

07 March 2025

GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another busy and eventful week at school, and we're excited to share some of the wonderful activities and achievements with you.

Our Year 5 children have just returned from their much-anticipated residential trip at PGL Marchants Hill, and what an incredible week it's been! The children truly embraced the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones, demonstrating courage and resilience as they faced new challenges. From outdoor adventures to team-building exercises, the trip was a fantastic experience that helped the children develop a sense of teamwork, independence and personal growth. We're so proud of how they supported one another and discovered their bravery throughout the week. A huge, huge thank you to all the staff who have made this trip happen!

In Year 1, on Tuesday, the children had a fascinating opportunity to learn about Victorian life through a hands-on workshop focused on houses and homes. They explored how people lived in the past, comparing Victorian homes to those we live in today. The children particularly enjoyed the chance to see and touch artefacts from the Victorian era, which helped bring history to life in a very real and engaging way.

Today, we marked International Women's Day with assemblies led by Mr Ridler-Mayor. The children learned about the important contributions of women throughout history and the fight for gender equality. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to reflect on the achievements of women across the world and consider how we can all continue to support equality in our everyday lives.



Looking ahead, next week is British Science Week, and we're looking forward to some exciting activities and learning. Our Technology Team Leader, Mr Hall, will be leading engaging assemblies to inspire our children to explore the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We can't wait to see the enthusiasm this will spark!



A group of Year 5 children, teamed up with peers from Eliot Bank, will continue their inspiring art project with Frank Bowling Studios, where they have been working to develop their skills and creativity. This collaboration is providing an invaluable experience for our budding artists and is a fantastic opportunity to learn from the best.

On Thursday, our Reception classes will be visiting Battersea Zoo for a day of animal exploration. The children are excited to see and learn about a wide variety of animals, bringing their learning about animals to life in a fun and interactive way.

Finally, **don't forget that next Friday, 14 March, we'll be celebrating World Book Day!** It's always such a fun occasion as our children dress up as their favourite book characters. We encourage everyone to come in costume and celebrate the joy of reading. It's a fantastic way to inspire children to develop a love for books and to talk about the characters and stories that have captured their imaginations.

And a good luck to all our swimmers who are taking part in the annual swimming gala next Friday!

Wishing you all lovely weekends!

Mrs Wright

Red Nose Day

On Friday, 21 March, we invite you to wear something **red** as we raise money for Comic Relief. This year is the 40th anniversary of Red Nose Day, so Comic Relief are aiming to make this year's fundraising particularly special. To coincide with the launch of this year's nostalgic red nose collection, the School Council are also inviting children across the school to design a nose of their own. It can be any colour and have any theme, as long as we can tell it is a nose! Hand them in to your teachers by **Red Nose Day** (Friday 21st March).

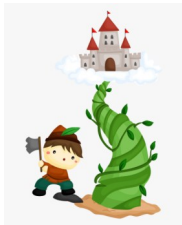
If you would like to donate some money, we have a Just Giving Page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/gordonbrock-primary-school-rnd-2025> Please be aware that the minimum donation is £2, so if you would like to donate a smaller amount, please bring your coins to school on the day. Thank you!

Mrs Gibbons, P.S.H.E. Leader



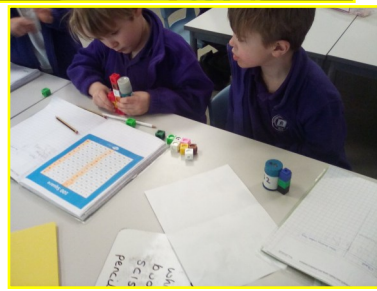
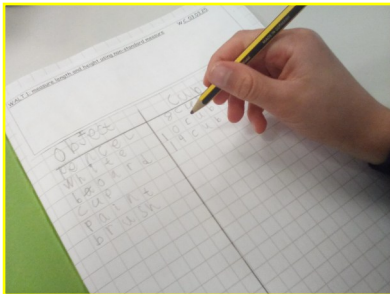
Nursery News: Little Gardeners at Work!

This week, our nursery children have been busy gardeners! As part of our topic "In the Garden" and our book "Jack and the Beanstalk" we planted beans in our garden. The children were eager to help, using their maths skills to count as they planted each seed. We also created **grass seed pots** with the children's faces on them—soon, they'll have their own "grass hair" to watch grow! Using magnifying glasses, we are monitoring the changes and discussing what we see. To extend our learning, we even experimented with **growing cress**, talking about what plants need to grow. It has been a fantastic week of hands-on learning, exploration, and fun!



A Victorian Adventure: Year 1

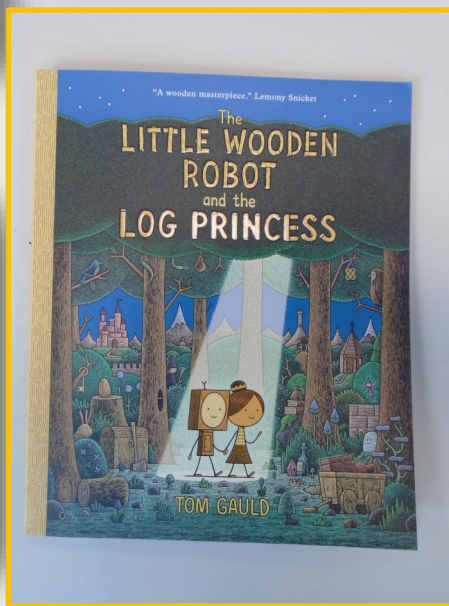
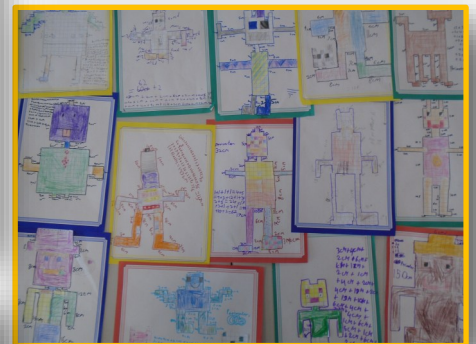
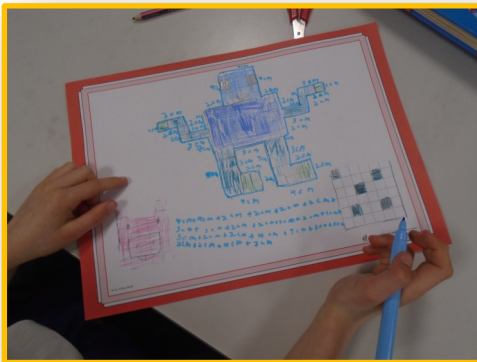
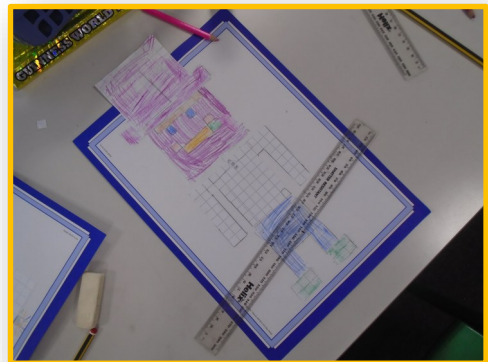
Year 1 have had a really busy week! On Tuesday we had a visit from the Freshwater Theatre Company with a workshop on Victorian Homes. The children had a great time acting out the roles of some of the people in a Victorian household and handling some artefacts from the time. We were surprised to see how big a telephone was at that time and we found out what hard work it was to beat the dust out of a rug! In maths, we have been learning the importance of using standard units to measure things and then we put our skills to good use measuring objects around the classroom.



Exploring Perimeter, Gymnastics and Fairy Tales: Year 3's Action-Packed Week

This week in Year 3, we have been applying our understanding of perimeter by creating robots using squared paper (inspired by our whole-class reading text, 'The Iron Man'). Upon completion, we calculated the perimeter of each robot. This was quite the challenge! During indoor PE, we began our gymnastics unit focusing on creating basic shapes with our bodies. We also enjoyed watching a clip of Olympic medalist and the most decorated gymnast in history, Simone Biles, completing one of her incredible floor routines which we then discussed, noting the different movements and elements of choreography.

In English, we have been discussing the features of fairy tales, sharing our favourites and exploring a new class text 'The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess'. We then chose an adventure from the story as the basis of our own fairytale, which we planned using a story mountain. We can't wait for next week where we will plan and write our own fairytales from scratch!



Mrs Wright's Recommended Reads



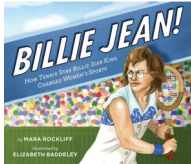
UN Convention on the Right of the Child

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.

Billie Jean!: How Tennis Star Billie Jean King Changed Women's Sports by Mara Rockliff



A fun and inspiring picture book biography of tennis legend and women's rights activist Billie Jean King.

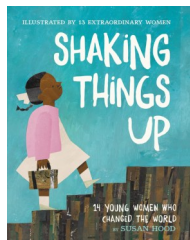
Anything Billie Jean did, she did it ALL THE WAY. When she ran, she ran fast. When she played, she played hard. As a top women's tennis player, Billie Jean fought for fairness in women's sports, and when she faced off against Bobby Riggs in the Battle of the Sexes, the most famous tennis match in history, she showed the world that men and women--and boys and girls--are equal on and off the court.

Age 4-8

Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World

By Susan Hood

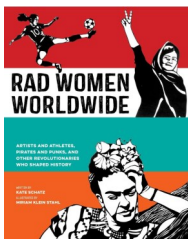
In this book of poems, you will find Mary Anning, who was just thirteen when she unearthed a prehistoric fossil. You'll meet Ruby Bridges, the brave six-year-old who helped end segregation in the South. And Maya Lin, who at twenty-one won a competition to create a war memorial, and then had to appear before Congress to defend her right to create.



Age 4-8

Rad Women Worldwide: Artists and Athletes, Pirates and Punks, and Other Revolutionaries Who Shaped History

Written by Kate Schatz



Rad Women Worldwide tells fresh, engaging, and amazing tales of perseverance and radical success by pairing well-researched and riveting biographies with powerful and expressive cut-paper portraits. The book features an array of diverse figures from 430 BCE to 2016, spanning 31 countries around the world, from Hatshepsut (the great female king who ruled Egypt peacefully for two decades) and Malala Yousafzai (the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize) to Poly Styrene (legendary teenage punk and lead singer of X-Ray Spex) and Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft.

Age 10-17

NO DISCRIMINATION

All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March each year. It is an important day for many reasons, such as giving us the opportunity to celebrate how amazing women are, recognise how women have impacted and changed the world and to let women in our lives know how much they are appreciated.

Article 2 of the CRC reminds us that everyone should be treated equally regardless of gender. Unfortunately, many women in the world still face challenges and are frequently treated differently to men. For example, fewer girls around the world go to school than boys and women in many countries are still frequently paid less than men for doing the same job.

International Women's Day provides us with time to reflect on this and explore what we can do to make our school, city, country and world a place where gender equality exists.

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, protection from exploitation and the right to express their opinions. UNICEF works globally to ensure that these rights are upheld for all children, regardless of their background or circumstance.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**
Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**
Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**
Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**
Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**
Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and quest objectives, making them an engaging and practical literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**
Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Regularly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**
Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**
Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage of text and press play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**
While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-18 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert
Caitrina Lovell is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, *Insight4all*, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Caitrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

The National College
WakeUp Wednesday

#wake_up_weds @wake_up_weds www.thenationalcollege.com @wake_up_wednesday @wake_up.weds

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The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy.

World Book Day offers a perfect opportunity to celebrate the joy of reading and explore how technology can support literacy. The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy.

To help struggling readers, many digital platforms offer tools that enhance readability by making text more accessible and engaging. We've created this week's free guide – also available in podcast format – offering parents and educators ten top tips on how they can help young readers engage in text and foster a love for reading.

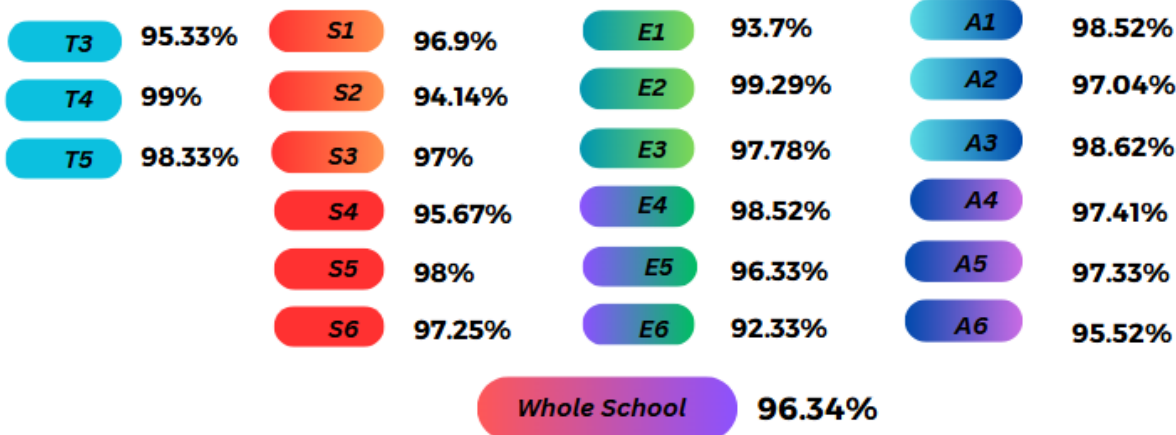
GB ATTENDANCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

FROM THE 24TH TO THE 28TH OF FEBRUARY 2025



It is important that children arrive in school on time everyday for a number of reasons.

- It is the legal responsibility of parent/carers to ensure that children attend their registered school on time each day.
- If a child is late they miss important information about the day's activities.
- A child that is late will miss school work.
- Children that arrive in good time for registration are able to talk to their friends before school and settle into the school day with them.
- A child that is late disrupts staff and other children.



IMPORTANT DATES

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 Y5/6 Big Sing (2:30pm) KS2
01/04/2024	Y 1/2 Big Sing (9:15am)KS1 Y3/4 Big Sing (2:30pm)KS2
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)
1/05/2025	Y5 Parent Event
12-16/05/2025	KS2 SATs Week



HOCKEYCAMP
 16th and 17th April 2025
 9am till 2pm
[St Dunstan's College Jubilee Ground](https://www.stdunstan.org.uk/)
 Canadian Avenue, Catford, SE6 4SW

Cost: £50 per day (sibling discount of 15%)

- Years 3-10 (complete beginners welcome)
- Skills and games, led by enthusiastic coaches who love the game
- Shin pads, gum shields and packed lunch required

World Cup tournament at the end of each day with prizes and medals.

To book, confirm on email:
samisports@gmail.com
 07888723544

Sam Djavit
 Head Coach
 LEVEL 3 ENGLAND HOCKEY COACH
 27 years' experience of coaching the stars of tomorrow and growing the game. I've coached many of the current GB Squad, my passion is developing youth teams.



Reception classes have been very lucky to have this beautiful Wendy house donated by Ava and her parents! We are very grateful and promise to look after it. We are using it as a Reading Cottage- we all love reading! Thank you so much!