

GORDONBROCK WEEKLY

Friday 13 th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are at the start of the Spring Term, and while it may not feel very spring like at the moment, the days are getting longer. The weather has certainly turned this week and it has been wet, blustery and cold on days. Please ensure that your child has a coat that is named as we always try and get the children out for some fresh air.

As you'll see below there have been some exciting workshops in school this week; particularly in Year 6! Read on to find out more, I don't want to spoil it for you. We've also had some exciting fundraising news from the ECO team, who have some big ideas for the school this year. Finally, the sound of jazz has been floating down the hallways during Year 2 lessons. If possible, try to listen to some jazz music at home, even if you're not in Year 2. What instruments can you hear, what is the rhythm like? Enjoy your weekend everyone.

Mrs Wright

Year 2

Our first music this term was fantastic. We learned about the origins of Jazz and then did some improvisation on the glockenspiels.



We have had a ball in English as we continued our learning around the story of "No Dinner!" We have started to plan our own story and have created new characters and drawn our own comic strip.



Year 1

This week, we have been learning about different houses and homes and had fun drawing and labelling them. We discussed their differences and learned about lots of different types of homes!



We also started our new Computing topic – programming a robot. In groups, we played with Beebots and explored what the different buttons could do. We then found out what instructions each of the buttons gave the robot and learned these were called commands.



LATENESS

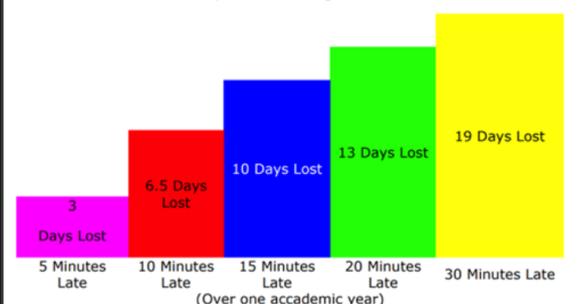
Learning starts at 9:00 am

This means the children need to be here by 8:55am, when the bell goes, to ensure they are in class and ready to start learning at 9:00am.

If the children arrive late on a regular basis they are missing out on important learning.

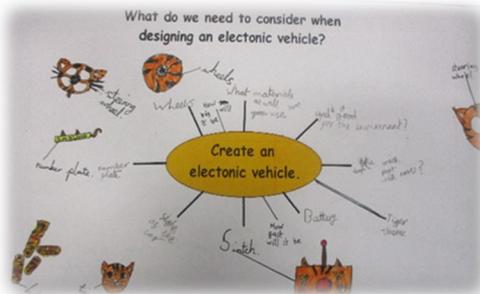
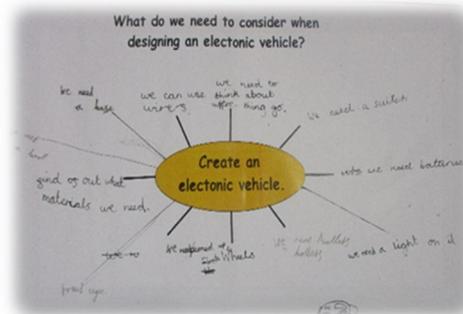
Every Minute Counts

If you arrive late to school everyday your learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school everyday over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



Year 4

This week in DT, we discussed and designed an electronic vehicle.



In Music, with Mr Prescott, we listened to and played music from Indonesia using the Glockenspiel.



ECO-TEAM NEWS

Our first meeting of the Spring Term, Thursday the 5th January went amazingly well. We came up with lots of great ideas. Our main idea on our agenda was to declare a climate emergency! We came up with a lot of dramatic ideas on how we could do this. We also thought we could add a lot of new things for example, wildlife corridors, and maybe a no mow May, where we do not mow any grass or wildlife because we can let it grow and see the flowers blossom. We can upcycle old wellies and tyres into plant pots and make more bug hotels. This will be great for us and the environment. The Eco Team have spoken to Mr Ridler-Mayor about all our fantastic ideas. Even maybe including a compost bin.

At the Winter Fair, we did a bauble stall and raised a total of £47 and Penelope in Year 5 did her own cupcake sale and raised a whopping £50 to save Gorne Wood! Penelope is an Eco Warrior!

Our Eco Team are: Bonnie, Aurdrey, Cherry, Penelope, Iris, Evie, Joseph, Anton, Che, Charlotte, and Josh.

We are very proud of our Eco Team!

LATE COLLECTION & CHARGING POLICY

Please note that any child not collected on time will be taken to the school office and their names will be recorded in the late-collection book. If your child is collected late on more than three occasions during a school term, then we have a charging policy which will mean that you will be charged £5 for every 15 minutes for each child.

Year 3

In History, we have been looking at how long ago the Ancient Egyptians lived and for how long. We learned what the terms 'CE' and 'BCE' stand for and placed different time periods on a timeline that stretched for over 6 millennia!



We have also been continuing to immerse ourselves in the story of 'Frog Belly Rat Bone.' We created artwork using pencils and pastels to represent the setting of the story at the beginning and end of the book. We then used these to write setting descriptions.



PE Time Table & PE Kit

	Indoor	Outdoor
S1	Thur	Fri
S2	Thur	Tue
S3	Mon	Tue
S4	Fri	Mon
S5	Tue	Thur
S6	Mon	Wed
E1	Fri	Tue
E2	Fri	Tue
E3	Tue	Thur
E4	Tue	Fri
E5	Thur	Fri
E6	Fri	Thur
A1	Mon	Tue
A2	Thur	Tue
A3	Mon	Wed
A4	Wed	Mon
A5	Mon	Wed
A6	Wed	Mon

This term's PE Times for each class are outlined in the table on the left.

Your child should wear their PE kit to school on their PE day. PE kit expectations are outlined in the table below.

PE Kit	
Indoor PE	Outdoor PE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plain white, round neck short-sleeved t-shirt • plain navy/black shorts. (Plain navy/black tracksuit bottoms or joggers & Gordonbrock school sweatshirt may be worn on top and then taken off before the lesson.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plain white, round neck short-sleeved t-shirt • plain navy/black tracksuit bottoms / joggers or shorts (depending on the weather) & Gordonbrock school sweatshirt • trainers

Year 5

Year 5 have begun learning a new instrument – the recorder! We found out that it was a member of the Woodwind family, similar to the flute and clarinet. We saw lots of different types of recorders and heard some experts play some music. Then we learned how to play three notes B,A and G. We also learned how to make a note sound nice, and not squeaky! Everyone was very enthusiastic to learn more about the recorder and can't wait to play some tunes. You can test your child to see if they can remember what "Recorder beards" and "Resting position" are – hopefully they don't blow it!



UNIFORM

School uniform can be ordered on ParentPay.
Orders placed between Thursday 8.30am and Tuesday 8.30am will be delivered to class on Tuesday.
Orders placed between Tuesday 8.30am and Thursday 8.30am will be delivered to class on Thursday.
All orders will be sent to class for your child to take home.

We endeavour to be a NUT-FREE SCHOOL

Please help us to achieve this aim by not sending any nuts or nut containing products into school. This extends to sesame seeds, too.
Thank you for your support in this matter.

CONTACTING US

The school office can be contacted via telephone number on **02086900704** or via email to the email addresses below:
info@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk - for all general enquires.
pickup@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk - for changes to pick-up arrangements for the day no later than 2.00pm. After 2pm please call the office and speak to a member of staff. If the lines are busy please can we ask you to call back and not leave a message on the answerphone.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

Please note we are **not** currently accepting any treats to share with the class in celebration of birthdays.

Year 6

This week, we launched our Stone Age topic with a bang: the children enjoyed an immersive interactive workshop with Freshwater Theatre. It served as a great introduction to the unit and the children enjoyed taking on the role of Time traveller's Apprentice accompanied by Emily 'The Time Travelling Master' (no copyright infringements here) as they travelled two hundred thousand years back through time to learn about Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods in

"My favourite part was when we got to mime different scenes – I was a farmer and I cut wheat and ground it up to make flour. Emily was great – she was the time traveller and we were the apprentices."
Tomo



"I really enjoyed the workshop and hope we can do something like it again soon!"
Oscar



"Did you know that they used to use sharpened sheeps rib bones as harpoons to fish?"
KeWei



"Yesterday, I had my first test for successful time travel to the Stone Age (Paleolithic Period) with the Time Lord : Emily. I couldn't believe it when I discovered that the Iron Age is younger than the Ancient Egyptians!"
Afonso



"I learned some fascinating things, such as, the water was not so polluted as it is now, and the people in the Old Stone Age probably knew more about the natural world than we do now."
Luke



"We discovered many amazing facts about our new history topic. Did you know that there were three periods in the Stone Age? Emily (our lead time traveller) told us that people would eat berries; she explained that they would know if the berries were poisonous or not by giving them a sniff."
Izzy





Wonderful Writing

Life as Stone Age Time Traveller

200,000 years back

Skipping through time

Time travel apprentices

Training for life

Stone Age

Iron Age

How did they live?

By hunting their deer

And making spears

By doing their farm work

And milking their cows

Make sure you close the gate

Or they will escape

Fish for fish

And knead the dough

Bake the bread

Then home we go.

By Inez

Timey wimey ropey rope

Travelling through time

Journeying through the ages

Ooga likes fishes

By Max

In Year 6 we have continued our 'Anthology of Life' poetry, and we must add that it has been a privilege to learn more about your children through the work that they have done: they have embraced the challenge and have produced fantastic glimpses into their lives and feelings.

The Stone Age Journey

As we set foot in the hall,

we knew this wasn't normal

A woman stood there with fancy clothes,

her voice was very formal

And next to her, lay a staff of bright

and vibrant colours

I stood right in front of her,

and so did many others.

She claimed she had an ability,

to travel through time

She made us her apprentices,

now a lot was on the line

She raised her staff and waved it high,

it made an ominous sound.

By Joe

Ode to Imaginary Cows

No one wants to milk

Imaginary cows

Not me

Not Deivid, Juliette or Inez

But I was forced to

Against my will.

By Edward

Time

Whizzing through time

Ooooh

Rocks in the Stone Age

Killing Deer with spears

Stomping woolly mammoths

Hit Og with a club

Og say 'Ouch!'

Pirouetting back to 2023

By Josh



**ONLINE SAFETY : TIP OF THE WEEK**

HAVE A CONVERSATION: It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online:

- What games do you and your friends like to play online?
- Can you show me the websites you visit the most?
- Shall we play your favourite game online together?

Ask them about how they stay safe online:

- What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them?
- What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help:

- Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Think about how you each use the internet:

- What more could you do to use the internet together?
- Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

More online safety information can be found at: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Important Dates

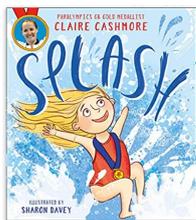
14/01/23	Y5/6 Boys and Girls football matches at Blackheath
23/01/23 - 27/03/23	Buddy Week
26/01/23	Y3 Freshwater Theatre Workshop
28/01/23	Y5/6 Boys and Girls football matches at Blackheath
31/01/23	Y5 Lewisham Migration Stories: A Place For Me Performance
01/02/23 - 28/02/23	The LGBTQ History Month
06/02/23 - 10/02/23	Children's Mental Health Week
08/02/23	Open Morning
09/02/23	Parents' Evening
10/02/23	FOG Cake & Fruit Day
13/02/23 - 17/02/23	Spring Half Term
21/02/23	Safer Internet Day
27/02/23 - 03/03/23	Y5 School Journey
02/03/23	World Book Day
06/03/23 - 10/03/23	British Science Week
08/03/23	International Women's Day
10/03/23	World Mental Health Day
17/03/23	Red Nose Day
03/04/23 - 14/04/23	Easter Holidays
01/05/23	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
08/05/23	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
09/05/23 - 12/05/23	KS2 SATs Week
29/05/23 - 02/06/23	Summer Half Term
05/06/23	INSET Day (School Closed)
14/07/23	Dance-a-Thon
21/07/23	INSET Day (School Closed)





MRS WRIGHT'S READS OF THE WEEK

Splash written by Claire Cashmore and illustrated by Sharon Davey



4-5 years olds

These are Claire's big sisters. They call her Bear and ruffle her hair. And whatever Claire's sisters can do, Claire can do too ...

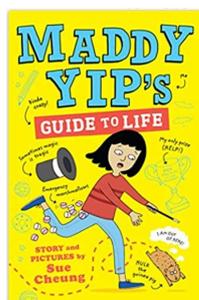
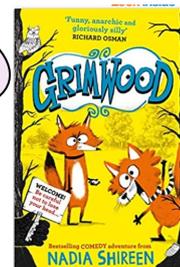
But there is one thing Claire won't do ... The water in the swimming pool makes her feel squirmy inside. Follow her sisters? No thank you! Not today?

Can Claire conquer her fears? Can she set foot in the water – and what will happen if she does?

Grimwood written by Nadia Shireen

Fox cub siblings Ted and Nancy are on the run from Princess Buttons, the scariest street cat in the Big City. They flee for Grimwood, expecting to find refuge in the peaceful countryside. Instead, they are met with thieving eagles, dramatic ducks, riotous rabbits and a whole host of unusual characters. Grimwood is . . . weird. But when Princess Buttons tracks them down, Nancy and Ted and the animals of Grimwood must unite in a mind-bending race against time . . .

6-7 years olds



8-9 years olds

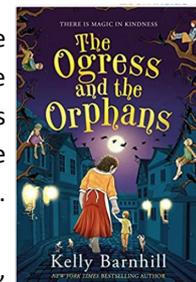
Maddy Yip's Guide to Life written by Sue Cheung

Maddy Yip is perfectly happy in life, until she realises that everyone she knows has a talent – except for her! Maddy is determined to change that, with the help of her brothers, bewildered grandad and her best friend Dev. There are disastrous attempts at breakdancing and playing the recorder, revolting cakes, and a magic disappearing trick that ends up with an escaped guinea pig. Will Maddy ever find her true calling?

The Ogress and the Orphans written by Kelly Barnhill

Stone-in-the-Glen, once a lovely town, has fallen on hard times. Fires, floods, and other calamities have caused the townsfolk to lose their library, their school, their park, and all sense of what it means to be generous, and kind. The people put their faith in the Mayor, a dazzling fellow who promises he alone can help. After all, he is a famous dragon slayer. (At least, no one has seen a dragon in his presence.) Only the clever orphans of the Orphan House and the kindly Ogress at the edge of town can see how dire the town's problems are.

When one of the orphans goes missing from the Orphan House, all eyes turn to the Ogress. The orphans, though, know this can't be: the Ogress, along with a flock of excellent crows, secretly delivers gifts to the people of Stone-in-the-Glen. But how can the orphans tell the story of the Ogress's goodness to people who refuse to listen? And how can they make their deluded neighbours see the real villain in their midst? The orphans have heard a whisper that they will 'save the day', but just how, they will have to find out ...



10-11 years olds

Lexia provides targeted practice and instruction students need to develop their reading skills.

Lexia Superstars: Well done to all of the children who have been on the Lexia programme this week.

Special congratulations to the following children who completed a level this week!

Olivia (S5)

Ansiga (E3)

Rose (A5)





Music: Each week we will be travelling around the world through genres and time to look at inspirational musicians that have shaped the music we hear today.



Week 1: Nial Rodgers

Last week we featured the musical legend and the incomparable disco hit-maker - Nile Rodgers. This term KS2 children will be learning a Nile Rodgers medley in singing assemblies and we learnt Everybody Dance this week!

Since co-founding his band CHIC in 1976, Nile Rodgers has been in collaboration with fellow boundary-breakers David Bowie, Diana Ross and Madonna. In total he's sold over half a billion albums worldwide!

In more recent times he has shared his disco syncopated dancing rhythms with Daft Punk, Disclosure and Sam Smith to name a few! They all demonstrate Rodgers' ability to transcend all styles of music, across every generation.

See how many Nile Rodgers songs you can listen, sing and dance to this week!



Week 2: Ella Fitzgerald (Jazz)

This week we are focusing on the Queen of Jazz herself Ella Fitzgerald. Ella's musical career spanned over 60 years. She sang jazz which originated from the African American community in the early 1900s. It combines folk music with swing rhythms and improvisation. Without Jazz we wouldn't have Rock and Roll or Pop music.

In 1934, Ella entered a Talent Show at the Apollo Theatre in New York. She had intended to perform a dance but there were too many other dancers, so at the last minute she decided to sing a song instead. She won first prize, \$25 and from there her singing career began! Since her first performance at the Apollo Theatre, she has recorded more than 200 music albums, developed a singing range of over three octaves and was the first African American woman to win a Grammy award for music in 1958.

Ella inspired performers we know today like Adele and Lady Gaga. Try and listen to one of Ella's songs this week. Maybe she can inspire you!



Free School Meals

If any of the following applies to you, you can apply for free school meals for your child.

- ⇒ Universal credit with an earnings threshold that does not exceed £7400
- ⇒ Income support
- ⇒ Income based job seekers allowance
- ⇒ Income related employment and support allowance
- ⇒ Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC that does not exceed £16,190

Apply online at <https://schools.lewisham.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

Starting Primary School - September 2023

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

15th JANUARY 2022



Children born between **1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019** are eligible to start Reception full-time in September 2023. Parents and Carers of children of children born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 will need to make plans for their admission to Reception in September 2023.

Applications can be made, via the admissions website, from Thursday 1st September 2022 to Sunday 15th January 2023. Parents are advised to read the information from Lewisham Council, available via the following link [Applying To Start Primary School \(Lewisham Council Website\)](#)

