



Welcome message

As the end of term is upon us, it is an important moment to pause and reflect on our remarkable journey here at Goresbrook. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together this term; the start of our Secondary school, the growth of our Primary school, the development of our team, and the growing support of our community.

It's always a pleasure to visit classrooms across the school to see our pupils flourishing in their learning. From Nursery to Year 7, the achievements of every single pupil should be celebrated at this special time of the year.

The last week has been a great demonstration and celebration of our achievements at Goresbrook: family Nursery crafts day on Monday, an outstanding Reception Nativity last week, Year 1 fabulous play for Fantastic Finish, Year 2 beautiful singing, and the Year 7 milestone assembly. It is a delight to see these magical moments when the community comes together.

But the true magic here happens on a daily basis; minute-by-minute, lesson-by-lesson, seeing the pupils making exceptional progress in their learning. And this remarkable learning journey is only possible through the dedication and commitment of our staff team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of our staff team for all that they do to help make Goresbrook such a special place.

We are sadly saying farewell to three members of staff this term who have been with us since the Summer this year.

Jo Castro (Assistant Principal Primary), who has been unwell for the last few weeks, is sadly leaving. We would like to thank her for all of her support with Primary, and in particular Year 2. We wish her a speedy recovery and all the best in the future.

Nicki Cocks (Business Manager) has been a great support this term with the final parts of our building move, setting up new catering contracts, Parentpay and much more besides. She will be missed on the gate saying good morning to all of our Primary children. Nicki takes up a new post in Essex in January, and we wish her all the best.

Kris Shukla has worked across Opticians (earlier in term) and Surgeons this term, and has made great contributions to the Year 2 team. We wish him all the best as he continues his teacher training in London.

Changes to reception procedures and uniform purchasing in January

There are a number of changes that will be effective from January 4th 2017 regarding reception processes and uniform purchasing. These include opening the Secondary reception for all Year 7 students to use and also moving all uniform sales to parent pay. You will have received a letter today regarding the changes. Please do read it carefully and speak to a member of staff if you have any queries or email office@goresbrookschool.org.uk.

After-school clubs from January (Primary)

Letters have gone out in book bags confirming the club choice you have been allocated. Please see Mrs Mehmet if you did not receive your letter or if you have any queries. Please note that if you have been allocated a paid club this is **NOT CONFIRMED** until payment is received via Parent pay. The deadline for payment is **Tuesday 3rd January at 9am. Please do not leave it until then to avoid any last minute issues.** Paid clubs start in the first week back, free staff- clubs for Year 1 and 2 do not start until Monday 9th January 2017.

Mrs Hussain

Congratulations to Mrs Hussain who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on Friday. Mother and baby are doing well.

Have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you in January,

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.



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.

Parking

Please note that parents should be parking in Goals or the Vue cinema car park. You are not permitted to park outside the school gates or the bay area.

Childminders

A number of parents have enquired about local childminders in the area. Barking & Dagenham have provided us with website details below. Once you access this website please enter your postcode to produce a list of registered childminders in the local area. Please note that Goresbrook School are not endorsing the work of any of these childminders, it is up to parents to make further enquiries on the quality of care provided <https://online.lbbd.gov.uk/FSD/Search.aspx?searchID=2128>

Menu changes

A number of menu changes have taken place as a result of your feedback and meeting with Miss Cocks. The new menu is available at reception in the parent information area.

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@goresbrookschool.org.uk We have a vacancy for a new parent Governor. We would like to invite any interested parents to contact Governors@goresbrookschool.org.uk to express interest by 4th January 2017. Elections will be held in due course.

Outside Area

Thank you for all of your help to raise money for the outside area. We have raised the following so far: International food festival - £172.54, raffle sales at the food festival £501.00, Summer fair £2819 and we won the ASDA charity donation of £500. The above has contributed to many of our new outdoor resources, such as playground markings, football goals, basketball hoops and various other outdoor play equipment which has provided our children with stimulating outside learning activities.

Paperless newsletter

Please note this will be the last edition of the newsletter that will be printed. From January 2017 onwards the newsletter will be on our website and emailed out each week. A very limited number of paper copies will be available in reception but these will not be handed out on the gate to reduce wasted paper and printing.

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.

Key Dates

Tuesday 3rd January 2017—INSET - no school for pupils

Tuesday 3rd January 2017—**9am deadline for club payments. Please pay before this time to avoid losing your club space.**

Wednesday 4th January 2017—first day back for all pupils. Breakfast club available for Secondary at 7.30am and Primary at 8am. Primary paid clubs start this week for those who have paid. **Those who have not paid will not have a club.**

Friday 6th January 2017—Reception/ Nursery Open morning 9.15am-10.15am

Monday 9th January 2017—staff free after -school clubs start for Primary.

Wednesday 11th January - Curriculum Information Meeting 3.45-4.45pm
Reception (repeated 5-6pm)

Thursday 12th January - FROGS meeting, 9am

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, 8:30-9:15am

Tuesday 24th January—Coffee Morning whole school 8am- 9am

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. Consent letters will go out when we return from the Christmas break.

Friday 27th January—Reception trip to Natural History Museum. Consent letters will go out when we return from the Christmas break.

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