

Gorse Hill Primary School

Newsletter

23rd February 2017

WORKING TOGETHER
TO DO OUR BEST

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Polling Day— Advance Warning

I have received notification from the Electoral Team that Gorse Hill School will be used as a polling station on Thursday 4th May for the Mayoral Elections and will therefore be closed to pupils on this

Thank you to the
Co-op.

Our local Co-op shop continues to support the school with fund raising events. Their latest event was a cake sale in support of our work on health and well-being. Thank you from all of the staff and

Health and Well-Being Event-New Year, New Start, New You

As Educators, what we have known for a long time is that: A healthy body = A healthy mind. Furthermore, a healthy mind is an absolute necessity for high quality learning to take place. With this in mind, we set out to make health and well-being one of our school improvement priorities this year.

The seed of an idea was planted early on in the Autumn Term when Senior Leaders were considering holding a workshop about healthy lunchboxes. This quickly gathered in size and momentum until we reached the idea of an event which covered all aspects of health and well-being, for all members of the school community.

As the Deputy Head Teacher and PSHE Coordinator, overall responsibility for organising and running the event fell to me. As Wednesday 11th January approached, I was nervous and excited all at the same time. I had spent many hours in the weeks leading up to the event forging strong links with businesses



and organisations in our local community and ensuring that people could try a wide range of activities.

They deserve a mention because without them and the commitment of all the staff at GHPS, the event would not have been the out-



standing success that it turned out to be. It was fantastic to see people getting free health checks, learning how to box, drinking smoothies, making fruit kebabs and flower arrangements

and having their eyebrows threaded!

So, I needn't have worried! The event was attended by over 80 people and the feedback that we received was both extremely flattering and highly informative. As you may recall, the original concept for the event arose from an idea about healthy lunch boxes. Those people who attended, completed a questionnaire about healthy lunch boxes and in return, they were entered into the free raffle. Overwhelmingly, parents believed that certain foods should be banned from school lunch boxes. They made the following recommendations:



foods high in sugar, food with allergens, fizzy drinks, crisps, sweets, food with high salt and sugar content, chocolate bars and food with

Lower Junior End of Day Arrangements

As our school continues to grow, with now more than 400 pupils on roll, an increasing strain has been placed on the doors at the end of the day. This is especially noticeable at the Lower KS2 door which four classes have to use (Approx 120 children).

I continue to meet with the Local Authority regarding this and I have been assured that the Council Surveyors are looking into the matter for me. However, structural changes to the building will take time to be put in place.

In the meantime, Staff have thought about the issue and propose that the Lower KS2 classes (Classes 7, 8, 9 and 10), will be taken out onto the playground to a well signed, designated area where parents/carers can collect their children from in a safer and more controlled way. Class 10 currently do this successfully already.

This new system will come into effect from Monday 27th February and will be trialled until Easter.

We welcome any feedback on the new system or if any parents have any creative solutions we would love to hear them. Please let a member of staff know your idea.

You can help make the new system successful by ensuring children are collected promptly at 3.15pm from the designated area and to ensure that children have a coat to protect them from the elements whilst waiting to be collected.

Sporting Events and Achievements

Our Year Six children have now finished their Ice Skating unit at Silver Blades in Altrincham and every single one of them has achieved their Level



One (a large number have also achieved Level 2!). Wellbeing Wednesdays have really taken off. This is once every half-term but we have a weekly running club where children from any year (and families) can all join in and run/jog or even walk either

one mile or two kilometres before school. Some teachers will be joining in also. This begins at 8.30am every Wednesday, join in any time after that. Other events on Wellbeing Wednesday have included Yoga, Art Therapy, Boxing, Healthy eating workshops and many more.

On Mondays, Beth Tweddle's Gymnastics academy are in teaching some of our chil-



dren, all the schools they work with made a video about gymnastics. We were runners up and won signed Beth Tweddle merchandise. The winning video, our 'Mannequin



Challenge' will be added to the screen in the Infant Playground this half term.

We have also been working closely with Manchester United, Lancashire Cricket

Congratulations

We extend our best wishes to Mrs Paine on her 25 years anniversary of service with Gorse Hill Primary. Many parents remember being taught by Mrs Paine and she has earned your respect because of the amazing job she has done year on year. We've always taken great pleasure to see her dedication to the children and families of Gorse Hill as she works tirelessly to ensure the best outcomes for those she teaches. We hope

that she will remain with us for many years to come!

I am also pleased to announce that Mrs Langley is expecting her second child. She is due to give birth at the end of June but intends to work right up to her due date. Once Mrs Langley starts her maternity leave, Mrs Chrysler will teach the Nursery on Mrs Langley's days until we break up for the summer holidays.

Staffing

After many Years of service as a Mid-day supervisor and a cleaner prior to this, Mrs Smith has made the decision to hang up her apron and to hand in her notice 4 months before reaching her 70th birthday.

I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her well.

This leaves an opening for a mid-day Assistant. If you or somebody you know would be interested in the position, please look online on the Trafford Jobs' Bulletin for further details.

Dates For Your Diary

Please keep checking the school website for all of the dates and times of all school events for the entire year.

- Monday 27th February: Author (Stuart Reid) visit to school. Opportunity to buy a book and have it signed. See separate letter
- Tuesday 28th March: Y1 to Beatles Experience.
- Thursday 2nd March at 9am Reading Breakfast in the hall.
- Thursday 2nd March- World Book Day- dress up as your favourite character
- Wednesday 15th March: Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 21st March: 2.30pm and 4pm- Y1 Phonics Screening Parents' Meeting
- Tuesday 21st March: Y5 Fire workshop
- Monday 27th March-Wed 29th March- Y5 residential to Robinwood

- 27 March-30th March- Y6 Bikeability
- Tuesday 28th March- Internet Safety workshop (6 x Y6 pupils)
- Wednesday 5th April- School Closes for Easter
- Tuesday 18th April- School re-opens
- Monday 1st May- May Day Bank Holiday
- Thursday 4th May- School closed for polling day
- Monday 8th May-Friday 12th May- Y6 SATS
- Monday 15th May-Friday 26th May- Y2 SATs
- Friday 26th May- School Closes for Whit holidays

Attendance Reward

Congratulations to Class 10 who won the most recent class attendance award and chose to go to



Laser Quest as their reward. Myself and Miss Coxe are keeping a close eye on the attendance to see which class will win