



28 February 2025

GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Please note: **Our final INSET day for 24/25 is now confirmed. School will be closed to pupils on Friday, 4 April.**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school this week; it's clear they've returned full of energy and enthusiasm, ready for the exciting learning opportunities ahead.

Linked to their Geography learning, our Year 2 pupils were treated to a fantastic Bollywood dance workshop on Wednesday, where they not only learned new dance moves but also explored elements of Indian culture and music. Their coming together to perform at the end of the day had everyone smiling!



Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils took part in an important Transport for London (TfL) workshop today, equipping them with vital knowledge about staying safe and independent when using public transport, an essential life skill as they prepare for the transition to secondary school.

Behind the scenes, our teachers have also begun planning for this summer's Take One art project, which will take place next term. This is always a highlight of our creative calendar, giving pupils the chance to immerse themselves in an inspiring artwork, using it as a springboard for their own artistic responses. Plans are exciting —

we can't wait to share more with you in the coming weeks!

Looking ahead to next week, there's plenty to look forward to.

Our Year 5 pupils will be heading off on their School Journey— a wonderful opportunity for them to build independence, strengthen friendships and create lasting memories. To Year 5 parents, please ensure you've read the final information letter ahead of Monday. Keep a look out for an email from us today!

In addition, our Year 1 children will be stepping back in time in a Victorian workshop as part of their new history topic on houses and homes. It promises to be a fantastic hands-on learning experience, helping them discover how houses have changed over time.

Finally, we're excited to mark International Women's Day next Friday. This is an important occasion to celebrate the achievements of women past



and present and to inspire our pupils to think about the values of equality and inclusion. We look forward to assemblies to reflect on the incredible role models in their lives.

As always, thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend. See you Monday!

Mrs Wright

WORLD
BOOK
DAY
6 MARCH 2025

World Book Day at Gordonbrock will be celebrated on

Friday, 14 March 2025

WORLD
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Get ready to bring your favourite stories to life! On Friday, 14 March, we're inviting all pupils to dress up as their most-loved book characters for World Book Day. Whether you're a daring hero, a magical wizard or a curious creature, let your imagination run wild! We can't wait to see your amazing costumes and celebrate the magic of reading together!

No need to buy a new costume — we encourage eco-friendly creativity! Use what you have at home to make simple, fun outfits, and let your imagination do the rest. There are lots of ideas on the World Book Day website:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/resource/dressing-up-ideas-for-parents/>

Book tokens were sent home with pupils this week. Pick up a brilliant free book between 13 February and 23 March at your nearest participating retailer. More information at <https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>

We look forward to another fun-filled World Book Day celebration!

Please note—while Thursday, 6 March is the national World Book Day, we are celebrating the following week to ensure our Year 5 pupils, who would otherwise be away on their School Journey, can take part.



Chameleons, Creativity and Capacity in Reception

Reception have had a busy first week back after half term! All the children are thoroughly enjoying our new topic all about Animals. We have been looking at the story 'The Mixed-up Chameleon' and have been finding out facts about chameleons. We have enjoyed exploring our new role-play areas and painting our own camouflaged chameleons! In maths, we have been looking at capacity and which containers will hold the most/least and why.



Year 2's Bollywood Experience: Dance, Culture and Celebration

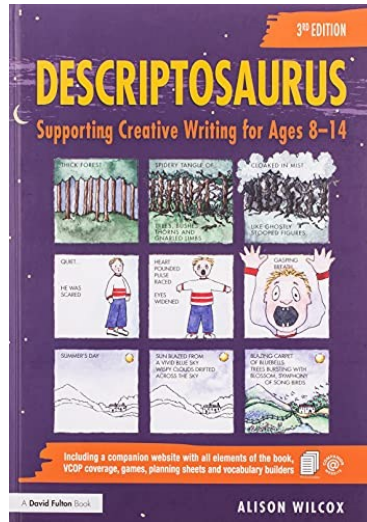
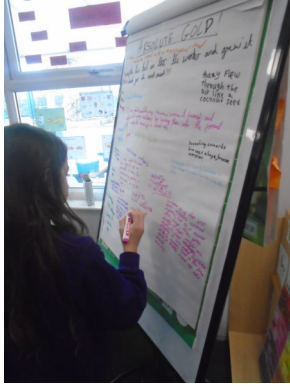
On Wednesday, Year 2 were lucky enough to have a Bollywood dance workshop. Kalpesh talked to us about life in India, about some of the festivals celebrated there and how dance is always a part of these celebrations.

We learned four dance routines, one which involved dancing with a partner using Dandiya sticks. We really enjoyed our sessions and came together as a year group to perform for the last part of the day. Kalpesh taught us that Bollywood dance is about energy, hand gestures and bright, colourful, traditional dress.



Beasts and Bestiaries: Year 4 Unleash Their Imaginations

Year 4 have been writing a bestiary inspired by Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell. We have created hybrid animals and painted them. We then used a selection of ideas from the Descriptosaurus to develop our descriptive vocabulary. Next week we will write our bestiaries.

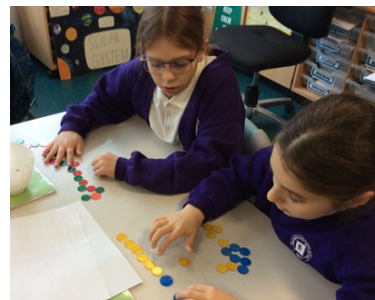
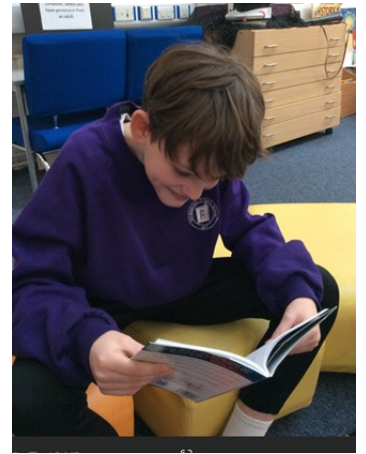


From Whispering Woods to Maths Mastery: Year 6's Action-Packed Week

It has been another very busy week in Year 6. In English, we have been creating our own creatures for our Whispering Wood bestiary guides. We have enjoyed spending time with a good book in our school library. We have been consolidating our skills and knowledge in a range of maths topics including ratio, percentages, fractions, algebra, volume and 3D shape.

In Science, we have continued our Evolution and Inheritance topic by learning about how an animal's ability to survive its environment allows it to pass on genetic variations. We participated in an activity in which we recreated the conditions for survival of the peppered moth.

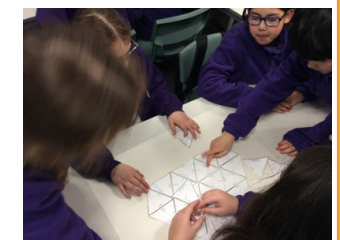
In Art, we have continued to look at the work of Louise Nevelson with a view to creating our own assemblage art pieces.



Our team leaders and conductors have been doing a great job during samba drumming lessons, planning warm-ups and main activities for us to have a go at.



In Indoor P.E., we have been focusing on developing core strength and travelling in gymnastics. We have been challenging ourselves to build our stamina and strength during circuit training in outdoor P.E.

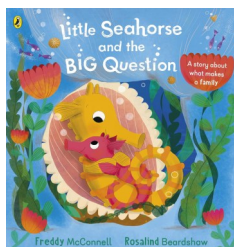




Mrs Wright's Recommended Reads



Little Seahorse and the Big Question by Freddy McConnell



Join Papa and Little One on a very ordinary day, as they explore Little One's big question: "What do we need?" Together, they decide they need lots of things - clean water, friends, a home - but, above all, they need each other. This is a lyrical, heart-warming picture book for all families, no matter how they are created and no matter who is in them.

Age 3-5

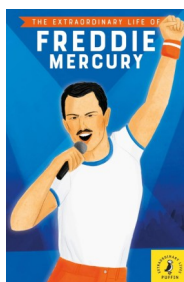
The Extraordinary Life of Freddie Mercury

By Michael Lee Richardson

A musician, A songwriter, An inspiration.

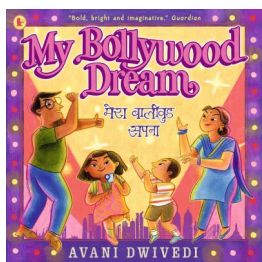
Farrokh Bulsara was a young boy who loved music and was known for being quiet and kind, even when people made fun of his unusual teeth. Farrokh grew up to be Freddie Mercury, an incredible musician who could command audiences with his charisma and talent, and who would one day say that those teeth were the very reason he was able to sing with such amazing range.

From his childhood in Zanzibar to the formation of rock band Queen, to their record-breaking Live Aid performance, discover the journey Freddie Mercury took to becoming one of the world's most influential musicians.



Age 7-11

My Bollywood Dream: A love letter to the magic of Bollywood and family bonds Written by Avani Dwivedi



Age 3-7

Bollywood movies are made of dreams and adventures, and I long to discover them all...

It's Friday night and, on the bustling streets of Mumbai, a little girl and her family head to the cinema. As they travel, the girl captures the sights and sounds of the city with her camera, and imagines a movie unfolding before her eyes. And

when they reach the screening, the room is electric – it's time to dance! Inspired by the author's own childhood memories, Bollywood brings people together in this heartfelt and joyful debut from a brand-new talent.

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.



4 Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child in their countries can enjoy all the rights in this Convention.



41 If the laws of a country protect children's rights better than this Convention, then those laws should be used.

At Gordonbrock, we also prioritise learning about children's rights so that everyone in our school community can help ensure children's rights are realised every day.

The start of a new term is a good opportunity to reflect on how children's rights happen. **Article 4 states governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights. Article 41 states that if a country has laws and standards that go further than the present Convention, then the country must keep these laws.**

In the UK, the government has a number of systems and laws to make sure that children who live here can enjoy their rights. These include: every child must be registered with a name at birth; education and healthcare systems are freely available to every child; there are Children's Commissioners whose job it is to make sure that children are listened to; parks and other play areas are provided; some laws, such as the Children's Act, include some rights from the CRC.



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



The rights of a child, as outlined by UNICEF, are fundamental principles designed to ensure every child can grow, develop and thrive in a safe, healthy and supportive environment. These rights, enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), focus on protecting children from harm, promoting their well-being and empowering them to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Key rights include the right to education, healthcare,



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12
ESRB advises nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

IN-GAME CHAT
Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chat is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a \$10 battle pass, offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict when your child will be teamed up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT
There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish, but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and the Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
The game includes some innuendo and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from teasing to threats intended to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS
The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more appropriate than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS
The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Helel, the Goddess of Death, for example), while still ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF
The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could set up a play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT
Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.

DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS
Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by getting in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods reduces the risk of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular contributor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including iON, TechRadar and plenty more.

The National College

#WakeUpWednesday

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.02.2025

If there are two things that are popular nowadays, it's Marvel and video games. Marvel Rivals is a new release combining these two into one, letting players take on the role of various superheroes and villains in a competitive multiplayer shooter. At the time of writing, the title has proven immensely successful: with the developer, NetEase, reports that as many as 40 million people are playing the game – many of whom will be children, owing to the game's PEGI 12 age rating. While most of Marvel's content has been family-friendly (and this game has been deemed suitable for children as young as 12), this title does still present numerous potential risks to children and young people. The National College have put together this week's free guide – also available in podcast format – offering parents and educators expert advice on the potential pitfalls of Marvel Rivals and how to protect its younger players.

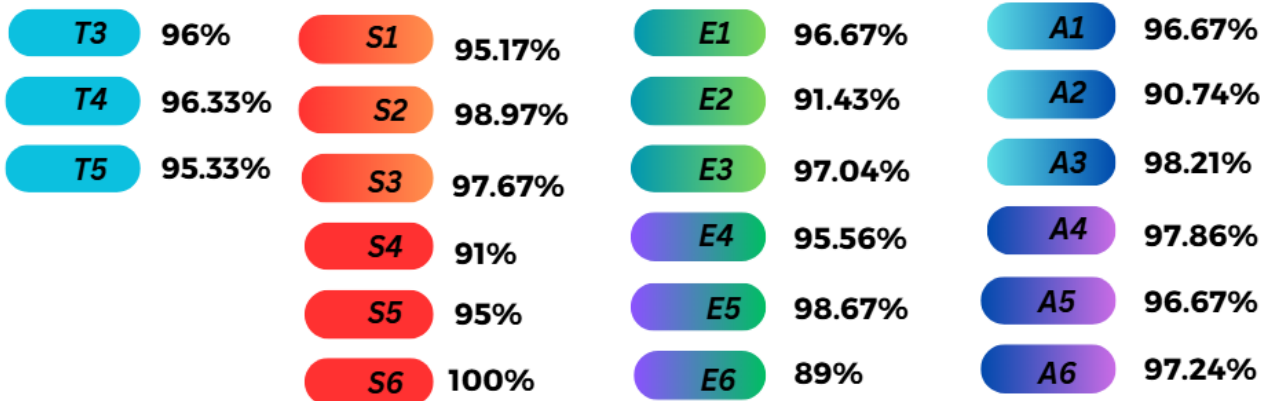
GB ATTENDANCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

FROM THE 10TH TO THE 14TH OF FEBRUARY 2025



The more time a child spends around other children, whether in the classroom or as part of a school team or club, the more chance they have of making friends and feeling included, boosting social skills, confidence and self esteem.

Congratulations again to S6 for achieving 100% attendance!



Whole School 95.57%

As Ramadan begins, if your child plans to fast, please inform the school so we can offer support and ensure they are comfortable during this time.

Email us on info@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk or telephone 020 8690 0704.

Thank you for your cooperation.

IMPORTANT DATES

wb. 03-07/03/2025	Y5 School Journey No Design Club this week
04/03/2025	Y1 Victorian House Workshop
08/03/2025	International Women's Day
10/03/2025	British Science Week
13/03/2025	Reception - Battersea Zoo Trip
14/3/2025	World Book Day (moved) Swimming Gala
17/3/2025	Neurodiversity Week
20/03/2025	Reception– Phonics Parent Event (8.20-8.45am)
21/3/2025	Red Nose Day
28/03/2025	Y3 Parent Event
03/04/2025	Y2 London Zoo Trip <u>Last Day of Term</u>
04/04/2025	INSET DAY
22/04/2025	Children start back (Start of summer term)

We endeavour to be a **NUT-FREE SCHOOL**

This means that all the following items should not be brought into school:

- Loose nuts
- Peanut butter or other nut butters
- Chocolate spreads
- Sesame seeds
- Biscuits/ Cookies that contain nuts
- Hummus
- Cereal bars that contain nuts
- Any sauces that contain nuts like satay
- Pesto

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](#)