



General News

Message from Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after the half term break. A big thank you to all of our families who donated food items for our Harvest – we made hampers for nominated community members and donated the remainder to the Food Bank.

Our Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classes all worked hard to perform wonderful assemblies celebrating Harvest.

This month our older children will be leading remembrance assemblies on Monday 11th November (Y5/Y6) and Wednesday 13th November (Y4).

We also have Year 2 off to Foxhowl on their first residential visit this half term as well as lots of other trips and events to look forward to.

This half term is always a busy one so please make a note of key Christmas dates on the back page.

Thank you for your support.

Miss E Jackson
Headteacher

Safeguarding at Gorsewood

At Gorsewood, safeguarding all of our pupils is a priority. If you have a concern or need some support or advice please speak to us.

If you have any concerns for the safety of a child please speak to the designated safeguarding lead **Miss E Jackson** or in her absence the deputy designated safeguarding leads are **Mrs C Westwood** and **Mrs J Neilson**.



If it is out of hours you can contact Halton Children's Social Care on 0345 050 148.

General Reminders

Warm Clothing

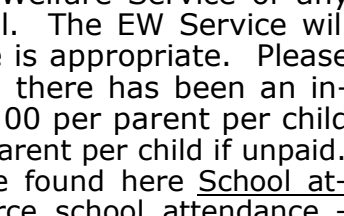
As the weather is now a lot colder, please can you ensure your child has a suitable outdoor coat with them at all times.

Morning Drop Off

All children should now be using the playground entrance on arrival at school. Thank you for your support.

BE BRIGHT BE SEEN!

As both the mornings and evenings are now much darker we would like to remind you all to be safe at all times. If you are out and about please remember to wear bright reflective clothing and take extra care on roads and if using scooters or bicycles.



Attendance

Ensuring a child attends school is the legal responsibility of the parent/carer and we aim to work with families to promote good attendance. **We aim for all children to be in school every day.**

A reminder that all requests for leave of absence in term time must be made in advance in writing by completing a Leave of Absence Form available from the school office.

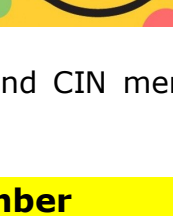
School will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if the request meets the specific circumstances set out in the 2024 school attendance regulations. **Please note family holidays are not classed as exceptional circumstances** and we would expect that parents/carers will arrange their family holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays so that their children do not miss school.

School is required to inform the Education Welfare Service of any periods of unauthorised absence from school. The EW Service will then consider if the issue of a Penalty Notice is appropriate. Please note Penalty Notices have now changed and there has been an increase to the rate of a penalty notice to £80.00 per parent per child if paid within 21 days rising to £160.00 per parent per child if unpaid. Further information on penalty notices can be found here [School attendance and absence: Legal action to enforce school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/school-attendance).

Thank you for your support.

Parking Around School

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



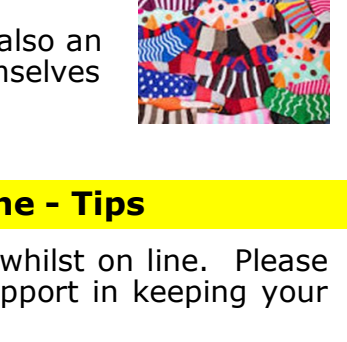
Thank you for your continued support.

Parent/Carer Interviews - Tuesday 11th November

Parent Interviews will take place in school face to face on **Tuesday 12th November**

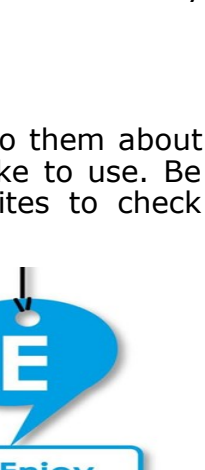
Appointments can be made via School Cloud or at the office. Booking is open now!

Please note booking closes on Monday 11th November.



Children in Need Own Clothes Day - Friday 15th Nov

Gorsewood will be joining many others around the UK to participate in fundraising for the BBC Children in Need Appeal 2024.



We will be taking part with an **Own Clothes Day on Friday 15th November**. We are asking for donations of £1.00 per pupil which can be paid online via the School Gateway or in cash if preferred.

Children can come to school wearing own clothes and CIN merchandise if they want to.

Odd Socks Day - Tuesday 12th November

On **Tuesday 12th November** we will be taking part in **Odd Socks Day**. Children and staff are invited to come to school wearing odd socks to support anti-bullying.



Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun but it's also an opportunity for everybody to celebrate themselves and appreciate individuality and uniqueness!

Keeping Children Safe Online - Tips

It is so important that our children stay safe whilst on line. Please come and talk to us if you would like any support in keeping your children safe online.

Put yourself in control

Set parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. Set up a user account for your child on the main device they use and make sure other accounts in the household are password-protected so that younger children can't access them by accident.

Explore together

The best way to support your child online is to talk to them about what they do online and what sites and apps they like to use. Be inquisitive and ask them to show you their favourites to check they're suitable.

S Speak to someone if you need help

A Ask an adult before going online

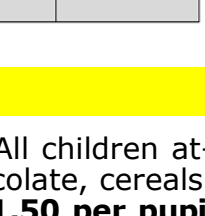
F Friends are real people we know

E Enjoy play, have fun and stay safe

e-safety adviser

Poppy Appeal & Remembrance Assemblies

Poppies are on sale now. Year 6 pupils will be selling them in classrooms. We are suggesting a 20p donation for a poppy. A small amount of other items are also on sale including wrist bands and bracelets.



Remembrance Assemblies

- Y5/Y6 - Monday 11th November at 10.30am
- Y4 - Wednesday 13th November at 3.00pm

Parents/carers are invited to join us. Please book online via School Gateway.

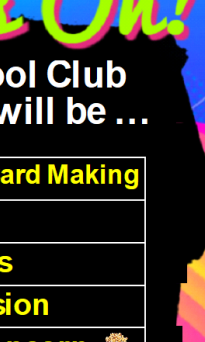
Cost of Living & Support

We will always do our best to support all our pupils and families and do what we can to subsidise where possible. All visits will be subsidised by school.

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

School Meals & School Hub

A reminder that you can now view menus and order school meals at home with your child. Please visit the **School Hub**.



For those children who pay for school meals this should also be done via the School Hub using the link above.

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

If anyone would like any help in checking their eligibility please ask our FSW Jo Neilson who will be happy to help.

Pastoral Support

We are fortunate to have our own Family Support Worker - Jo Neilson - in school. Jo can work with parents/carers on lots of things including home behaviour, routines, fussy eaters or to just be a listening ear! Jo is always around at the start and end of the school day.

Mrs Marsh and Mrs Smith are also part of our pastoral team and work with children in school as well as Viv, our school counsellor.

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

PE Timetable

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

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Tue	Tue	Mon	Tue	Tue	Mon	Tue
Thu	Thu	Fri	Fri	Fri	Fri	Fri (Swim)
Fri						

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs daily from 7.30am until 8.30am. All children attending receive a free breakfast which includes hot chocolate, cereals, bagels, milkshake and juice. **The cost to attend is £1.50 per pupil per day and must be booked online via the School Gateway no later than the day before the session.**

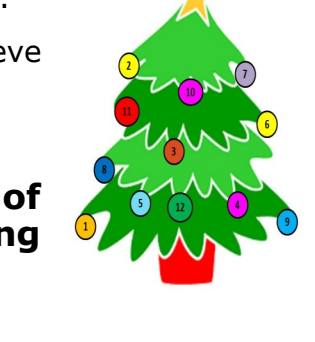
Early Bird Drop Off runs daily from 8.30am. There is no charge and children can also access free breakfast. No booking is needed.

Gorsewood After School Club (Wrap Around Care)

Our new Gorsewood After School Club is available for all pupils. This club is supervised by Mrs A Langton and Mrs C Heffernan.

The club runs daily from 3.15pm to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and there are 2 sessions available which include a drink and snack:

- **Session A = 3.15pm to 5.00pm = £7.00**
- **Session B = 3.15pm to 6.00pm = £10.00**



Places are limited and booking and payment is required upfront on the first come, first served basis via the School Gateway. Only payment upfront will secure and confirm a place.

Following feedback from parents/carers you can now book a place for after school club up to 2.30pm on the same day should you need last minute child care.

Mon Bonfire Themed Activities

Tue Bonfire Themed Activities

Wed Hall Games

Thu Art & Crafts

Fri Movie & Popcorn

Other daily activities include colouring, lego building, reading, board games, painting, outside fun and games and help with homework.

w/c 04.11.24

Mon Christmas Card Making

Tue Cooking

Wed Hall Games

Thu Music Session

Fri Movie & Popcorn

Other daily activities include colouring, lego building, reading, board games, painting, outside fun and games and help with homework.

w/c 11.11.24

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: **Peace**

We will be learning about Remembrance Sunday and Years 4, 5 and 6 will lead assemblies. We will take time to reflect on the conflict in the world today and understand why peace is so important.

School Houses

Children will continue to earn points for their allocated houses.

Our 4 houses are: **Ash, Oak, Birch and Sycamore**

The current scores are:

- Ash = 6096**
- Oak = 7199**
- Birch = 6606**
- Sycamore = 6159**

Diary Dates - Oct

- Mon 4th Nov - School reopens
- Fri 8th Nov - Y5/Y6 Basketball Event (details to be sent for those invited)
- Mon 11th Nov - Y4 Chester Visit
- Mon 11th Nov - Y5/Y6 Remembrance Assembly
- Tue 12th Nov - Parent Interviews (2.00pm to 7.00pm)
- Tue 12th Nov - Odd Socks Day
- Wed 13th Nov - Y4 Remembrance Assembly
- Fri 15th Nov - Own Clothes Day for Children In Need (£1.00 donation)
- Thu 21st Nov - Y2 Foxhowl Residential Visit
- Thu 21st Nov - Y4/Y5/Y6 Family Learning Workshop
- Mon 25th Nov - Y1/Y2 Boccia Event (details to be sent for those invited)
- Fri 29th Nov - Own Clothes Day (donation required for Christmas Fair)
- Fri 6th Dec - Christmas Fair (school finishes at 1.30pm)
- Fri 6th Dec - Own Clothes Day (in exchange for a selection box donation)
- Wed 18th Dec - Christmas Performances (10.30am, 1.00pm & 2.30pm)

Further information and dates may be added

Details of events will be sent out nearer the time.

Useful Links

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

Attendance & Rewards

Attendance continues to be a priority for school.

Our whole school target is 96%. If we achieve this target we will have a whole school reward.

Our current attendance is 96.02%.

Look out for details of our 12 Days of Christmas Attendance Reward coming soon!

Community News

We would like to remind all our families about the Community Tea Tree Café. The café opens for breakfast, lunch and snacks and also has a children's tuck shop. All welcome! The café also runs activities during the holidays.

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.**