

WORKING TOGETHER
TO DO OUR BEST

Gorse Hill Primary School

Newsletter

VOLUME 4

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Punctuality	1
Charity Fund raising	2
Building Improvements	3
Assessment without levels	4
Staffing + Classes	5
Dates	6

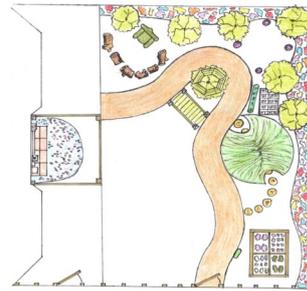
Building Improvements and Rising Numbers

In preparation for the new school year, we have builders in completing a refurbishment of the spare classroom in the upper juniors. This will become a Y5 classroom in September, as we will be two form entry all of the way through due to our increasing popularity and number of pupils on roll compared to when I first started three years ago. I have seen numbers rise from 308 in 2012 to 368 currently.

For the first time in a long time, we are completely full in Reception from September and even have a waiting list. Any families in Nursery who have not applied through Trafford Admissions will not have a place in September. In order to further enhance our EYFS outside area, we will be developing a forest school

area which will include sensory gardens, mud kitchen, mini-beast hotels and much more natural resources.

It is very well known that developments in technology are very rapid. In order to ensure that we are using the



latest kit, we have had the latest LCD

touchscreens installed to replace some of the old and worn out interactive whiteboards in 5 of the classrooms.

As the demand for a space to work with groups or to hold a confidential meeting rises, the existing KS1 toilet area is being renovated and redesigned. This will include a new toilet block, storage space, meeting room and intervention space.

And finally...

Trafford have given us the go-ahead to have a new roof. This work is due to start in the Summer holidays and is likely to take about 13 weeks. There could be some disruption to school organisation as different sections are completed, and I ask for your patience during this time.



Charity Fund Raising

We are very proud of Adele Ward in Class 6. Several weeks ago, Adele decided to have her hair cut off for charity. She has raised over £300 so far. Adele would like to thank all of her Gorse Hill Community for their generous donations and to let you know that she is still accepting contributions if you would like to donate. Please send all donations to Mrs Paine.



On the 12th of July 2015, Miss Ferguson, our Year 3 Teaching Assistant, will be participating in the Manchester to Blackpool Charity Bike Ride. The colossal 65 mile cycle will be her longest ride she has ever embarked on and is for a great cause, raising money for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

The money raised will help the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital to continue its fantastic care and support for children and their families in the North West during challenging times in their lives.

We would like to help support Miss Ferguson raise money by organising a fun non-uniform day where children can come dressed as their favourite sports stars on Friday, 3rd of July for £1 per family. All the money that we raise will go to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, and better yet, as Miss Ferguson is cycling with a team comprising of British Gas employees, British Gas will double the first £1000 of donations.

Entrances

Please can I remind parents that children must use the pupil gates at the start and end of the day and not the main entrance through the car park. This poses a significant risk to children.

I will be closing the car park gates between 8.55am and 9.05 each day in an attempt to prevent this from happening in the future.

Punctuality

There are an increasing number of children and families arriving late for school on a regular basis. Moreover, there are a considerable number of children being picked up from school late.

Children who arrive late to school disrupt their learning and the flow of the lesson. Arriving at school on time leads to good habits forming from an early age in anticipation for when they start work.

School officially starts at 9 am. We open the doors at 8.50 am so that children can be settled in class and ready to learn at 9 am. School finishes at 3.15pm, yet we still have children waiting to be collected at

3.30pm or later.

The Government has introduced a new policy regarding persistent lateness. With immediate effect, any children who are persistently late will be subject to the following procedures in line with DFE Guidelines:

1. Warning Letter from School
2. 2nd School Letter issued
3. Meeting with the School's Attendance Officer and the Education Welfare Officer to explain the level of lateness.
4. Fixed penalty notice issued at

a cost of £60 per child per person with parental responsibility. If this is not paid within 21 days, it will increase to £120 per child per person with parental responsibility.

I fully understand that, on an odd occasion, you may be late to collect your child from school. However, it is expected that you would contact school under these circumstances. Children who are regularly not collected from school on time will be reported to Social Services as an issue of neglect.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support and understanding with this matter.

Assessment Without Levels

This year is the last year that Y2 and Y6 will receive a SATs level. From next year, there will be a new assessment system across the whole school with new tests being introduced at the end of Y2 and Y6.

Schools will be reporting to parents whether children are meeting the expected level for that year group or if they are working towards the expected

level. Y6 will receive a standardised score in maths, reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Children who receive a score of 100 or more will be working at the expected standard for Y6. Children who score less than 100 will be assessed as working towards the expected standard.

Staff in Y1, Y3, Y4 and Y5 have already been assessing children against the new assessment

criteria for the new curriculum but will report back to you as a level in July for your ease.

I will hold meetings for parents at the start of the new term to tell you more about the new assessment systems we have introduced and what it means for you and your child.

Reports will be sent out on Friday 17th July.

Staffing

Since the last newsletter, I have appointed an Assistant Head Teacher. Following an extremely rigorous interview process, I am able to inform you that Mrs Rodda was the successful candidate. I would like to thank those parents who gave up their time to help me with the interview process.

There will be a few staffing changes between now and September.

Mrs Spencer is retiring from her current position at the end of this half term. However, I am thrilled to have managed to persuade her to come back as a class teacher for three days a week from September, but without any of the leadership responsibilities she currently has.

Mrs Paine has decided to start a phased retirement which means that her hours will reduce to three days. She will class share with Mrs Durkan who also works 3 days a week at the moment.

Mrs Cameron is now a fully qualified teacher following her success on a PGCE course over the last 18 months. She has been



appointed as a teacher from September and

will be teaching one of the Y2 classes. Teachers for classes for September have now been allocated and are as follows:

Nursery— Mrs MacDonald
 Class 1— Miss Ostrowski
 Class 2— Mrs Chrysler and Mrs Langley
 Class 3— Miss Dowell
 Class 4— Miss Coates
 Class 5— Mrs Durkan and Mrs Paine
 Class 6— Mrs Cameron
 Class 7— Mrs O'Breasail
 Class 8— Miss Walsh
 Class 9— Mrs Rodda
 Class 10— Miss James
 Class 11— Mr Trier
 Class 12— Mrs Schofield
 Class 13— Mrs Tahanci
 Class 14— Mrs Spencer and Mr Donaghy

Parents will receive a letter informing you about the class your child will be in from September.

We are having a 'Class Swap' morning on Wednesday 16th July. This will give your child

Dates For Your Diary

- **Thursday 25th June: 2pm and 5pm, new Reception Class Parents' Meeting**
- **Friday 26th June at 2.15pm: Y1 Learning Assembly— Parents/guardians welcome**
- **Monday 6th -Friday 10th July— Y6 trip to France**
- **Tuesday 7th July- Whole School Curriculum RE day— focus on Sikhism**
- **Friday 10th July— Whole School French curriculum day**
- **Tuesday 14th July: KSI Sports' Day at 1.15pm**
- **Wednesday 15th July: Meet your new teacher class swap morning**
- **Wednesday 15th July— Y3 to Extrafordganza**
- **Wednesday 15th July: EYFS Sports' Day at 1.15pm**
- **Thursday 16th July: KS2 Sports' Day at 1.15pm**
- **Friday 17th July— Annual Reports out to parents**
- **Friday 17th July— Class 9 to Dunham Massey**
- **Tuesday 21st July: Reception Graduation at 2pm**
- **Thursday 23rd July: Reception Trip to the Airport**
- **Wednesday 22nd July: Y6 Leavers' Bowling trip**
- **Thursday 23rd July at 7pm: Y6 Leavers' Assembly (no young children allowed)**
- **Friday 24th July— School Closes for the Summer at 2pm. No after school club this day.**
- **Wednesday 2nd September—School opens**

Have a happy and safe summer holiday.