



Gorse Hill School  
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Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**RE: Letter from the Principal, Mr Graham – Welcome back & start of term information**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to extend a warm 'Welcome back!' to you and your child/ren following the summer holidays, and really hope that you had an enjoyable summer together. We are delighted to have welcomed the children back to school today and are excited to begin a new school year with them.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Ambrose to our senior leadership team. Mrs Ambrose has successfully been appointed as the school's new Assistant Principal for Early Years. Bringing a wealth of experience with her, Mrs Ambrose will be working at Gorse Hill for one day a week in the Autumn term and full time from January 2023. She is very well known and respected within The White Horse Federation and I am really pleased that she has chosen to join our team.

On a personal note, it was my own daughter's first day in Reception today, so I do understand that whether you are a new parent or an existing parent, you may have questions, so outlined in this letter is some information that I hope you find informative. As ever, if you have any questions or worries, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or contact the school office.

**School day:**

A polite reminder of the new school day timings:

	<b>Start of day</b>	<b>End of day</b>
Early Years	0830	3:30pm
Key Stage 1	0830	3:30pm
Key Stage 2	0830	3:30pm
	<i>Children will be going into class at 8:30am 1pm finish on a Friday afternoon for all pupils</i>	

Please note that children will be marked as 'Late' if they arrive after 8:40am, the close of registration, and will need parents/carers will need to report to the Main Office when dropping off.

**Attendance:**

Good attendance is so important in supporting all children to achieve their full potential so please try to ensure your child attend's school each day. We will be monitoring attendance closely to ensure our pupils maximise all learning opportunities available to them. In the unfortunate event that they are too unwell to attend school, please contact the school office to report this.

### PE lessons:

To ensure that all children receive two hours of high-quality PE each week, our PE curriculum will be delivered by qualified sports coaches. PE will be delivered on the following days and we ask that children attend school in their PE kit (including their House t-shirt which all children received today) on these days. PE will start on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September:

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 1	Year 4	Year 3
Year 5	Year 6	Year 2

### School Uniform:

Our school uniform is what unites our children as proud members of the Gorse Hill School community and, as a result, children are expected to wear a full school uniform.

The Gorse Hill Primary School uniform consists of:

- A light blue/white polo shirt (white preferred), shirt, or blouse.
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan.
- Black or grey trousers, shorts, or skirt.
- Blue checked dresses in the summer.
- Sensible black school shoes (no trainers or boots, please)
- House coloured t-shirt for PE

### House System:

The children absolutely loved taking part in our House System last year and we are excited to get this underway again. All pupils are included within a House team and if you are at all unsure of your child's team (particularly if they are new to our school), please check with your child's class teacher.

Like last year, we look forward to awarding pupils who earn House Points for demonstrating positive learning behaviours and our CARE Values special badges in recognition of their achievements:



50 pts



100 pts



150 pts

### Extra-curricular clubs:

Extra-curricular sports clubs run from 3:35pm-4:15pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and last one term. Clubs will commence on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**. If you have any questions about clubs, please contact out school office.

### Reading books:

We have continued to invest into acquiring high-quality reading books for pupils of all ages at Gorse Hill, that will not only be matched to their level of reading, but will more importantly engage them and inspire a love of reading. Reading is the most important skill that children develop because it enhances imagination, allows them to discover the world and develops language and vocabulary skills.

Your child will be issued with a library book and a reading book. It is important that they read every day for 15-20 minutes and that, wherever possible, you listen to them read, offering them encouragement and support through helping them to identify the meaning of unfamiliar words and by questioning them on what they have read. Your child's reading book will be changed at least once a week, in school, providing that their reading record book shows that a parent/carer has initialled to show that the book has been read.

#### Fines for lost & damaged books:

We expect our pupils to look after and respect their reading and library books, therefore any books that are not returned or that are returned damaged (e.g. torn/stained) will result in parents/carers being issued with a £5 fine which covers the cost of the book.

### Homework:

Homework will be set as per our Policy:

<https://gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk/downloads/gorseHillSchool/Homework-Policy-Sept-2022-2023.pdf>

### Home School Agreement:

Our Home School Agreement is available on our website and your child's class teacher will discuss this and your child's personal targets with you in depth at Parents' Evening in October:

<https://gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk/downloads/gorseHillSchool/Home-School-Agreement-GHS-April-2021.pdf>

**Your details:**

If there have been any changes to your personal details (e.g. address or emergency contact details), please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we can update our records. Similarly, if you experience any significant changes that affect you financially, please speak with the school office, as you may be entitled to further support.

**Support for well-being and mental health:**

At Gorse Hill Primary School, we are committed to supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our children. As well as our team being able to provide tailored support in school, on our website, you can find information and advice should you be concerned about your child's mental health:

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

**Final message ...**

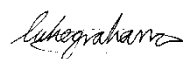
Finally, on behalf of the staff and I, we are excited to begin a new school year with you and your child/ren and very much look forward to working with you to ensure that we have another successful year together at Gorse Hill School.

On **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September**, we are inviting all parents and carers to stay behind for a little while after school and share a book with their child. We will have tables including a range of books on offer to families available on our playground on Friday afternoon, and we encourage families to choose a book that they may like to take home and read with their child. All we ask in return is that you enjoy reading together and, if at all possible, make a small donation of up to 50p per book – thank you!

If you do have any questions about any of the information within this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our school office team or speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Offering my warmest wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,



Mr L Graham  
Principal