



The Gorsey Weekly

DIGITAL WELLBEING

Technology is now one of the single most significant factors affecting the happiness, wellbeing, mental health and safety of all young people.

This is not just an issue of the traditional perception of 'eSafety'; the personal development of our children and their healthy (or otherwise) relationship with technology can be seriously affected by many often seemingly innocuous elements and household habits - both theirs and yours.

Over the next few weeks in the run up to Christmas (and deliberately timed as such given the prevalence of use over the festive period), we will be sharing information and guidance on how we can work together to protect the digital wellbeing of your children and we would urge all families - regardless of the age of your children - to engage in them as fully as possible.



CHANGES TO TWITTER / X

After careful consideration, from the end of this term we will be changing the way we use Twitter (X) at class level which will see all year groups Feeds (e.g. @GorseyY1) locked down so that only approved followers are able to view Tweets (unless another user, an author for example, has been specifically alerted to a post). We feel as though this is an appropriate step to take having taken into account parental views on the subject and our own focus this year on the Digital Wellbeing of our pupils (see left).

The process of removing all followers and restricting access is lamentably not a short one but will take place over the next week (over which time you may be notified of being 'removed' yourselves) after which time we will communicate instructions on how you can request to re-follow your child's Feed and how we plan to verify the identity of all those requesting access.

Why are we still using Twitter (X) at all?

Twitter has never just been a method of communicating with parents; it has always been very motivational for the children's work to be celebrated in this way, is a great tool for liaising with external organisations (and particularly with children's authors) and it also provides a vital record for us of what is happening around school in each subject (indicated, as you may have noticed, by 'hashtagging', e.g. #gorseyhistory). For these reasons and a number of others, we will continue to use it, albeit in a restricted form.

For those parents who have asked why the use of Tapestry is not continued from Reception, this is a platform specifically designed for use in the Early Years and due mainly to the differing structure of teaching and learning is simply not a practical tool for Year 1 upwards when the majority of the children's learning is captured in books rather than on camera.

OPEN MORNING

The deadline for applying for a primary school place for September 2024 is 15th January 2024 - applications can be made via the Cheshire East website by [clicking on this link](#).

For any parents new to the school community, we are running one final Open Morning on Friday 15th December. Places on this can be booked via our school website here: <https://www.gorseybank.org.uk>

CAFT CHOCOLATE BOX APPEAL

A reminder that we are collecting selection boxes for the Children's Adventure Farm to give out to their visiting children prior to Christmas. All donations are much appreciated and should be in school by Thursday 7th December on which day Hannah from CAFT will be coming in to collect them all for distribution at the charity's Winter Weekends.

ATTENDANCE LETTERS

As some of you know, we have recently sent out a number of attendance concern letters.

These are automatically generated letters, triggered by an attendance rate of less than 90%, that we are required to send out by Cheshire East. They are intended simply to inform you of your child's attendance and it would be a breach of our safeguarding responsibilities not to send them.

We will be in touch individually to discuss any concerns we have with your child's attendance.

SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERING

If your child has a school lunch please remember to pre-order their meals on their School Grid account by 8.55am each morning.

Reception & KS1; We are noticing a few children who have not pre-ordered and although they are entitled to 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' it is still important to pre-order to ensure they get the meal of their choice.

KS2: Please ensure that funds are available on your child's School Grid account and meals have also been pre-ordered. Thank you.

WEBSITE RESOURCES - YEAR GROUP OVERVIEWS

Amongst a number of other resources, the Year Group pages of gorseybank.org.uk contain overviews of what your child will be learning over the course of the year. The pages themselves can be found under the 'Year Groups' tab but for ease we've included direct links below to each yearly overview...

[Reception Curriculum Overview](#)

[Year 1 Curriculum Overview](#)

[Year 2 Curriculum Overview](#)

[Year 3 Curriculum Overview](#)

[Year 4 Curriculum Overview](#)

[Year 5 Curriculum Overview](#)

[Year 6 Curriculum Overview](#)

KIDS CLUB BOOKINGS

If you need to make a change to your Kids Club booking pattern, we will now be making updates every half term. This means that any notification of changes will come into effect on the first day of the following half term. This will replace the 4 week notice period.

Thank you to everyone who has been paying off their Kids Club fees for this half term. Please ensure that you pay the fees for this half term in full by Monday 18th December at 9am, ensuring that you have a zero balance or credit ahead of the next half term. Sessions and charges for the first half of the Spring term will be added on INSET day in January.

Article 30

If you come from a minority group, because of your race, religion or language, you have the right to enjoy your own culture, practice your own religion and speak your own language.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE AN ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL - UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD NUTS, OR ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING NUTS, BE BROUGHT ON TO SCHOOL PREMISES.