



General News

Message from Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome back to school and a Happy New Year to all of our families. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed your time together. We certainly enjoyed the Christmas celebrations in school and thank you for your support with these.

During this term our Year 6 children will start to prepare for their SATs, good attendance is vital so all children can achieve their potential. We would encourage all Year 6 parents/carers to book on to the upcoming SATS session on Monday 8th January.

There will shortly be some building work taking place in our Early Years Area. There is a new fence being erected between the two schools and once this has been completed, we will be redeveloping our outdoor area.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss E Jackson
Headteacher

General Reminders

Punctuality

School starts at 8.50am. Please ensure your child arrives before this time so they are in class for 8.50am ready to learn.

Warm Clothing

As the weather is still cold, please can you ensure your child has a suitable outdoor coat with them at all times.

Uniform

As we start the new term I would like to take the opportunity to remind you all of our school uniform expectations. **We expect all our pupils to wear the correct school uniform.**

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

We would like to remind you of our current school uniform:

- Blue Gorsewood Sweatshirt/Cardigan/Fleece
- Grey Trousers/Skirt/Pinafore
- White Shirt or Polo Style T-Shirt
- Black, Flat Sensible Footwear *(No Coloured Trainers, Mules, Jellies, Open-Toes)*
- Grey Shorts/Blue & White Gingham Dress - Summer Term (After Easter)

On PE days children should come to school wearing their PE kits:

A Gorsewood PE kit with black pumps or trainers for outdoors

OR
Plain white t-shirt, black shorts, black pumps or trainers

ALSO
In colder weather dark tracksuit/jogging bottoms can be worn with a Gorsewood PE hoodie or Gorsewood sweatshirt/cardigan/fleece.

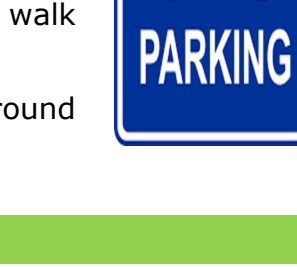
Please note football kits, gym wear and other sports items are not PE uniform.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards our recent fundraising efforts. Please see below for money raised for charity:

Halton Haven = £109.00

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair. **We raised a total of £1130.22 for school funds.**



Swimming

This half term Year 5 will continue to swim.

After the half term break Year 4 will swim next.

Swimming will take place on a Friday morning.

After School Clubs

New clubs will start w/c Monday 22nd January and run for 8 weeks until w/c 22nd March



INSET Day Reminder - Monday 29th January

A reminder that there is an INSET Day on **Monday 29th January 2024**. School will be closed for pupils on this day.



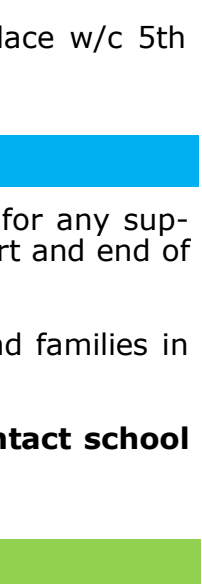
Parking Around School

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.



Free School Meals

A reminder Parents now have the ability to apply online for Free School Meals.

If you think your child is entitled to free school meals please check your eligibility online using this link: **CHECK/APPLY FSM**

FSM holiday vouchers will once again be sent out for the February half term break.

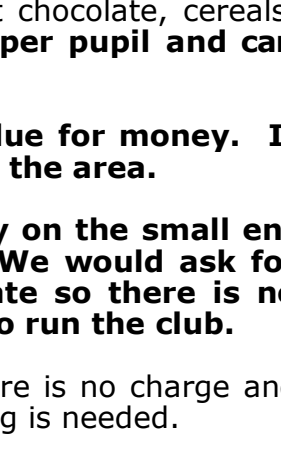
Forest School

Reception will continue to take part in weekly Forest School sessions.

Year 4 will also take part in Forest School this term on the dates below:

Y4: w/c 8th January to w/c 5th February.

Y4 parents and pupil forest school session will take place w/c 5th February 2024.



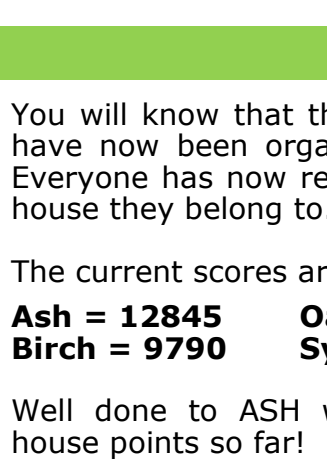
Support & Pastoral Support

A reminder that our pastoral team are always around for any support and advice. Jo Neilson is always around at the start and end of the school day.

We will always do our best to support all our pupils and families in any way we can.

If at any point you feel are struggling, please contact school so we can offer advice and support.

PE Timetable

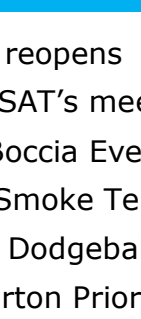


Children should come to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE.

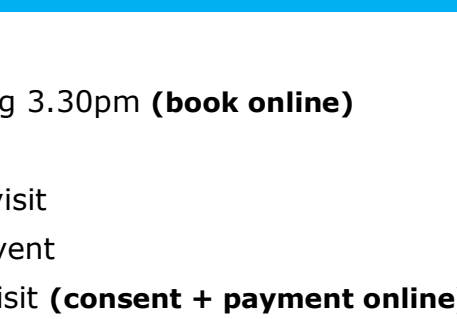
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|---------------|------------------------------|
| YR: Tue & Fri | Y3: Wed & Fri |
| Y1: Tue & Fri | Y4: Mon/Tue (F/School) & Fri |
| Y2: Mon & Fri | Y5: Thu & Fri (Swim) |
| | Y6: Tue & Fri |

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

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs daily from 7.30am until 8.30am. All children attending receive free breakfast which includes hot chocolate, cereals, bagels and juice. **The cost to attend is £1.00 per pupil and can be booked online via the School Gateway.**

Breakfast Club remains exceptional good value for money. It is subsidised by school and is the cheapest in the area.

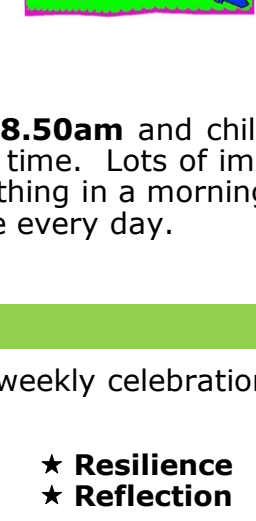
In order to keep this service running we rely on the small entrance fee that we charge parents/carers. We would ask for your support in keeping payments up to date so there is no risk of school no longer being able to afford to run the club.

Early Bird Drop Off runs daily from 8.30am. There is no charge and children can also access free breakfast. No booking is needed.

School Uniform Orders

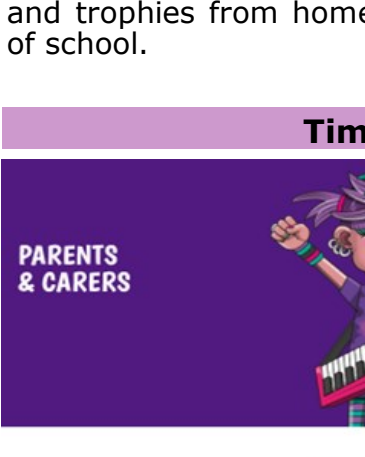
Uniform orders should be made through the school office. Please note we no longer carry a lot of stock on site so please allow time for your order to be processed (around 2 weeks).

When your order arrives we will send you a text message to arrange payment and collection.



Value of the Month

This month our value is:

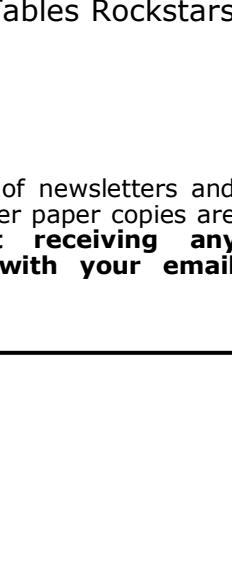


We will be exploring our hopes and dreams for the future and what we can do to help make these come true.

"Don't lose hope ... you never know what tomorrow may bring. Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." Desmond Tutu

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.



The current scores are:

Ash = 12845 Oak = 11238
Birch = 9790 Sycamore = 11265

Well done to ASH who have collected the most house points so far!

Diary Dates

- Wed 3rd Jan - School reopens
- Mon 8th Jan - Year 6 SAT's meeting 3.30pm **(book online)**
- Wed 10th Jan - KS2 Boccia Event
- Fri 12th Jan - Year 5 Smoke Tent visit
- Mon 15th Jan - Y3/Y4 Dodgeball Event
- Wed 17th Jan - Y6 Norton Priority Visit **(consent + payment online)**
- Wed 17th Jan - Stargazing Event
- Thu 18th Jan - Y3 CHET Parent/Carer Meeting 2.45pm
- Fri 19th Jan - Coffee Morning 9.15am
- Mon 29th Jan - INSET Day
- Wed 31st Jan - Pantomime in School Hall (Aladdin)
- Mon 5th Feb - Young Voices Event **(payment due by Fri 26th Jan)**
- Fri 9th Feb - School closes for half term
- Mon 19th Feb - School reopens
- Wed 21st Feb - Y3 CHET **(payment due in full by Fri 26th Jan)**
- Wed 28th Feb - Y5 Crucial Crew Visit

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

Useful Links

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

Attendance & Rewards

Attendance continues to be a priority for school.

School current attendance = 95.20%

We aim for all our pupils to achieve 95%+ attendance.

Look out for our attendance rewards this term!



Punctuality

A reminder that school starts at 8.50am and children should be in classrooms by this time. Lots of important activities are completed first thing in a morning so please ensure your child is on time every day.

Congratulations

We continue to celebrate the following during our weekly celebration assembly:

- ★ **Headteacher Awards**
- ★ **Kindness**
- ★ **Resilience**
- ★ **Head's Ready**
- ★ **Respectful**
- ★ **Reflection**

Congratulations and well done to our children who have received a certificate over the last month - we are very proud of you!

Thank you to those children who have brought in medals, certificates and trophies from home so we can also celebrate achievements out of school.

Times Tables Rock Stars

WHY ARE TIMES TABLES IMPORTANT?

Follow the link below to find out more about Times Tables Rockstars and the importance of times tables.

TTRS Parent/Carer Info

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](#).**