



General News

Message from Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Hopefully the cold weather is behind us and we can look forward to the joys of spring. We have an action packed half term! Chester Zoo was a fantastic day out on Friday. I was so proud of how all our children behaved on the visit and the animals noticed to as so many came out of hiding to see us!

I had my first meeting with our school council last month. It was great to hear their ideas about how we can make Gorsewood even better. One idea was to have sugar free juice on a Friday with lunch. Our Year 6 councillors wrote to Bev, who agreed and this has now been implemented. Councillors are currently asking their classes about after school club ideas and playground play equipment ready for the next meeting before half term.

If you have any ideas we would also love to hear from you. Please add them into the suggestion box at the front of school by the office.

Kind Regards

Miss E Jackson
Headteacher

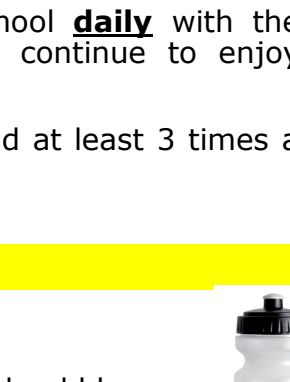
Bedtime Story Boxes

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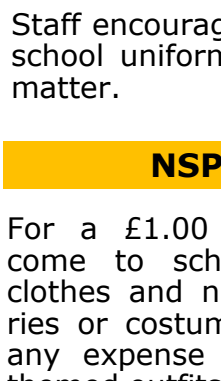
At Gorsewood we value reading and aim for all children to enjoy reading and become avid readers.

Our new bedtime story boxes are now up and running!

We would love to have any photographs shared or Tweeted of you enjoying the story and a hot chocolate!



Home Reading



KS2 children will be bringing home reading records this week.

These must be returned to school **daily** with the reading books so children can continue to enjoy reading their books in class.

We expect parents/carers to read at least 3 times a week with their child.

General Reminders

Water Bottles

A reminder that water bottles for use in school should be named, only contain water and should also have a sports cap. School water bottles are available from the office for £2.00.



Uniform

A reminder that all pupils are expected to wear the correct school uniform or PE uniform (on PE days).

Staff encourage children to be smart and presentable in wearing the school uniform and we also ask for parents/carers support in this matter.

NSPCC Number Day - Friday 3rd February

For a £1.00 donation children may come to school wearing their own clothes and number inspired accessories or costumes. Please don't go to any expense to create your number themed outfits/accessories.

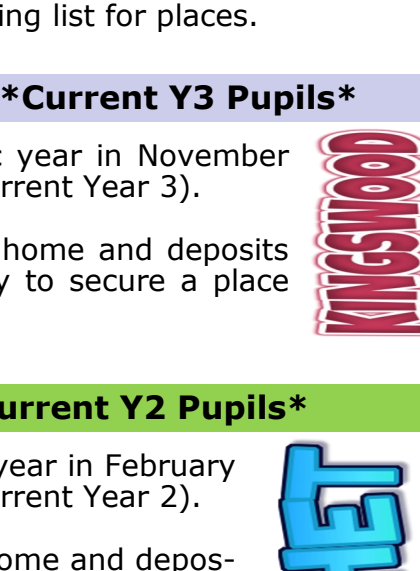
Donations can be paid online or at the office.



Fun Food Chef - 2nd, 3rd & 6th February

We are excited to welcome the Fun Food Chef to school on 2nd, 3rd and 6th February.

All classes will take part in an interactive experience as they explore the joys of preparing fresh and, where possible local produce, then even better, tasting some great food!



Please ensure you have given consent on the School Gate for your child to take part.

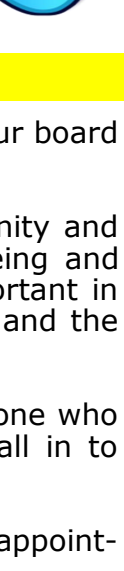
Please also note any pupil who has nail varnish on will not be able to take part.

If you have booked on for a family session and are unable to attend please let school know as there is a waiting list for places.

Kingswood Visit (Nov 2023) *Current Y3 Pupils*

This visit will take place next academic year in November 2023 for pupils who will be in Year 4 (current Year 3).

A letter with full details has been sent home and deposits of £15.00 are required by 3rd February to secure a place for your child.



CHET Visit (Feb 2024) * Current Y2 Pupils*

This visit will take place next academic year in February 2024 for pupils who will be in Year 3 (current Year 2).

A letter with full details has been sent home and deposits of £20.00 are required by 24th March to secure a place for your child.



Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our board of governors.

Governors are the link between the school and the community and representatives of all those with an interest in the well-being and reputation of the school are needed. Parents are very important in keeping the governing body aware of the views of parents and the local community. They are a vital part of our team.

Our chair of governors and myself are happy to talk to anyone who is interested or might want further information. Please call in to school.

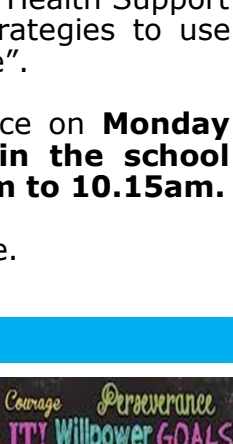
Please note that for the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to a vetting process and identity check.

Celebrating Success

Well done to all of the children who received a reward in one of our Celebration Assemblies last month.

We continue to recognise kindness, resilience and excellent effort in our learning.

We hope to invite parents/carers to our assemblies again soon so look out for more information.



Payments to School

Where possible our preferred method of payment to school for trips, tuck and uniform is via the School Gateway.

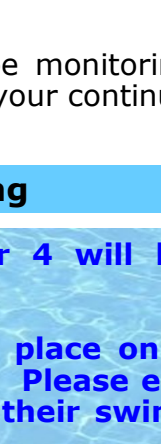
However in cases where parents/carers are unable to access the School Gateway we can now accept card payments at the school office.



Tuck

Tuck money is still outstanding for this academic year for some pupils. **The amount due for the full year is £5.00** which covers daily fruit.

We would appreciate payment for those who have not yet paid.



Coffee Morning

It's good to talk!

We would like to invite our parents, carers and grandparents to join us for a coffee morning with the Halton Mental Health Support Team "Coping Strategies to use with Young People".



Y6 Norton Priory

Please can all parents/carers consent/pay online so your child can take part. This visit takes place on 8th February.

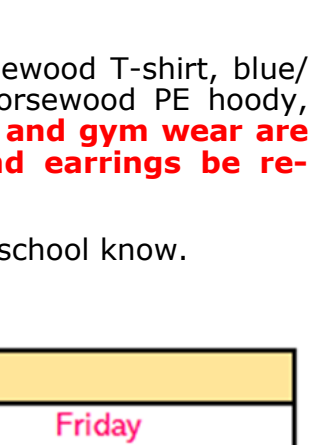
This will take place on **Monday 13th February in the school hall from 9.15am to 10.15am.**

Please book online.

Value of the Month

This month our values is: **Determination**

We will be exploring the importance of being determined and learning from people who have changed the world with their determination to make a difference.



"Each time you fall down, just get back up. If you can pick yourself up, you can also move forward." Daisaku Ikeda

Parking Around School

Please can we remind all parents/carers to park safely and responsibly outside the school.

Many cars are still parking on the single yellow lines and blocking pavements too which is putting children at risk.

The 'Drop & Go' area is often under used and we would encourage parents/carers to use this for an easy drop off. Mrs Newby is always there to walk your child into school.

Our local PSCOs will be monitoring parking around school. Thank you for your continued support.



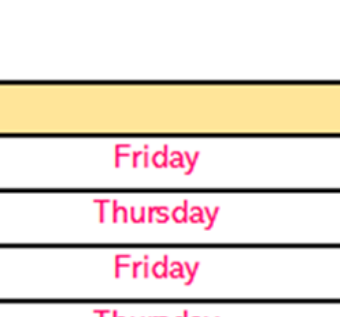
Swimming

This half term Year 4 will be swimming.

Swimming will take place on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their swimming kit with them.

After School Clubs

All clubs will run until w/c 13th February. New clubs will be offered after the half term break.



PE Reminder

A reminder that children should come to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE.

PE kit consists of a plain white T-shirt or Gorsewood T-shirt, blue/black shorts or black jogging bottoms and Gorsewood PE hoody, sweatshirt or fleece. **Please note sports kits and gym wear are not PE uniform. Please can watches and earrings be removed on PE days.**

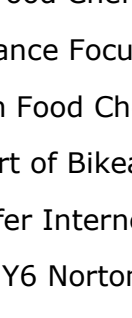
If you are struggling to buy PE items please let school know.

Timetable

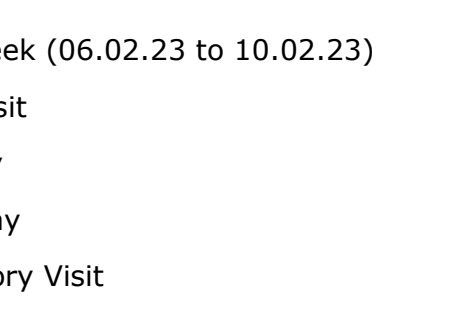
| Year | Days | |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|
| Year R | Wednesday | Friday |
| Year 1 | Tuesday | Thursday |
| Year 2 | Monday | Friday |
| Year 3 | Monday | Thursday |
| Year 4 | Wednesday | Thursday (Swimming) |
| Year 5 | Tuesday | Friday |
| Year 6 | Wednesday | Thursday |

Marvellous Me

Please make sure you have signed up to Marvellous Me so you can be kept updated with what your child is doing in school each day.



Twitter



@gorsewoodprimar

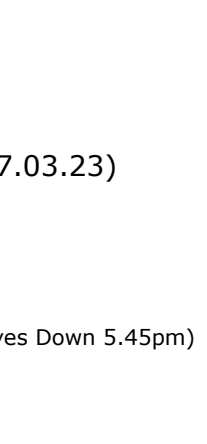
School Houses

You will know that the whole school including staff have now been organised into our school houses. Everyone has now received a badge to show which house they belong to.

Children continue to work hard to earn these points. The winning house for this half term will receive a treat.

The current scores are:

Ash 3340 Oak 3160
Birch 2885 Sycamore 3276



Well done to ASH who are the current leaders!

Diary Dates

- Thursday 2nd Feb - Fun Food Chef Visit
- Friday 3rd Feb - Fun Food Chef Visit
- Mon 6th Feb - Attendance Focus Week (06.02.23 to 10.02.23)
- Monday 6th Feb - Fun Food Chef Visit
- Monday 6th Feb - Start of Bikeability
- Tuesday 7th Feb - Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 8th Feb - Y6 Norton Priory Visit
- Monday 13th Feb - Coffee Morning "Coping Strategies for Young People"
- Wed 15th Feb - Y1 Parent/Carer Forest School Sessions
- Thu 16th Feb - Y2 Parent/Carer SATs Meeting 3.00pm
- Friday 17th Feb - Rockkidz! Visit—Dress like a Rock Star!
- Friday 17th Feb - School closes for half term
- Monday 27th Feb - School reopens
- Thu 2nd Mar - Year 5 Crucial Crew
- Thu 9th Mar - Parent/Carer Interviews
- Mon 13th Mar - Attendance Focus Week (13.03.23 to 17.03.23)
- Fri 24th Mar - Own Clothes Day (Easter Egg Donation)
- Tue 28th Mar - Y4 Parent/Carer Forest School Sessions
- Wed 29th Mar - Family Easter Bingo (Doors Open 5.30pm, Eyes Down 5.45pm)
- Thu 30th Mar - School closes for Easter
- Fri 31st Mar - Inset Day (school closed)
- Mon 17th Apr - School reopens

Further information will be sent out for events nearer the time.

Attendance

Attendance Focus Week

Come to school every day w/c Monday 6th February for the chance to win a cinema voucher!

Attendance continues to be a key priority for school this year. It is a legal requirement that all children attend school regularly and are only absent when absolutely necessary.

The number of leave of absence requests has recently increased. We would like to remind you that school may not authorise any leave of absence unless it is for exceptional circumstances. A holiday is not classed as exceptional circumstances.

Please help us to ensure your child achieves their potential by promoting good attendance and punctuality.

If you would like any support with attendance or morning routines please call into see Mrs Williams, our Family Support Worker.

Whole School Attendance Reward

Children are currently working on building the attendance wall to earn an **Own Clothes Day**.

Whole school attendance to date = 93.10%

Reward = Own Clothes Day

Bricks Earned = 3

Bricks to Earn = 7

Everyone can help to build the pyramid and earn the reward!

Punctuality

A reminder that all children should be in their classrooms for 8.55am when school starts. **Please ensure your child arrives before 8.55am so they don't miss out on any key learning time.**

- Gates Open: 8.45am
- Early Bird Drop Off: 8.30am (no charge and breakfast included)
- Breakfast Club: Opens at 7.30am (£1.00 charge includes breakfast)

Useful Links

[School Term Dates](#) [School Website](#) [School Twitter](#)

A reminder we no longer send out paper copies of newsletters and letters. All communication is sent by email however paper copies are available if requested. **If you are not receiving any communications please update the office with your email address here.**