

# Gorse Hill Primary School

## Newsletter

WORKING TOGETHER  
TO DO OUR BEST

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### Dyslexia Friendly School Award

Over the last 2 years, a major focus of our school improvement plan has been about improving speech, language and communication. Part of our development in this area was to achieve dyslexia friendly school status. I am extremely pleased to be able to inform you that we were visited by external assessors in July and we passed

with flying colours. Our certificate will be displayed in the main entrance.

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

19th September 2016

### 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 about two 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. Our new Reception children look so grown up in their school uniform.

A member of Staff is available to speak to/leave a message with, before and after school, on each of the departmental doors. Please feel free to make an appointment at the **school office** for issues that require a longer amount of time.

We said a sad farewell to Miss Cribbin and Mrs Murphy at the end of

July. Mrs Murphy has found a more permanent position at a school in Cadishead whereas Miss Cribbin is gaining experience as a teacher. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them every success for the future.

We also said goodbye to our Y6 pupils who were a credit to the school, and their families. I, for one, will miss seeing them around school.

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

Miss Smith and Miss O'Neill have joined the teaching team. Miss Smith is teaching in Y4 and Miss O'Neill is in Reception. They have both enjoyed their first few

weeks and have been made to feel extremely welcome by all of the children and their parents.



Miss O'Neill



Miss Smith

### School Improvement 2016-17

I continue to be very proud and impressed by the improvements we are making at Gorse Hill.

Our three main priorities for this year are:

1. To continue to raise standards in writing across the school. We introduced Talk 4 Writing in January along with a new cursive handwriting scheme. These need time to embed. What we have noticed from our self-evaluation is that our children are fantastic at answering questions on the Spelling, grammar and Punctuation (SPAG) tests but do not consistently apply this to their independent work. Therefore, our focus will be on the introduction of a new spelling scheme and in look-

ing at how children apply their knowledge of spelling, grammar and punctuation to all of their independent work.

2. To improve the personal development, health and well-being of pupils. There is much in the news at present about children's mental health. Children are being placed under pressure from exams and society and need strategies to deal effectively with everything that life throws at them. I am a firm believer that children who are stressed, worried or anxious will not learn. There is a Mental Health Schools' Award which I hope we will achieve from our work in this area. Last year, we introduced SUMO (Stop, Under-

stand and Move On) as part of the children's learning, giving them some strategies to deal with conflicts. We want to extend this and implement a complete PSHE curriculum with SUMO at the heart. Additionally, we want to be reaccredited with healthy school status so look out for information regarding healthy lunch boxes in the coming months.

3. Our final area for school improvement this year is to ensure that our most vulnerable pupils achieve well. Part of this work will involve looking at the effectiveness of our pupil premium spending.

This will all lend itself to a very exciting year ahead. I will keep you updated on our progress towards these objectives.



## Building Work

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

The new roof, which was completed last December, but unfortunately still leaked, has finally been fixed. The damage to the



ceiling and lights in the lower KS2 corridor has also been rectified and the carpet will be next to be replaced.

The Lower KS2 toilets have been in

desperate need of refurbishment for some time now. The old toilets have been completely ripped out and have been replaced by new, modern facilities.



We were able to refurbish another classroom. Mrs Rodda's new Y6 class will benefit greatly by this improved learning environment. We are just awaiting the arrival of their matching chairs to complete this modern look.

Several classrooms have had their old interactive whiteboards replaced by modern multi-touch screens.

Just before the Summer Holidays,

## 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 staff 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. As you will be aware, last year saw the introduction of a new, more challenging assessment system. Children were no longer given a level but assessed as being either at the required standard for Y6 or not. I am extremely pleased with the results and how we have performed higher than national average in individual subject areas.

	School Results	National Average
Reading	74%	66%
Writing	76%	74%
Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation.	91%	72%
Maths	76%	70%

## Dates For Your Diary

Please look on the school website for our new calendar which will include all of the dates and times of all school events for the entire year. Mrs Rodda is also setting up a weekly E-Newsletter, keeping you up to date with the latest news and messages from your child's class. Please make sure you have provided us with an e-mail address so that you can make full use of this service.

- Wednesday 21st September: EYFS Parents' Meetings, 2.30pm or 5pm
- Monday 26th September: Class 13 to Ordsall Hall
- Tuesday 27th September: Y1 to Underwater Street
- Wednesday 28th September: Class 14 to Ordsall Hall
- Thursday 29th September: FASTER Club (Information to follow)
- Friday 30th September at 9am— MacMillan

Coffee morning

- Friday 30th September: Y5 to Stockport Air Raid Shelter
- Monday 3rd October: Black History Curriculum Day
- Wednesday 5th October: EYFS Reading meeting for parents: 2.30pm or 5pm
- Wednesday 5th October: No Pens Day
- Tuesday 18th October: Halloween Disco: 3.15-4.45 KS1, 5-6.30 for KS2
- Wednesday 19th October at 9.10am: Class 12 Learning Assembly—Parents Welcome
- Friday 21st October: School closes for half-term
- Tuesday 1st November: School re-opens

## Punctualit

We will be enforcing the punctuality aspect of our attendance and punctuality policy. School starts promptly at 9am and finishes at 3.15pm. Being late disrupts the teaching in a class. A child who is late does not have the best start to the day and this can show in their behaviour. Repetitive lateness also means that a child misses out on large chunks of their learning. As parents, it is your responsibility to ensure your child is at school on time and collected on time. A separate letter is attached to this newsletter detailing the main points of the policy and what the consequences of non-compliance will be. I thank you in advance for your support with this.

