

WORKING TOGETHER
TO DO OUR BEST

Gorse Hill Primary School Newsletter

20 April 2015

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Summer Uniform

Children may now wear summer uniform. This comprises of yellow gingham dresses for girls and grey school shorts for boys. School shoes must still be worn.

School closed on Polling Day: Thursday 7th May

Home School Communication

We are always looking for ways to improve our communication with you at home. Of course we have typical methods such as home school planners, newsletters, the website, text messaging service, the blog and twitter to name but a few, but to improve further most of you will have noticed the large free standing electronic screen on the play ground. We are one of the first schools in Trafford to have one of these screens. The top section is a place where staff can upload videos showing children's learning and other content. The bottom half of the screen has a messaging board and a ticker tape. This is where you will find up to

the minute information regarding events at school. We are hoping to create some videos in a variety of languages to communicate better with those members of our community who have English as a second/additional language.

Myself and my governors would be interested in any feedback you may have about the screen's use.



Water Bottles

On Mrs Chrysler's return to school, we will be launching our personalized water bottles to all classes.

The benefits of drinking water on children's learning and health have been scientifically proven. Children already have access to water throughout the day but the use of a named Gorse Hill water bottle will improve our systems, hygiene and accessibility. Children will be keeping their bottles in school and they will be cleaned in the school's kitchen dishwasher on a regular basis.



Staffing

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Langley has now returned to work 3 days a week following her maternity leave. She will be teaching across EYFS and KS1 to cover teachers' PPA time. She will teach Class 4 on Mondays.

Mrs Bloor will be reducing her hours from 30th April to concentrate fully on her union role in Trafford.

Congratulations go to Miss Thompson on her new job at Lostock College. Her role at Lostock College in the Learning Support Team mentoring and coaching young people is an area that Mrs Thompson is passionate about. Unfortunately, this means that she has had to hand in her

notice at Gorse Hill but I'm sure she will pop in to school regularly to see us all.

Mrs Chrysler will be absent this half term after having an operation over the Easter holidays. I'm sure you will join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

I have appointed some new Mid-day Assistants to replace those who left earlier this year. Miss Morton and Mrs Rehan have settled in well to life at



Miss Morton



Mrs Rehan

Gorse Hill.

As our popularity in the local area continues to grow, I will be increasing the number of junior classes from September

making Gorse Hill a two-form entry school all the way through. I have advertised for an Assistant Head Teacher to act as third in charge in Mine and Mrs Chrysler's absence and to teach the additional class. I will inform parents of the outcome of the interview process in due course.

World Book Day

On Friday, 13th March we celebrated World Book Day. The children and Staff dressed up as their favourite book character. We had lots of activities and events going on throughout the day such as: a special reading assembly where staff shared excerpts from their favourite children's story.

All of the lessons were based around books and reading for that day, and the children produced some beautiful work which is around school.

We were happy to see so many of our children engaged with books and reading and all of the teachers had a great day too.

Easter Activities

Thank you to those of you who have bought raffle tickets for the Easter Raffle.

Well done to all of you who decorated an egg for the school council's 'Decorate an Egg' competition. The designs, as usual, were extremely creative and innovative.

School Crossing Patrol

Following Gorse Hill's 'Save Our School Crossing Patrol' campaign, I am pleased to announce that the Council have decided to keep our Lollipop Lady, Sue. Thanks to all of you who have supported the campaign especially those who took part in the 'Slow Cross' event. The safety of our children at this busy crossing point could have been seriously jeopardized if we had lost our Lollipop Lady.

Free First Aid Course for Parents

Recent National and Local news has highlighted the importance of First Aid in all EYFS settings to avoid tragic incidents. At Gorse Hill we pride ourselves on the number of staff trained in first aid but would you know how to deal with an accident in your home? On **Monday 27th April**,

I am offering 2 **free** sessions of basic first aid training for parents. One at 9.15am and one at 12.45. These are being provided by Trafford College. If you would like to book a place, please come to the school office and complete an enrolment form.

Winter Games Festival

Mr O'Neill, Mrs Spencer and Miss Dula took our Year 6 pupils for 10 weeks of training in Winter Games: 6 weeks of ice skating lessons ...and then a following 4 weeks of specialist training in ice hockey, speed skating or figure skating. They then competed against other schools from

Trafford in a full day festival in February.

We were extremely proud of all of the children and very pleased to see one of our speed skating teams winning the competition. To be crowned Trafford Speed Skating champions.



Dates For Your Diary

- 22 April-24th April: Y5s to Robinwood
- Monday 27th April: Free Paediatric first aid course for parents (9.15 or 12.45)
- Monday 27th April at 3.15pm: Y6 SATs Parents' meeting
- Tuesday 28th April 2015 at 2.30pm: Y2 Parents' SATs meeting
- Monday 4 May- school closed for bank holiday
- Tuesday 5th April at 2.30pm: Y1 Phonics Screening Test Parents' meeting
- Thursday 7 May- School closed for polling day- general election
- Mon 11th May- Friday 15th May: Y6 SATS
- 18-22 May- St John's Ambulance workshops across school
- Friday 22nd May: school closes at 3.15pm for Whit holidays
- Wednesday 10th June: Class photos
- Thursday 11th June at 5pm: New Nursery Parents' meeting
- Mon 15th June-Friday 19th June: Y1 and Y2 Phonics Screening Tests
- Monday 22nd June at 6pm: Y6 concert at Bridgewater Hall
- Tuesday 23rd June 3.30pm: New Nursery Stay 'N' Play
- Monday 6th July-Friday 10th July: Y6 to France
- Wednesday 8th July: Y3 to Event City: 'Extraffordganza Event'
- Friday 24th July at 9.15am: Y6 Leavers' Assembly
- Friday 24th July: School closes for summer at 2pm.
- Wednesday 2nd September: School reopens.