



Welcome message

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you enjoyed a peaceful festive break. Pupils have come back rested and rejuvenated for the term ahead, and have settled back into their routines very quickly.

In Primary, our children are excited about their new topics: Nursery are learning about 'People who Help us', Reception are learning about dinosaurs, and will be palaeontologists next week! Year 1 started their 'Great Fire of London' topic with a really exciting audio experience on Thursday—they were transported to Pudding Lane in 1666 through a wonderful visit from 'Now Press Play'. Year 2 have enjoyed getting to know their new character 'Katie Morag' in their English learning, and discovering lots about Space in their topic learning.

On Friday's celebration assembly, it was great to see so many children receive certificates and stars for 100% attendance and punctuality for the first term. I would like to remind those families who did not start back on time this week the importance of consistent attendance. Every day of learning matters.

You will notice that we had an incident of fly tipping outside the school boundary over the Christmas break. The council are clearing it away imminently, and the police are investigating our CCTV footage which identifies the perpetrators.

Primary Leadership

We are delighted to welcome Kevin Holmes to Goresbrook's Senior Leadership Team, in the role of Head of School (Primary) for a fixed period of time. Kevin brings a wealth of experience as a Primary Headteacher, and education advisor in Kent. He will be working with the team over the coming months while we recruit further positions in Primary Senior Leadership.

Changes to reception procedures

As you know we are no longer accepting cash for uniform payments and we have also made some changes to our reception processes.

General queries such as lost property, picking up pre-ordered uniform (Tuesdays and Thursdays only) or handing in trip consent forms, will only be dealt with on reception from 8-8.25am and then from 9am onwards and also in the afternoons until 4pm. Between 8.25am and 9am reception staff will only be dealing with any latecomers to school. It is our priority that children who come in to school late are registered (via the late book) and taken to lessons as soon as possible. This is why other queries will not be dealt with at this time.

If you are bringing in your child late it is essential that you sign the late book as this acts as the register until the late mark is recorded. Therefore we need to know your child is in the building in case of a fire.

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

If you are not sure of the size, please indicate the size you think you will need and if this is not suitable we will exchange it as before the tags are removed.

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 after school

Next week

On Tuesday next week we will be having professional school photos taken again for those children who were absent in September or who have recently joined us.

On Wednesday next week we will be holding a Reception Curriculum Information event. Please do come along if you can to hear about what children will be learning this term and how you can support at home.

On Thursday next week at 9am we have our next FROGS meeting. Please do come along if you are interested in getting involved in fundraising and events.

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: Author class 100%

Year 1: Designer class 96.7%

Year 2: Surgeon class 95.3%

Year 7: Ben Nevis 97.9%

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.

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>

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. Please find the letter emailed with this newsletter for more information.

Year 7 Home Learning Club

Year 7 Home Learning Club will begin again after school on Monday 9th January. The club runs for 30 minutes and all students are welcome to attend. Using our daily quizzing, some students will be asked to stay behind each afternoon for additional support on a specific topic.

After-school clubs from January (Primary)

Thank you to all those parents who paid via parent pay by the deadline specified. If you have had trouble with Parent pay clubs payments please email aliye.mehmet@goresbrookschoo.org.uk. Thank you for your patience as we transition to parent pay.



Key Dates

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

Tuesday 10th January 2017—individual school photos for those who missed them in September.

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, 8:30am-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 will go out shortly.

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.