

# Gorse Hill Primary School      Newsletter

## - October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter - one that I am so pleased to write only a couple of weeks after our Ofsted Inspection which has resulted in our school being judged to be GOOD in all areas. This is a significant improvement on the previous inspection in 2018 where the school was judged to be requiring improvement. The inspection was thorough, robust and professionally rigorous and I am particularly pleased that the inspection team recognised the journey of improvements made at Gorse Hill School since the previous inspection.

The positive outcome of this inspection is one that we should all feel very proud of; it has very much been a collective effort to achieve this. It is testament to the dedicated and hard-working professionals that we have in our staff team, who have worked tirelessly to improve the educational offer we provide to our children, and to our wonderful pupils who exemplify our school's CARE Values so brilliantly. It is also the result of the continued support that we receive from The White Horse Federation, our Local Governing Body and you, our parents and carers – thank you!

As a school, our task is now to continue with our improvement journey and build on this strong foundation to secure the very best educational experiences and outcomes for our pupils – as many writers have stated before, *Excellence is not a destination; it is a continuous journey that never ends.*

We've had a great Term 1 at Gorse Hill School and we have captured only some of the fantastic work that has gone on in our newsletter, which I very much hope you enjoy reading through.

I am sure I will see many of you at Parents' Evening next week and over the course of the next few days, but if for any reason I do not, I wish you and your family a happy half term, and am ever grateful for the support you show our school.

Best wishes,

Mr Graham

Principal

## Our Pupil Leadership Team

We are delighted to introduce our Pupil Leadership Team of 2022/23. This team plays an extremely important role in the school by representing our children's voices. Members of the Pupil Leadership Team are ambassadors for our school and exemplify our school's CARE Values consistently within their personal conduct and the expectations that they set for themselves. This includes showing the highest standard of behaviour and attitude in and out of school and acting as role models to other children.

This is the first year that we have had Head Pupils at Gorse Hill School. We received many exceptional applications and had the difficult task of choosing only 4 pupils. Many congratulations to Ibrahim, Liana, Jeevika and Charlie who are this year's Head Pupils.

### Meet our Pupil Leadership Team

Head Pupils: Ibrahim & Liana

Deputy Head Pupils: Jeevika & Charlie

School Council Representatives: Dylan, Soraya, Robert, Brodey, Alessio, Shanida, Keziah, Viya, Marnie and Preet

## World Mental Health Day



On Monday 10th October, we marked Mental Health Day by engaging with the National Literacy Trust's 'Take 10 this World Mental Health Day'. The Literacy Trust encourages reading everyday to support well-being and all of our pupils throughout the school took part in a virtual live webinar with an author.

**The benefits of reading are endless...**

Sharing a book with a child is fun. It's a time for affection, laughing and talking together. And it can also give children a head start in life and help them become lifelong readers.

Reading for at least 10 minutes every day is great for your child's happiness, wellbeing and, of course, for improving their reading and writing.

Making time to regularly read with your children can help them to:

- Relax and unwind.
- Escape from the pressures of life.
- Improve memory, concentration and focus.

That's why the NLT aims for everyone, from little ones and teens to parents and grandparents, to read for just 10 minutes every day!

### Resources for parents:

On our website, we have a range of resources available to support parents and carers if you, your child or somebody you know is suffering with their mental health and well-being:

<https://gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk/information-for-parents/mental-health-and-wellbeing>

## The Dogs Trust visited Gorse Hill School



We recently welcomed Andy Blayney from the Dogs Trust to our school.

Andy delivered an assembly to our pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 where he discussed with our pupils ways in which they can keep themselves safe around dogs that they do and do not know.

Andy then spent two days visiting our classrooms to deliver workshops to our pupils around dog safety and caring for a dog.

The Dogs Trust do a fantastic job supporting the welfare of dogs in the UK from education for owners to rehoming.

We are very grateful for Andy's visit and know that our children learnt a lot from this.

## Parents' Evening Arrangements



Thank you to all parents and carers who have booked a consultation session with your child's class teacher for either **Monday 17th or Tuesday 18th October**. You will have received confirmation of the time of your consultation. Please note that the booking process is now closed.

### **What can I expect on the evening and where should I go?**

- Consultations run between 3:50pm and 6pm.
- Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment, but no earlier than this.
- All consultation meetings will be held in the Key Stage 2 building. Both main gates will be open – please enter the school through the red external doors that lead from the playground into the Key Stage 2 hall.
- Teaching staff will be located in one of our school's classrooms (not necessarily your child's classroom) in year group partner teams.
- Parent consultations will be 1:1 and will last for 10 minutes.
- During the consultation meeting, your child's class teacher will inform you about how they have settled into their new year group and will share your child's writing and mathematics exercise

books with you so you can see what they are achieving to date. This is also a good opportunity for you to ask your child's teacher any questions that you may have.

COVID safety measures: To keep everyone safe, we will be ventilating classrooms. Please do not attend your appointment if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment, but no earlier than this.

If you have any questions about Parents' Evening, please contact the school office on 01793 523800.

## Open Day for prospective Reception parents



Are you a parent/carer of a child who is due to start Reception in September 2023? Do you know somebody with a child who is due to start in Reception in 2023?

On Wednesday 2nd November, we are inviting prospective parents to visit our school and see our Early Years setting, either at 9am or 4pm. This will also be an opportunity for you to meet school leaders and our Early Years team.

If you would like to join, please contact the school office to book your place: 01793 523800

## Staying safe on our playground equipment



For the children's safety, we encourage all parents and carers from preventing their children using the climbing frame and adventure trail in the morning, before school, and at the end of the day. During these times, the equipment is unsupervised and the school will not be held liable should a child be injured. The children have access to these areas during playtime and lunchtime, at which times they are supervised by a member of staff. Thank you for your support with this.

## Term Dates & TD Days 2022/23



The school is closed to pupils on the following days for staff training (INSET):

### [Term Dates 2022/23](#)

- Tuesday 3rd January 2023
- Monday 17th April 2023
- Monday 3rd July 2023

## Y5 Greek Workshop - Monday 7th November 2022



On Monday 7th November 2022, Year 5 will be taking part in a Greek workshop. To coincide with this we are asking the children to come to school dressed as ancient Greeks.

Examples of what to wear can be found on the previous email sent out.

## Harvest Festival Collection

A BIG THANK YOU for all your harvest festival contributions. This will go a long way in supporting others within our community.





## New - Playground Friends



A new initiative called "Playground Friends" has been introduced and the pupils have been chosen. Their role is to be available as a friend, help new or lonely children make friends and to be a good listener.

## Year 6 Residential



Our Year 6 residential to Ufton Court is due to take place from Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th July 2023.

This will be an excellent opportunity for your child to experience some of the following activities, whilst spending time with their classmates: Orienteering, archery, shelter building, outdoor games and much more.

If you would like to secure your child a place on this exciting and worthwhile trip please log on and pay your deposit by Monday 31st October 2022.

All payment information will be on Parent Pay.

Please don't hesitate to speak with us if you have any questions.

## The Great Fire of London workshop - Y2



Last week our Year 2 pupils took part in a Great Fire of London workshop, where they reenacted the historical events of the great fire.

The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves!





