



Welcome message

We've had another great week at Goresbrook; it was wonderful to see our Year 7s taking on leadership responsibilities with our Primary pupils in the mornings, helping with Maths and reading at the start of the day. Our learning environments in Primary have been transformed this week; from 'People who help us' (including a replica Goresbrook School) in Nursery, to Dinosaur caves in Reception, to astronauts in the Year 2 library and Great Fires of London in Year 1... well done to staff for making this happen!

Well done to all families who had 100% attendance this week; overall, our attendance since Christmas has not been good enough. Pupils should be brought into school if they are well enough to get out of bed. I look forward to seeing the attendance improve next week.

Vacancies

We have a number of vacancies on our website at the moment including Secondary administrator, Receptionist and Business Manager. Please do share these with family or friends who may be interested. Details on application process can be found: <http://www.goresbrookschool.org.uk/Staff/Vacancies>

Volunteer opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to support with Primary breakfast club from 8-8.30am in the mornings and also listening to our Secondary students reading throughout the week particularly from 8am each day and on Wednesday afternoons. If you are interested in either of these roles please email Dorcias.ologunde@goresbrookschool.org.uk

Website

You will notice some changes to our website which we hope will make it more user friendly. Please keep an eye out for more changes on here within the coming weeks. A big thank you to Miss Munday for her work on the website.

Borrowed uniform

If your child comes to school in the incorrect uniform or missing a tie for example we will lend your child a Goresbrook item for the day. Please ensure you return the item to the reception within a week of borrowing it. **Items not returned within the week will be charged to your parent pay account.** We have had to do this due to the large amount of items that are not being returned which is costing the school a significant amount.

Parent survey

Thank you for taking part in our Autumn Parent Survey. We will look at suggestions for improvement and feedback in due course. I am delighted to read how many of you are extremely happy with all aspects of school. Here are a few highlights: **"The school is very well run and I have no concerns"**

"I think the school is fantastic, a big thank you to everyone for the effort and support you give"

"My child has come on leaps and bounds since joining Goresbrook"

"My son is progressing well, he comes home happy every day"

Changes to uniform purchasing process

- 1) Parent/Carer emails their child's name and uniform required including quantity and size to: uniformsales@goresbrookschool.org.uk
- 2) Parent/Carer visits Parent Pay where you will find the option to pay for uniform.
- 3) Once payment has been received a member of staff will contact you to let you know that your order is ready for collection via the timescales below or given directly to your child in Year 7.

Emails and payment received before 12pm on Monday	Available for collection on Tuesday from 8am -8.25am or 9am onwards and after school
Emails and payment received after 12pm on Monday up to 12pm on Wednesday	Available for collection on Thursday from 8am-8.25am or 9am onwards and after school
Emails received after 12pm on Wednesday	Available for collection on the following Tuesday from 8am-8.25am or 9am onwards and

Next week

On Wednesday next week we will be holding our Curriculum Information Meeting for Year 1 parents at 3.45-4.45pm and (repeated 5-6pm). Please do come along to find out about how best to support your child with Phonics, and what the phonics screen is in the Summer term in Year 1. On Friday next week all parents/carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are invited to stay behind after drop off from 8:30am-9:15am for our Family Friday Come Learn With Me. This is a great opportunity to learn alongside your child.

Have a lovely weekend,

Clare

Attendance & Punctuality

On return to school please bring in a hand-written note or complete the Return to School form at the front reception even if you phoned up to let us know your child is ill. This is valid for genuine illness of two days. More than two days absence requires medical proof e.g. a prescription bottle or a copy of a prescription or even the appointment card are acceptable.

If your child is up and about at home then they are generally well enough to be at school. If your child is too ill to attend school please ensure you phone **0203 597 6666 and select option 1** as soon as possible that morning and every day that they are absent. **Alternatively you can contact our Attendance Officer, Mrs Rebeiro directly on 07557 083 767.**

Please note that if you arrive at school and the gate is closed, you need to walk your child through main reception. Your child will be classed as late.

A reminder for collection in the afternoons (Primary): If you collect your child more than 10 minutes late on three occasions in a half term, we are required to charge you £10.00. As per our policy, any further instances of lateness in that half term will incur a charge of £10.00 per occasion.

The classes with the highest attendance in each year group this week are:

Reception: Storyteller class 98.4%

Year 1: Engineer class 98.7%

Year 2: Surgeon class 98.3%

Year 7: Scafell Pike 93.5%

Primary Attendance Awards

Well done to those children who received a blue 100% attendance and punctuality sticker for this week. If you didn't receive one today please try really hard to get one next week.



Applications for Reception 2017

Children currently in our Nursery have received letters this week explaining how to apply to Barking & Dagenham for a place at Goresbrook School in Reception 2017. Spare copies are available in Reception. Please ask Miss Bone if you have any queries. Please submit your application as soon as possible. **The closing date is 15 January 2017** and all applications are online via the B&D website.

Email the Governors

We now have a dedicated mailbox set up for you to email any feedback or comments directly to the Chair of our Local Governing Body : Governors@goresbrookschoo.org.uk We have a vacancy for a new parent Governor. We would like to invite any interested parents to contact Governors@goresbrookschoo.org.uk to express interest ASAP. Elections will be held in due course.

Coffee Morning with Debbie (Primary)

Following the success of the recent coffee mornings held by Debbie our family support worker and our school nursing team, we have booked further meetings. Monday 30th Jan at 9am will look at head lice prevention and management and on Monday 20th February at 9am we will look at routines and boundaries.

Year 7 French Spelling Bee

Year 7 French Spelling Bee club will run on a Thursday from 3.30-4pm. Those students who are taking part have already been informed.

Community helpers

If your job falls into the category of 'people who help us' (emergency services, vet, doctor, nurse, dentist, optician, postman) and you would be willing to come in and talk briefly to the nursery classes as part of their topic please email Beatrice.mason@goresbrookschoo.org.uk

Phonics book for Reception

Children in reception will now be receiving a phonics book to read at home every Tuesday starting next week (17th). Please ensure that this is returned to school the following Tuesday. When reading at home with your child, encourage them to use their sounds to read each word and try to read the book several times during the week. Repeated practise helps the children to become fluent readers and to understand the meaning of the text. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

Primary clubs schedule for this term

Day	Club	Dismissal
Mon	Cricket YR1 & YR2	Front Office
	Arts and crafts YR1 & YR2	Illustrator class
	Homework and Reading Club Yr1 only	Architect Class
	Singing YR1 & YR2	Classroom
	Reception Tennis	Front Office
Tues	Netball YR1 & YR2	Front Office
	Football Year 2 only	Front Office
	Reception dance	Front Office
	Reception Arts Club	Front Office
Wed	Drama Club YR1 & YR2	Front Office
	Music Club YR1 & YR2	Architect Class
	Study Club Yr2 Only	Year 2 Entrance
Thur	Badminton YR1 & YR2	Front Office
	Football Year 1 only	Front Office
Fri	Tennis YR1 & YR2	Secondary Double doors outside front office
	Basketball YR1 & YR2	
	Reception Football	Secondary Double doors outside front office

We cannot guarantee that all clubs will be inside every week. It may be sometimes take place in the playground.

Key Dates

Monday 16th January—please hand in your Reception consent forms for the trip. Volunteers will be published on the 23rd.

Wednesday 18th January—Curriculum Information Meeting 3.45-4.45pm Year 1 (repeated 5-6pm)

Friday 20th January - Family Friday Come Learn With Me for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, 8:30am-9:15am

Friday 20th January—school nurse drop in 8.30am.

Tuesday 24th January—Social Coffee Morning whole school 8am- 9am. Please note staff will not be present at this event.

Wednesday 25th January—Curriculum Information Meeting 3.45-4.45pm Year 2 (repeated 5-6pm)

Thursday 26th January 2017—Year 7 trip to the Tower of London. Trip information will be communicated shortly.

Friday 27th January—Reception trip to Natural History Museum. Consent letters have been sent out, copies available at reception.

Monday 30th January—9am coffee morning with Debbie and school nurse. Topic: Head lice

Wednesday 1st Feb—Year 7 trip to Cambridge University. Trip information will be communicated shortly.

Monday 6th Feb—Year 7 milestone assembly. You will receive an invite if your child is taking part.

Friday 10th Feb—Fantastic Finish for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at 3pm.

February half term—Monday 13th February 2017 – Friday 17th February 2017.

Monday 20th February—first day back—breakfast club available for Primary from 8am and Secondary from 7.30am. Primary clubs resume as normal.

Monday 20th February —9am coffee morning with Debbie and school nurse. Topic: Routines and boundaries