

20 December 2024

GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great week to round up the autumn term!

Our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 children were stunning in their Christmas singing performances earlier in the week. The joy and enthusiasm they brought to the stage were truly heart-warming and the quality of singing was exceptional. A huge well done to the children, and a thank you to all the staff and families who have supported them!

We also had the pleasure of welcoming Year 12 students from Townley Grammar School, who treated our Year 3/4 to a fantastic pantomime performance. The energy and creativity that they brought to their show were thoroughly enjoyed by children and staff alike.

Wednesday saw another much-loved Gordonbrock tradition: our Christmas lunch. It was lovely to see the main hall filled with happy faces enjoying a delicious meal, festive music and, of course, the ever-popular Christmas crackers!



Finally, as we wrap up the term, class parties have brought plenty of fun and celebration to everyone. It's been a delight to see them end the year on such a positive note.

As we reach the end of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly brilliant term, filled with hard work, creativity and countless moments of joy and achievement across our school community.

As we now look forward to the holidays, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all of you and say a big thank you for your continued support of Gordonbrock.



We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday, 6 January for what promises to be an exciting spring term.

Wishing you all the very best for the holiday season.

Mrs Wright

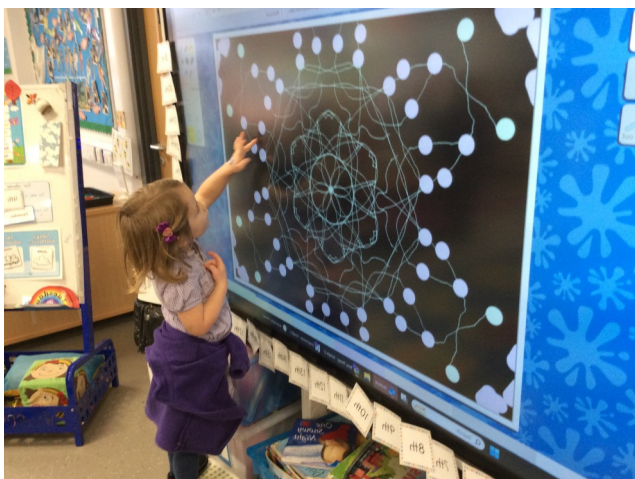
GB's Festive Lunch!

A big thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to prepare a delicious festive lunch for both pupils and colleagues. Here are a few snapshots capturing their festive spirit!



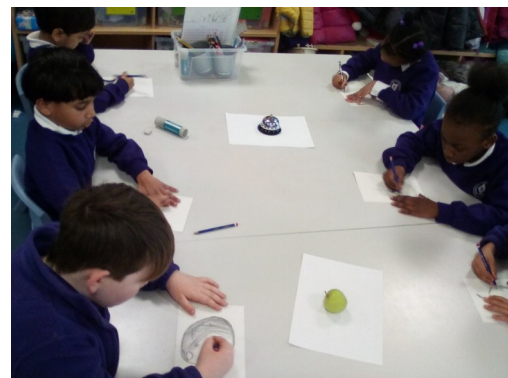
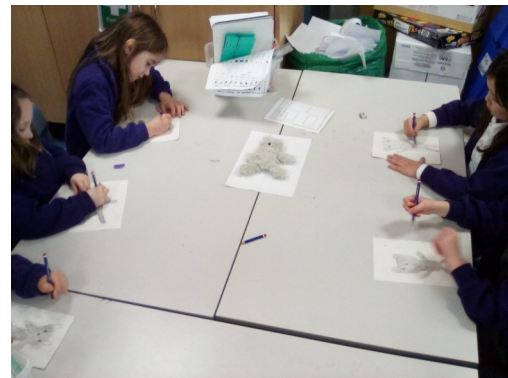
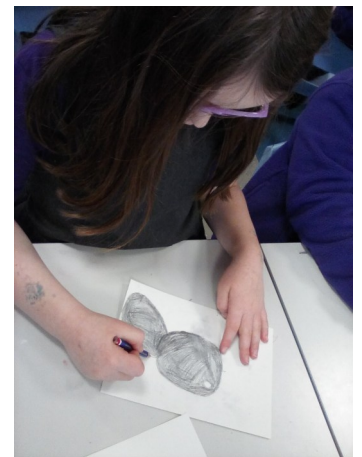
A Gingerbread Adventure: Baking, Mysteries and Math Fun in Topaz Classes

Over the past two weeks, the Reception children have been exploring the classic story of The Gingerbread Man. A highlight of this learning journey was a very special visit to each of our Topaz classes by several Gingerbread characters! The children were thrilled and full of curiosity, piecing together clues to solve the mystery of why these characters came to see us. As part of our literacy activities, we created wanted posters for our favourite Gingerbread characters and some of us even wrote evidence sheets to support our ideas. In Maths, we practised subitising by rolling dice and placing the correct number of buttons on our Gingerbread people—a fun and interactive way to develop our number sense. The most exciting part of our learning, however, was science! We baked our very own Gingerbread Men biscuits. The children measured and mixed dry and wet ingredients, rolled out the dough, cut out their characters and decorated them once they were baked. Everyone was eagerly looking forward to enjoying their delicious creations. Yum, yum!



Festive Fun and Still Life Drawing in Year 2

This week, Year 2 had a festive and creative time! The children embraced Christmas Jumper Day, wearing their most colourful and cozy jumpers to school. In addition to the festive fun, the pupils explored their artistic side with a still life drawing activity. They carefully observed and sketched a variety of objects, as part of their art learning. They honed their attention to detail and creativity.



What a Week in Year 6!

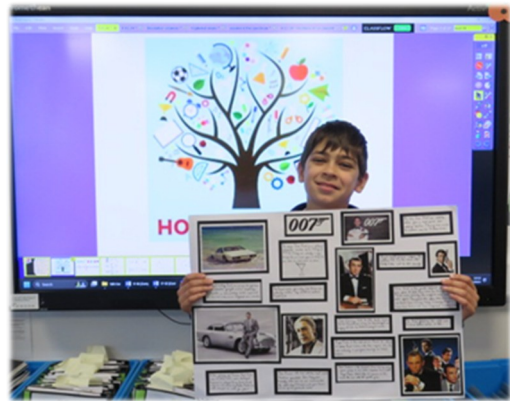
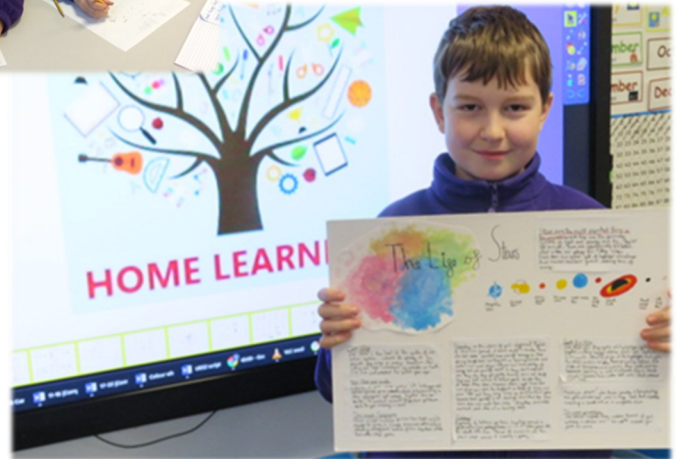
The festive season has been in full swing this week, with our Christmas performance, Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch and Christmas parties, which involved party games and dancing!

In Science, we have been finishing off our Light topic, as well as beginning our new topic, Electricity. We have learnt about what electricity is and what dangers it can pose to us.

We have been practising our colour mixing and sketching skills in Art and learning about the execution of Charles I in history.

We have also been celebrating some fantastic home learning in class, with the children giving confident presentations about their projects.

Merry Christmas from Year 6!



What a Week in Year 6!



Hilary Pecis Inspired Artwork in Year 4

Year 4 have taken inspiration from artist Hilary Pecis to create their own still life artwork. We created table settings and sketched them. Afterwards, we made a colour wheel by mixing primary paint colours. We then painted our creations and added finishing touches using sharpie.

Our teachers liked our work – and they're not easel-y impressed (that's a sketchy joke)!





Mrs Wright's Recommended Reads



The Accidental Secret Agent by Tom McLaughlin



Age 9-11

This year the secret service made a major mix up, they mistook a 13-year-old boy called Kevin for a secret agent (I know, so much for an 'intelligence' agency). This was the sort of kid that would try and zip wire across a building and end up falling head first into a fountain with his bum on show, so can you imagine what happened when he was allowed access to the amazing sort of spy gadgets that James Bond would use?

Despite this, it was up to Kevin to save us all from an evil supervillain. It was the most dangerous, daring mission in the history of the secret service, and also its biggest blunder.

The little Prince

By Abtinie de Saint-Exupery

A wise and enchanting fable that, in teaching the secret of what is really important in life, has changed the world forever for its readers. Often seen as a symbol of childhood innocence, Antoine de Saint-Exupery's best-selling book *The Little Prince* is cherished by children and adults alike across the globe. Ideal for children aged 7 and up.



Age 7-10

This beautiful new 80th anniversary edition with a glittering foiled cover contains the definitive translation by Katherine Woods and all the original illustrations. *The Little Prince* joins the ranks of *A Little Princess*, *The Secret Garden* & *Peter Pan* as a genuine children's classic of the twentieth century.

Beti and the Little Round House

Written by Atinuke



Age 5-10

When signs appear that a comet is heading towards their beloved Moominvalley, Moomin and his friend Sniff set sail to consult with the professors in the distant Lonely Mountains. Their journey is full of adventures and narrow escapes; from crocodiles, giant lizards, eagles and the like, but new friends - soon to become firm friends - help lighten the way.

In this first and most exciting Moomin novel, we meet the wandering Snufkin, the fascinating Snork Maiden and her brother the Snork as they join Moomin in his race to get home to Moominmamma before the comet crashes.

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.



REST, PLAY,
CULTURE, ARTS

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) creates a **specific right for all children to have rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.**

As the festive season approaches, we're celebrating **every child's right to rest and play (Article 31)**. This right reminds us of the importance of creativity, relaxation and fun in fostering children's well-being, including during the holidays.

During this busy time of year, we encourage everyone to take moments to enjoy play and rest together, cherishing the joy and togetherness that the holidays bring. Let's carry this spirit into the season, ensuring every child has the chance to relax, create and thrive!



Thank you so much for all your donations for Save the Children on the Wednesday.

We raised £381!

Thank you for helping transform the futures of children in the UK and around the world. Save the Children ensures that children are safe, healthy, and able to learn, creating lasting, positive change for generations to come.

<https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/>



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

- 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING**
It's concerning how common it is for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling' – trying to find something interesting and amusing to watch. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, or as a way of staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with care and awareness. Instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.
- 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT**
It's important to keep abreast of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using certain apps in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising or product placement that they have to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.
- 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS**
Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something positive and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, such as why it's not suitable and why it's been created in the first place.
- 4 REDUCE SCREEN TIME**
Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screen time, they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.
- 5 FILL THE VOID**
Monitoring and reducing screen time can create a bit of free time to fill, and young people can often face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young people will permanently cut down on their screen time, rather than temporarily going to sleep when they know it's being monitored.
- 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS**
One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's every habit, including the times of the day when they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.
- 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD**
Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body image to social conventions. The filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.
- 8 DIGITAL DETOX**
Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox' from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in a general reduction of screen time and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, step to touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.
- 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR**
Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screen time reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.
- 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"**
Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are now having to ban phones from their premises due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screen time is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the necessary information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert
John Harty is a senior teacher in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, setting e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

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With social media's ever-growing popularity among children and young people, it's important for adults to keep themselves apprised of the associated risks and help youngsters to navigate these platforms in a safe, responsible manner.

However, it can be difficult to know exactly how to protect children and young people while they use these apps. This free guide offers you expert tips on supporting youngsters to enjoy the features of social media while avoiding the risks.

Sources

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6p2egln0zeo>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckmm2nrlem2o>
- <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/children-social-media-doom-scrolling-b2629033.html>
- <https://www.axaglobalhealthcare.com/en/wellbeing/emotional/How-to-stop-your-young-person-from-doomscrolling/>
- <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

GB ATTENDANCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

We understand there has been a lot of illness, so we hope we all are feeling recovered on the new year. So lets make our New Year resolution to get to school in time for 2025!



WEEK 9TH AND TO THE 13TH OF DECEMBER

T3 98.28%	S1 91.38%	E1 96.79%	A1 97.04%
T4 91.38%	S2 94.67%	E2 99.44%	A2 89.26%
T5 94.67%	S3 67.67%	E3 96.3%	A3 95.77%
	S4 92.67%	E4 97.24%	A4 98.57%
	S5 94%	E5 98.33%	A5 87.33%
	S6 93.79%	E6 88%	A6 96.21%
Whole School 92.54%			

IMPORTANT DATES

06/01/2025	Return back to School
10/01/2025	Y3 Trip to Imperial War Museum
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)
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)

**UNDER 8s & 9s GIRLS
OPEN TRAINING SESSIONS**

ATHENLAY FOOTBALL CLUB ARE LOOKING FOR GIRLS IN YEARS 3 AND 4 TO JOIN A NEW U9 GIRLS TEAM. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED, JUST ENTHUSIASM!

FREE WEEKLY TRAINING SESSIONS FOR INTERESTED GIRLS WILL START ON TUESDAY AFTERNOONS FROM 14TH JANUARY, 4.30-5.30PM.

ATHENLAY FOOTBALL CLUB, HOMESTALL ROAD, SE22 ONP

CLUBS—SPRING TERM 2025

Club allocations have now been finalised. We appreciate your understanding as we adhere to our established process to ensure fairness for all participants. If your child was not allocated a club this term, please note that applications for the summer term will open in March.

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.

Have a great break and we will start responding your queries in January!

The Giving Tree

The staff at Gordonbrock embraced the festive spirit by donating gifts for deserving young children in Lewisham, replacing their traditional Secret Santa.



Our team generously contributed over 60 presents, aiming to bring joy and brighten a child's Christmas Day.

If you're feeling inspired, you can join in, too! Visit the Giving Tree in the Central Square of the Shopping Centre. Simply pick a tag from the tree, purchase a gift from one of the nearby stores and drop it off at the tree unwrapped. Thoughtful donations like books, toys or craft kits are especially appreciated.

The Giving Tree is open until Thursday, 2 January. Donate a gift today and help make someone's Christmas truly special!