

The Gorseley Weekly

GORSEY COMMONS

Earlier this week we hosted our termly 'Gorseley Commons'. This is the culmination of a whole-school project led by a different Pupil Parliament group each time (this one is being led by the Home Office) and which involves three steps:

1. A Class Council in which individual classes discuss and agree on 3-5 suggestions
2. A meeting of the Home Office who look at all the classes' suggestions and whittle them down to just three
3. The 'Gorseley Commons' in which all the children in all the groups come together in the hall to debate the final proposed Bills and agree one one that we will follow through on as a school



Previous Commons 'Bills' have included a week of coaching in 'unusual' sports, a community litter pick, a series of technology-based visits or visitors and the creation of a lunchtime reading club.

The debate this week was fierce and centred upon how we can increase the value and purpose the children attach to the accrual of House Points. After a brilliant debating session, our Parliament decided on establishing a system of rewards which celebrates the termly winners of the House Cup, whilst also offering proportionate treats for the Houses finishing 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The children chose this as they felt it would raise the importance of collecting House Points by providing more of a concrete purpose.

It was a fantastic session and we would like to thank the whole of the Pupil Parliament (including the adults who lead each group) - we are very proud of you all!

CAFT CHRISTMAS APPEAL & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We are proud to be continuing our support of the Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) as our school charity for this year. This year we will be repeating our collection of Christmas selection boxes which will be donated to CAFT to give to the children who visit them over the festive period. If you would like to contribute to this, please send your child in with a selection box anytime between now and Friday 8th December when Hannah will be coming to collect them all.

CAFT are also looking for adults in the Gorseley community interested in volunteering at one of their Christmas events. If you would be interested in doing this, please email volunteers@caft.co.uk.

Rights of the Child: Article 12

Every child has the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.

THIS YEARS HOUSE POINTS SO FAR...



STAFF BOOKSHELF

This year we have asked the team to create their own Bookshelves of favourite children's books. This week we're sharing Miss Harwood's picks....



THIS WEEK'S ASSEMBLY:

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Over the last few days we have marked Anti-Bullying Week alongside schools across the country. We kicked this off with a Kindness Day on Monday and the children have had a number of other focused sessions over the course of the week.

In our whole school assembly the focus was 'make a noise about bullying' and we discussed with the children the importance of calling out and flagging all forms of disrespectful behaviour regardless of whether they are the victims or just witnesses of it.

We also looked at the term 'banter' and most importantly in this context identifying the signs if when this crosses the line into unkind behaviour.



You can read more about our approach to this area and our work with the Anti-Bullying Alliance on the [Personal Development](#) page of our website [here](#).

PTA UPDATE

Preparations are well underway for this years PTA Christmas Market on Friday 1st December after school; Santa had been contacted and the mulled wine is very much on the way!!

In the meantime we're delighted to announce the fantastic total of £480 which has been raised through this year's Christmas card scheme. We'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported this and in particular Jeni for co-ordinating the whole thing (which she began during her summer holiday!)

£TWO FOR NEW BOOK STALL

This year our Department for Education would like to collect all those new (or as new) books lying around in your homes for a special stall at this year's market on which they will sell them for only £2 (which is a pretty cheap Christmas present!). The group will send out further information on how and when to donate these but they wanted everyone to have the heads-up so you could start looking for any likely donations!

TRIP PAYMENTS AND CONSENT

Please ensure all payments for trips are made on time unless previously agreed with the school. The school has to pay the invoices for all trips well in advance and at the moment is having to do so, too often, without having collected the full amount from parents.

Even trips which require no payment will still require consent to be given and it is taking up too much time of a very busy admin team chasing this.

As always, if payment is an issue in any way, please contact the school to discuss this. Any conversations of any kind of this nature will of course be treated in the strictest confidence.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE, RULES AND POLICY

A reminder that our attendance policy can be found on our school website [or by clicking this link](#).

Any requests for absence must always come through the school office. Term time holidays must be avoided at all costs, absence of any kind has a really negative impact on children's progress and referrals to Cheshire East have and will be made in order for fines to be issued where the indicated threshold has been met.

BARE NECESSITIES COLLECTION

During Aspirations Week we had some visitors from Bare Necessities who run a toiletry bank collecting all forms of toiletries for families across the South Manchester region.

They have left us our own temporary bank and would be delighted with any donations the Gorsey community could make. Products they are in need of include all the basics along with hotel minis, any unwanted toiletry gifts, make up, opened packs of nappies and sanitary towels are ok, otherwise everything should be unused and unopened.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

27th Nov - Assessment Week

1st Dec - PTA Christmas Fair

6th Dec - Reception Nativity (9.30am)

7th Dec - EY/KS1 Rex Cinema Visit

8th Dec - KS2 Rex Cinema Visit

13-14th Dec - Year 1-2 Nativity (9.30am)*

20th Dec - KS2 Carol Service (2pm and 7pm)

22nd Dec - End of term

8th Jan - INSET Day

9th Jan - Children return

*ticketed due to capacity - further info next week