



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.

It is finally good to be back after last week's weather. A huge thank you to everybody for your support last week and for engaging with online learning during the unexpected school closure. Please note school closures due to the snow will not affect anyone's attendance.

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 have lots of exciting visits and events to look forward to including Robinwood, Joddrell Bank, Fun Food Chef and World Bok Day!

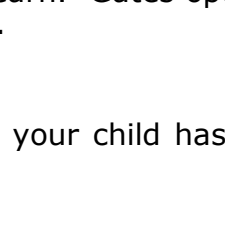
Thank you for your continued support

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

Punctuality

School starts at 8.45am. Please ensure your child arrives before this time so they are in class for 8.45am ready to learn. Gates open at 8.40am and Breakfast Club is open from 7.30am.

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

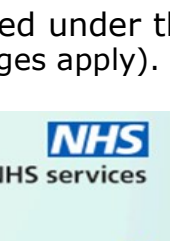
ALSO

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.

Parking Around School

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



Thank you for your continued support.

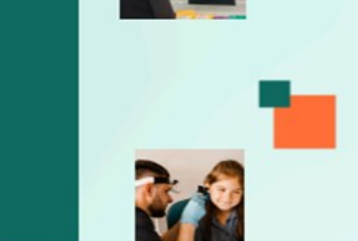
Swimming

This half term Year 5 will continue to swim.

Swimming will take place on a Friday morning.

After School Clubs

New clubs will start w/c 27th January.



NHS Pharmacy First Scheme

Did you know that the **NHS Pharmacy First Service** enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment?

Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply).

NHS
Providing NHS services

Most pharmacies can help you with seven common conditions without needing a GP appointment

- Sinusitis (adults and children aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throat (adults and children aged 5 years and over)
- Earache (children and young adults aged 1 year to 17 years)
- Infected insect bite (adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- Impetigo (adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- Shingles (adults aged 18 years and over)
- Urinary tract infection (women, aged 16 to 64 years)

Ask your pharmacy for more information about this free* NHS service

Visit your Pharmacy First!

Family Learning: Introduction to Number YR, Y1 & Y2

Would you like to have the opportunity to work with your child in school?

We have booked the family learning tutors from Halton Borough Council to run a 3 week course "Introduction to Number" here at school for **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 families**.

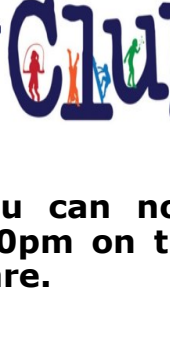
The sessions will take place every Thursday morning from 9.00am to 11.00am for 3 weeks on the following dates:

- **Thu 16th Jan**
- **Thu 23rd Jan**
- **Thu 30th Jan**

You don't need any prior experience or skills, just an interest in finding out how to make number learning at home more fun. Please note you need to be able to attend all of the sessions.

During the sessions we will look at:

- Making simple resources.
- Investigating ways of encouraging learning at home.
- Playing games that reinforce skills and knowledge with regards to number work.
- The current mathematics curriculum.



These sessions are a great opportunity to find out about the focus on number skills in today's education system, and also to meet and chat with other parents/carers from school.

We need at least 5 bookings in order for this course to run.

If you would like to attend please contact the office.

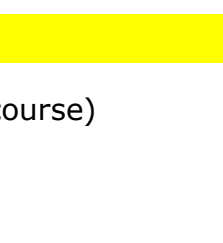
Cost of Living & Support

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.

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 After School Wrap Around 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 a 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.

School Uniform Orders

Uniform orders should be made through the school office. Please allow we no longer carry a lot of stock on site so please note 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:

Hope

As we start the new year, we will think about the importance of hope. We will discuss our personal hopes for the future and also hopes for the world we live in.



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 = 9200**
- Oak = 9940**
- Birch = 9221**
- Sycamore = 9074**

Diary Dates

- Thu 16th Jan - YR/Y1/Y2 Family Learning (3 week course)
- Thu 23rd Jan - Y5/Y6 Joddrell Bank Visit
- Fri 14th Feb - School closes for half term
- Mon 24th Feb - School reopens
- Tue 7th Feb - NCPC Number Day

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 95.05%.

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](#).**