

NEWSLETTER

October 2019

General Information



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Feeling Proud? You should be!

We were complimented on the exemplary behaviour and excellent engagement of our children from Nursery to Year 6 by the teacher in the Life Education Bus. She commented on how Gorse Ride is always a pleasure to visit. Well done everyone.

Thank You

Mrs Denchfield from Go Accounting and a parent of the school, is moving her office and has kindly donated us some fantastic office furniture, and stationery, thank you so much - the staff are very appreciative. A big thank you also to Mrs Plant who organized 33 volunteers from Hewlett Packard Enterprise to come in and help with some painting and gardening recently.



More and more of our children are sampling the salad bar and the feedback from the children has been overwhelmingly positive. Harrisons have been very proactive and responsive to suggestions and any complaints received. They are keen to support us in making the children's lunchtime experience an enjoyable social occasion by providing little accessories to make the dining hall more attractive and accessible. A big thank you to our Year 5 volunteers who support the youngest children at lunchtime. This has helped our newest pupils to feel they truly belong to Gorse Ride and are cared for and valued by the older pupils. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns regarding lunchtime.

Food Bank

Since 2014 we been supporting our Local Food Bank as part of our Harvest activities it is such a worthwhile charity which many members of our local and wider community benefit from. We would like the children to bring one item to donate to the local Food Bank on the morning of the 22nd October. They may bring anything from the list below. We would just ask that it is **in date**. Thank you.

Foods you may like to donate

Milk (UHT or powdered)	Rice pudding (tinned)
Sugar (500g)	Tea Bags/instant coffee
Fruit juice (carton)	Instant mash potato
Soup	Rice/pasta
Pasta sauces	Tinned meat/fish
Sponge pudding (tinned)	Tinned fruit
Tomatoes (tinned)	Jam
Cereals	Biscuits or snack bar

Thank you for supporting us in developing the children's sense of citizenship and their ability to appreciate the needs of others.

School Dinners

Thank you so much for bearing with us whilst we inducted our new catering company into "The Gorse Ride Way" and implemented the new procedures for lunchtime. We had a few teething problems but our lunchtime team have been amazing finding solutions and tweaks to our systems to make lunchtimes enjoyable for the children and run to time. There are still a few adjustments to be made but we are delighted with the quality of the meals and the focus on eating healthy options.

Gorse Ride Schools

Gorse Ride South
Finchampstead
Berkshire

Eileen Rogers
Executive Head Teacher

0118 973 4880
(Infant & Nursery School)

0118 973 2666
(Junior School)



School News

Children in Need, Friday 15th Nov:

Keep the date! Our children have voted to take part in Children in Need again. More details will follow soon.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evening this term will be held on Wednesday 6th November and Thursday 7th November. Bookings will be available on-line from Tuesday 22nd October at 3pm until Monday 4th November at 3pm. A letter with full information will be sent out shortly.

School Council and Leadership Roles

Pupils from across the schools have been busy nominating themselves and voting for our School Council, Eco –Committee, Literacy and Digital Leaders. Well done to everyone who put themselves forward. Congratulations to all those that have been nominated - we know you'll be great!



Harvest Fundraising, 21st -24thOctober:

Our Infant School Council Reps and Year 2 volunteers are running the below activities each morning in the playground throughout morning break.

- Guess how many sweets in a box**
- Duck, Duck, Goose game**
- Guess the name of the scarecrow**
- Obstacle race**
- Pumpkin race**

If your child wishes to take part they need to bring in a named purse or envelope with 10p and 20p coins. They must keep this in their trays as staff cannot take responsibility for their money. Everything we collect will be donated to the Ugandan Partnership charity that we support. Thank you.

Year 4 Trip to Butser Farm

Year 4 had a fantastic day out at Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire (where much of the Horrible Histories film was shot), witnessing for themselves what life was like for Celts and Romans. They had the opportunity to explore a Celtic roundhouse and Roman villa and made mosaics and copper jewellery. Miss Clarke and Miss Wood were very impressed by the children's behaviour and curiosity for learning.



Louis Taylor Road Safety Education

Children across both schools have enjoyed road safety education this month delivered through age appropriate, memorable shows. Key messages included *Stop, Look and Listen*. Wearing seat belts, crossing safely and for older children the importance of wearing cycle helmets, correct use of mobile phones and ipods, crossing in a group and hooded tops.

Christmas Panto

Last year's pantomime to children in the Infant School was a hilarious spectacular *"Oh no it wasn't" ... "Oh yes it was!"*

This year we have managed to book the same production team again to perform *Beauty and the Beast* which will be on the afternoon of Wednesday 11th December.

Try A Free School Meal

Thank you to all the families in the Infant School for supporting our 'Try A Free School Meal' on Census Day it makes a huge difference to our funding.

Wokingham Book Festival Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October

Why not pop along and visit the two day festival in Wokingham where you can meet and listen to talks by authors of children's books. Learn about the process of writing and have a lot of fun! More info can be found at: www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/bookfest

Year 2's Remembrance Day Project

As part of the Year 2 topic of Remembrance Day the children will be making poppies. These will be on sale in Woodpecker class at 3pm on Tuesday 5th November. The money raised from the sale will be donated to the Royal British Legion. Everyone is welcome to come and have a browse.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Staff in the Infants School were busy baking in their spare time last month in readiness for the Macmillan Coffee Morning. The cakes were delicious and we raised a fantastic £117.05.

Lunchtime / Support Staff Required

We are recruiting! Please see our school website for further details.

Reminders



Funtastic Kids Holiday Camp, 28th - 30th October and 4th November: If you would like your child to attend the holiday camp this half-term please complete a booking form available from our website. As you know the camp is running in the Junior school. See the timetable of exciting activities. Hurry while places last!

FBC Car Park: The FBC kindly allow us to use their car park for school drop off and pick up during the school term but at all other times it is for FBC Customers only. Delivery vans and lorries also need to be able to access the FBC so please use the car park only as a drop off and pick up and remember to park considerately so as not to block delivery points or exits. We are so fortunate that the FBC allow us to use their car park as a goodwill gesture.

Drinking Water: Children need to bring their named water bottles to school everyday. As a Healthy School we promote drinking water, as a routine after playtimes and as and when needed during lessons. The children are NOT permitted to have juice in their water bottles. Please do not let your child carry water bottles in their book bags as a number of reading books have been spoiled when water bottles leak. Thank you.

School Holidays: Please note that May Day (Early May Bank Holiday) has moved to 8 May 2020 (Friday) as part of the 75th anniversary of VE Day commemorations.

Also a reminder that the remaining inset dates for this academic year now fall on:

Friday 25th October

Monday 4th November

Monday 6th January

Governing Body Autumn Term Update

The Governing Board met at the end of September. We reviewed the schools areas of focus for the new academic year including the new reading scheme Read, Write, Inc. Governors are responsible for the schools financial position and ensuring all funding is utilised in the best way. We are pleased that the school has been awarded funding from the Sugar Tax Levy for the new gym equipment that has been installed in the Infant playground and the work being carried out in the former Infant School library.

Governors were updated about the changes in the lunchtime provision. We are aware that there has been some teething problems, however, we are confident that the school are putting strategies in place to resolve the concerns.

An important role of the Governing Body is to ensure the schools policies and website are compliant. Governors are appointed specialist areas of focus, these were reviewed and agreed at the meeting.

There have been some changes to the Governing Board. Three Governors have stood down, Wendy Whitmarsh, Pete Whitehouse and Amanda Tweed. All have given a lot of their time to the school for many years for which we are extremely grateful and thank them. We are pleased to welcome a newly elected Governor, Suzanne Kelly. Suzanne is a recently retired Headteacher. We are also pleased to welcome a new Parent Governor, Joanne Gogerly, who has two children in the Infant School, as the only nomination received she is automatically elected without the need for a parent vote. Kerry Harris has stepped down as Vice Chair and we have elected a new Vice Chair, Katie Wery, Katie has two children in the school.



PTA News

Fundraising Update

2018-19 was another record-breaking year for the Gorse Ride Schools PTA with an increase again in the fundraising achieved – **almost £24,000 was raised!**

The PTA funded many initiatives across both schools throughout the 2018-19 school year, our biggest focus was fundraising to provide brand new Smartboards in every classroom throughout both schools. With a project goal of over £26,000, it was a tall task but one we were willing to take on in order to deliver an enhanced learning experience for every child at Gorse Ride.

The installation of the new Smartboards took place over the summer and have been a hit with staff and children alike.

AGM

Thank you to those who joined us on Tuesday for the PTA AGM. The meeting recapped last year in more detail and talked through fundraising initiatives for 2019-20. Every parent and carer is welcome to join us at these meetings, so please do try and join us...the more ideas, the merrier.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 30th November from 11am – 2pm

The Christmas Fayre plans are well under way and we're looking forward to another successful start to the festive season. As always, we will be looking for volunteers to help run the event, so please do get in touch if you are able to lend a hand.

The day promises to be packed full of festivities as well as our ever popular BBQ, Raffle and Silent Auction.

Ewemove Estate Agents have kindly agreed to sponsor the Gorse Ride Christmas Fayre and will post their boards outside local houses in order to help spread the word. For each board erected, we get paid a fee so we'd love to reach our target of 20. So many of you have kindly helped in the past, so if you can help again please do get in touch. We're ideally looking for high traffic areas where you get a lot of cars or people passing by – if this sounds like you or a family member please contact Natalie via Classlist or email on gorseride_pta@hotmail.co.uk

The 100 Club

The 100 Club has launched again and this is a brilliant way of supporting the school whilst also being up for the chance to win cash prizes every half term. The more people who take part, the bigger the prize fund – 45% of the membership fee enters the prize fund and 55% is donated to the PTA to fund much needed equipment and initiatives throughout both schools. You pay £20 for each entry into the club – the more entries, the bigger your chances, and then you'll be notified every half term as to who has won. The 100 Club is open to all parents, carers, staff and friends of Gorse Ride Schools as long as they're over 18. Full details can be found on the membership form sent out via email or via either school office.



Looking for a way to stay connected with events, news and fellow parents/carers? Join **Classlist** for free! It's so simple and ensures that you are fully up to date and connected with the school community! Download the **FREE** app, search for *Gorse Ride Infant and Junior Schools* and enter your details to get started!



Easyfundraising - thanks to the 130 online shoppers that are already using Easyfundraising, we've managed to raise over **£109** in the past 30 days, bringing the total raised so far to just over **£3,046 – all for free.** By making your regular online purchases through Easyfundraising, the school receives a donation at no additional cost to you. In addition, if you refer a friend, we will get an extra £5 donated once they've raised their first £5. To get involved go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/WZV7QI



Use our **School ID 19941** when you purchase your personalised name labels from mynametags. Fully customisable with some brilliant designs available, using this School ID will also give 24% back to the PTA to use for fundraising. Please note – only the number ID works – adding the school name will not register.



Dates for Autumn Term 2019

New dates are highlighted in green

OCTOBER				
21 st - 24 th	Reception Stay and Play	Infants	Year R	Please sign up for your preferred day
22 nd	Harvest Festival Food Bank Collection	Both	All	See page 1 for info
23 rd	Yr 6 Height & Weight Programme	Juniors	Year 6	
	Yr 5 Open Afternoon re Anglo-Saxons and Vikings		Year 5	2.30 – 3 pm
25 th	Inset Day	Both	All	
28 th – 1 st	Half-term	Both	All	
NOVEMBER				
4 th	Inset Day	Both	All	
5 th	Rocksteady Music Concert	Juniors		Only for parents whose children do Rocksteady
6 th	Parents' Evening	Both	All	3.30 – 6pm
7 th	Parents' Evening	Both	All	3.30 – 7pm
15 th	Children In Need	Both	All	
22 nd	Flu Immunisation	Both	Years R - 6	Please return consent forms by 24.10.19
30 th	Christmas Fayre	Both	All	11am – 2pm
DECEMBER				
4 th	Trip to Winchester Science Centre	Juniors	Year 5	
5 th	Junior School Disco	Juniors		Years 3 & 4 – 5 – 6pm Years 5 & 6 – 6.15 – 7.15pm
10 th	Year 2 Christmas Play	Infants	Year 2	9.15am performance to parents
11 th	Year 1 Christmas Play	Infants	Year 1	9.15am performance to parents
	Year 4 Christmas Play	Juniors	Year 4	1.30pm performance to parents
	Christmas Panto Performance	Infants	Year R - 2	Beauty and the Beast – more details to follow soon
12 th	Nursery and Reception	Infants	Year N & R	9.15am performance to parents
	Year 4 Christmas Play	Juniors	Year 4	1.30pm performance to parents
	Year 2 Trip to Windsor Castle	Infants	Year 1	more details to follow soon
	Juniors Christmas Lunch	Juniors	Year 3 - 6	
13 th	Infants Christmas Lunch	Infants	Year R - 2	
	SEN Support Group	Both	All	9 -10.30 am venue TBC
19 th	Nursery's last day of term	Infants	Nursery	
20 th	Last day of term	Both	Yr R - 6	
JANUARY				
7 th	Back to School	Both	Yr R - 6	
8 th	Nursery return	Infants	Nursery only	

Diary Dates: These are the dates we have set at present. Further events may be added and these will appear in Newsletters throughout the term. Occasionally events are cancelled for a variety of reasons and they too will be highlighted in our newsletters.

GORSE RIDE SCHOOLS ARE COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND EXPECTS ALL PUPILS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, VISITORS AND EXTERNAL AGENCIES TO SHARE THIS COMMITMENT. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS PLEASE SPEAK TO MISS ROGERS, DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER.

