and the positive impact on the future.



FROM THE 2ND OF SEPTEMBER TO THE 20TH OF DECEMBER 2024

T3 93.26%	S1 93.22%	E1 94.70%	A1 96.27%
T4 95.36%	S2 94.24%	E2 96.27%	A2 96.45%
T5 96.30%	S3 64.74%	E3 96.44%	A3 96.18%
	S4 94.45%	E4 96.59%	A4 97.38%
	S5 94.95%	E5 98.81%	A5 94.20%
	S6 96.89%	E6 95.78%	A6 96.41%
Whole School 95.55%			