

Gorse Hill Primary School

Newsletter

WORKING TOGETHER
TO DO OUR BEST

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome Back 1

School Improvement 2

Building work 3

Sport 4

Uniform 5

SAT Results 6

Dates for your diary 7

Sumo

Your child might have recently come home to tell you that they are doing **SUMO** at school. Don't worry! This doesn't entail wrestling in any shape or form! Instead **SUMO** stands for **Stop, Understand and Move On**. It is a programme which enables children and adults to release their potential. There are 6 **SUMO** principles, currently the children are working on 'Changing your t-shirt'. This involves changing your thinking and response to a negative situation. The children will be participating in different activities and discussion that will challenge them to do this in a fun and thought-provoking way. We are looking forward to seeing the positive results of teaching the **SUMO** principles in the classroom and playground and hopefully you will notice a difference at home too.

V O L U M E 5 , I S S U E 1

15th September 2014

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new school year. It is lovely to see you all after the Summer Break. The children have been back in school now for 2 weeks and have settled into their new classes and routines extremely well. The Staff are really happy with their new classes and have commented on how hard they are working and how well they are behaving.

Staff are available to speak to, before and after school but not during teaching time. Please feel free to make an appointment at the school office for issues that require a longer amount of time.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Harrison-Johnson gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Tristan Russel, over the



holidays. Both Mum and baby are doing very well.

As our school continues to grow, I made some new staff appointments at the end of the the Summer Term.



Miss Boneheyo is a new Teaching Assistant working with pupils in KS2.

Mrs Wilson has been appointed to

Miss Boneheyo

replace Mrs Cameron's Teaching Assistant role in Class 5. Mrs Cameron is enjoying her role as a newly qualified



Mrs Wilson

teacher following her last 2 years of study with Cumbria University.

Finally, Mrs Heathcote has been



employed to cover Mrs Harrison-Johnson's maternity leave. However, due to the number of children we have in Reception Class, she has agreed to

Mrs Heathcote

stay on for the full year.

Mrs Rodda is now officially our new Assistant Head teacher. As well as teaching Class 9, she is now responsible for the leadership of KS2, parent and community links, maths across the whole school, and the learning challenge curriculum. I'm sure you will agree with me that she is going to be quite busy!

School Improvement

July 2016 as well as fully embedding Talk 4 Writing across the school. Both of these being crucial areas of communication. Please look out for information about our sharing of learning class assemblies.

For our second area, we want to improve teaching and learning in Computing/ICT. As you are aware, the Government introduced a new national curriculum that was statutory from September 2014. The computing aspect of this curriculum is much more challenging than the previous ICT curriculum. This is to reflect how technologies have developed over the last decade. We want to ensure that we have the very latest technologies available for our children to use but we also need to make sure that staff have the expertise. As well as this, we want to make sure that our children have well honed

basic skills in areas such as word processing.

Our final area of school improvement will be improving our parent and community links. We strongly believe that children learn best when home and school work together so we are going to make sure that we do this well.

Although communication with home has improved over the last few years, we know that we can be even better. We also know that you want to know how you can help your children at home in areas like maths and reading. We have also been successful in our application to be on the FAST (Families and School Together) programme. This programme will be aimed at Y1 families for the first year.

This will all lend itself to a very exciting year ahead.

Building Work

We have made a number of improvements to the building over the summer.



On Mrs Chrysler's appointment, the need for extra space for meetings and play therapy became apparent as more often than not, it was Mrs Chrysler who gave up

her office for these activities. We have converted the old KS1 boys' toilets into a play therapy/meeting room.

The old art storeroom is now the toilets for the KS1 girls with the boys now in the old girls toilets. We have got rid of



one staff toilet to make a new store-room. These are much better uses of the available space.

In order to accommodate our extra KS2 class, we refurbished



our last spare classroom. We now have 14 classes and the nursery. Mrs Schofield and Class 12 are loving their new classroom. We are just awaiting



the arrival of their matching tables and chairs to complete this modern look.

You will have noticed the scaffolding up around school. We are very fortunate to be having the entire roof re-tiled. Unfortunately there was a delay to this work starting as the new tiles have been shipped in from Canada. However, work is now well underway. As work progresses, there may be the need to house classes in the hall or at Gorse Hill studios to ensure the safety of the children. I ask you to bare with us during this time and I will keep you fully updated.

Uniform

The children look so smart in their new uniforms. It is important that this is maintained to ensure a good work ethic by the children. **Trainers must not to be worn in school apart from for PE.**

Pupils are **not allowed** to wear make-up or nail varnish in school.

Children must have a PE kit with appropriate footwear. This should be a white T-shirt, and black shorts or tracksuit bottoms. A sweatshirt will be useful when the weather becomes cooler.

I have instructed children to speak to children when they are not wearing the correct school uniform. If a

gentle reminder does not resolve the situation, parents will be spoken to by the class teacher and for more serious incidents myself or Mrs Chrysler will intervene. Wearing of the correct school uniform should be seen to run alongside the school wanting to achieve the highest standards for the pupils of Gorse Hill. It is what would be expected at other outstanding schools. If you are experiencing difficulties in providing the correct school uniform or find it a battle to get your child to wear it, please speak to myself or a member of staff and we will see if we can help. I thank you for your support with this.

KS2 SAT Results

A massive well done to last year's Y6 on their fantastic SAT results.

	Level 4+	Level 5+	Level 6
Maths	95%	46%	3%
Reading	90%	46%	-
Spelling, grammar and punctuation.	87%	64%	-
Writing	87%	33%	-

Level 4 is what is expected by the end of Y6, level 5 and level 6 shows attainment that is above what is expected.

Dates For Your Diary

- Wednesday 16th September: Y1 to the Transport Museum
- Tuesday 22nd September, 3.15pm: Y1 parent and child build a pizza
- Wednesday 23rd September at 9am– Y1 Parent FAST breakfast
- Thursday 24th September: School closed for Staff Training Day
- Thursday 8th October, 3.30-6pm, FAST Club starts for Y1 families
- Monday 12th October: basic first aid training for Y5s
- Wednesday 14th October: Parents' Evening
- Friday 23rd October: School closes for half term
- Monday 2nd November: school reopens
- Wednesday 11th November: Individual and family photographs
- Thursday 19th November: Y6 height and weight checks
- 7th-11th December: Y6 Bikeability course
- Tuesday 8th December, 9.30am– Nursery and Reception Christmas performance
- Tuesday 8th December: All KS2 to Z Arts for a Christmas Show
- Thursday 10th December, 9.30am: Nursery and Reception Christmas performance (2nd viewing)
- Friday 11th December, 9.30am: KS1 (Y1 and Y2) Christmas Performance
- Tuesday 15th December, 9.30am: Lower KS2 (Y3 and Y4) Christmas Performance
- Wednesday 16th December, 9.30am: Upper

KS2 (Y5 and Y6) Christmas Performance

- Friday 18th December: School closes for Christmas holidays at 2pm
- Monday 4th January: school reopens.

School Council

Mrs Rodda will be asking children from Y2 to Y6 to stand for the school council. Last year the school council helped with the interview for our new Deputy Head and Assistant Head Teacher. They also helped to organise fund raising events and made other changes to make Gorse Hill a better place. Their role in school is valued and we pride ourselves in making sure our pupils have a voice that we listen to. Please support your child with their application form.