

Gorse Hill Primary School Newsletter - September 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for the 2022-2023 academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity by sharing just how proud I am of our children and how they have returned to school following the summer holidays. It has been fantastic to observe positive attitudes to learning in lessons and our CARE Values being embodied by the children, particularly during social times.

I am also delighted to share with you that our school has been awarded the Music Mark Award in recognition of our commitment to music as part of the broad curriculum that we offer. This year, children in Year 2, 3 and 4 will all have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument as part of the music curriculum we offer, in partnership with the Swindon Music Service. Year 2 pupils will learn to play the African drums, Year 3 the Ukulele and Year 4 the guitar.

At the start of term, we have held a number of assemblies, including our first House team assembly – I think it is fair to say that there is already a healthy sense of competition developing between the House teams! Last week, we welcomed Bart Gee to our school. Bart, who lives with the physical disability arthrogryposis, delivered an assembly to our pupils relating to our value of showing courage when faced with a challenge. Bart shared his story of how, when faced with a difficulty, he has embraced the challenge and overcome this, competing in triathlons, learning to play a musical instrument and learning to drive – a truly inspirational story for our pupils reinforcing the idea that ‘difficult’, ‘hard’, ‘challenging’ definitely does not mean ‘impossible’!

Included within this edition of our newsletter and dates for Term 1. Further information about each event will be communicated with you nearer to the time, and year groups will communicate with you about any events that are specific to them.

Thank you for helping to make our return to school a success and I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with you this year.

Best wishes to you and your family,

Mr Graham

Principal

Key Dates Summer Term:

Dates for Term 1:

- ***W/c Monday 19th September: Reception children are in school for full days (Monday is now a Bank Holiday - children to attend from Tuesday 20th September 2022)***
- ***Friday 23rd September: Jeans for Genes charity non-uniform day***
- ***Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th October: Parents' Evening***
- ***Wednesday 19th October, 3:30pm: Last day of term***

Paying our Respects to Her Majesty The Queen

For all of us, Her late Majesty has been a positive constant in our lives, embodying the values that we cherish as a school and being a role model for all of us to look up to. We are grateful for her 70 years of service to the British people and to many millions of others around the world.

We would like to thank our children who laid flowers in respect of Her Majesty.

Her Majesty leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire us and our next generation – a legacy built on the foundation of dedication, selflessness, determination and compassion. As a school, we offer our sincerest gratitude to Her Majesty.



Coffee Morning - Swindon SEND Families Voice





COFFEE MORNING

**Are you a parent or carer of a child with
Special Educational Needs or Disabilities?**

**Please come along to meet the
Swindon SEND Families Voice team
to find out what we do!**

**Location: Gorse Hill Primary School
Date: Tuesday 20th September
Time: 09:00-10:00**



**Swindon SEND
Families Voice**



Bart Gee visits our school.....Inspiration Assembly



Bart, who was born with a disability and was told he was unlikely to ever walk, shared an assembly with our children last week. He talked about the challenges he has faced and how he overcame them. He is able to walk, drive, swim, take part in triathlons and play the keyboard.







National Eye Health week - Colouring competition KS1





Haine & Smith Opticians in Gorse Hill, approached our school and asked if our KS1 children would like to take part in a colouring competition to promote Eye health week.

This involved coloring fruit and vegetables and designing a pair of glasses for them to wear. The designs will then be displayed in the shop window during Eye Health week, which is 19th - 25th September 2022.

A winner will be picked at random on Tuesday 20th September and will receive a fantastic Crayola Art set.

We will keep you informed and you will be able to see the winning entry on our website.

Swindon Academy Open Evening

OPENDAY



Swindon Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

**Wednesday 21 September
at 6pm**



Meet the teaching staff



Try your hand at new things



*Ask
questions*



Take a tour

**"Have a Go"
Swindon Academy
Secondary Open Evening**





Good attendance at school is vital in ensuring that all children maximise their full potential and make the academic, social and personal progress that they are capable of. Every time that a child is absent from school or late in arriving, it means that they miss an important part of their learning journey.

Every school day counts for every pupil so as a school, we aim for our pupils to be in school, on time, every day. We do, however, recognise that there may be a small number of occasions when this is not possible (e.g. if a child is unwell) and for this reason 96% and above is deemed acceptable levels of attendance. This is in line with Government expectations.

You can support us to promote good attendance levels of your child by ensuring that they come to school each day and that, wherever possible, appointments are made outside of school time. ***Requests for holiday during term time will not be authorised.***

[Nursery spaces available for January 2023](#)





Do you or someone you know have a child who is already 3 years old or will turn 3 before the 31st December 2022??

We have 15-hour and 30-hour Nursery places available to start January 2023.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact our school office by telephoning 01793 523800

TUCK SHOP!



A reminder that school has a tuck shop available (KS2 only) during breaktime, where your child can purchase a small snack, such as baked crisps, yoghurt covered fruit pieces, skinny popcorn, pretzels, cheese nibbles, dairylea dunkers, raisins and more. Most products costing between 20 - 30p each.

Drinks are also available, along with frozen yoghurt and ice pops during the warmer months.

If your child would like to buy from the tuck shop, 50/60p will normally cover a snack and a drink each day.



New Play Equipment KS1 Playground



New play equipment is currently being installed in the KS1 playground. These works will take approximately a week followed by soft play flooring being added.

This will enhance this area for our KS1 children once completed and should be great fun!!!

Please take care when dropping off and collecting your child.

Non school Uniform day - Friday 23rd September 2022



Genes for Jeans is a campaign which raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic condition and raises money to fund projects that make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected.

Our school will be taking part next Friday and in return, we would appreciate a £1 donation which will be donated to Jeans for Genes to support the fantastic work that the charity does. You can make your donation by using the link below:

www.jeansforgenes.org/donateonline

Text to donate: *It's easy to donate straight from your smartphone Prefer to donate by phone?*

Simply:

- Text **JEANS2** to 70660 to donate £2
- Text **JEANS5** to 70660 to donate £5
- Text **JEANS10** to 70660 to donate £10
- Text **JEANS20** to 70660 to donate £20

Term Dates & TD Days 2022/23



REMINDER - TD days are as follows:

[Term Dates 2022/23](#)

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

Flu Vaccinations 2022



Flu vaccinations are taking place on **Monday 26th September 2022.**

Please check your e mail for the link to consent for your child.