

# The Gorse Weekly

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

A very warm welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have all had a lovely couple of weeks with your families and that your children have enjoyed being back with us this week.

We are excited about what is always a busy Spring term here at Gorse. There are loads of plans for the months ahead and events to mark including World Book Day, Safer Internet Day, World Read Aloud Day to name but a few. We also have our next author visit to look forward to (see right), the start of our year group assemblies (see below) and some brilliant trips already planned for the children. As always a selection of key dates are included on page 2.

## DIGITAL WELLBEING AGREEMENT

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to watch our Digital Wellbeing video, discuss the contents with their children and complete the short family agreement. If you have not done this yet, please prioritise this over this weekend as this aspect of our children's lives is of paramount importance to their general health and happiness.

The video (which lasts only a few minutes!) can be accessed on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAhgbjNKNWQ>

The form for the family agreement can be accessed by clicking on this [link](#).



## ADMISSIONS DEADLINE

A reminder for any parents with children due to start school in September 2024 that the admissions deadline is this coming Monday 15th January.

Places should be applied via the Cheshire East website which can be accessed [by clicking on this link](#).

## THIS WEEK'S ASSEMBLY & TOM PERCIVAL VISIT

This week we shared a lovely book called *The River* with the children about a young child's relationship with a nearby river and how over time it reflects his own changing nature and moods.

The book is by the fabulous Tom Percival who we are delighted to share will be visiting us on February 5th of this year. Tom's books include *Ruby's Worries* and *Perfectly Norman*, both of which the children are familiar with so they are very excited about his visit.



## YEAR GROUP ASSEMBLIES

We're excited about the start of this year's Year Group Assemblies which commence with Year 3 next Friday. For those of you unfamiliar with these, the assemblies are usually about 15-20 minutes in length and are intended to be a light-hearted entertaining presentation of the children's learning so far this year. They also form part of our whole school commitment to give all our children the opportunity to take part in at least three audience-facing performances every year they are with us. Dates for this year's performances are as follows:

Friday 19th Jan - Year 3

Friday 26th Jan - Year 4

Friday 9th Feb - Year 2

Friday 16th Feb - Year 5

Friday 26th Apr - Year 1

Friday 10th May - Reception

All performances begin at 2.30pm. No tickets are necessary but places are strictly limited to two seats per child.

## PARENTS' EVENINGS

Details of this month's Parents' Evenings will be sent out on Monday along with details of how to book your appointment. The Spring Term meetings have an academic focus based on the progress the children made in the Autumn Term although we will of course also be keen to discuss your child's personal development and attitude to learning. We look forward to welcoming you into school for these on the 24th and 25th January.

## ABSENCE / ATTENDANCE

Every day lost to education can have a serious impact on pupils' attainments and overall progress in school. The link between good attendance and high levels of achievement is undeniable. Poor attendance and lateness may also be detrimental to the social adjustment and development of pupils.

Any planned absence must be requested in writing for the attention of Mr Maguire. If the absence is unauthorised and you choose to proceed, then the school has a duty to inform the Local Authority who may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. The fine is £60 per child, for each parent/carer if paid within 21 days and £120 per child for each parent/ carer if paid between 21 and 28 days.

At this time of year we still encourage all children to be outside at breaks and lunch times in the fresh air, unless they have a medical reason for them to stay inside. If this is the case, it is important that a risk assessment is completed with both the parent and a member of our Welfare Team. We are therefore unable to accept a verbal request via the Class Teacher, for your child to remain indoors.

For further information regarding school absence related to childhood illness, please find this useful link to the BBC news sent out this week <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-67894937>

### Article 21

Every child has the right to the best care for them if they are adopted, fostered or living in care.

**WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.



## PLAY LEADER VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Play Leader to work in our Kids Club. If you or anyone you know are interested in joining the team, the link for finding out more about the role is here: <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/play-leader-wilmslow-1946334>



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 19th Jan - Year 3 Assembly (2.30pm)
- 24-25th Jan - Parents' Evenings
- 26th Jan - Year 4 Assembly (2.30pm)
- 5th Feb - Tom Percival author visit
- 6th Feb - Visyon Digital Wellbeing Parent Session (6pm)
- 9th Feb - Year 2 Assembly (2.30pm)
- 16th Feb - Year 5 Assembly (2.30pm)
- 16th Feb - end of term
- 26th Feb - start of term
- 26th Feb - Empathy Week
- 7th Mar - World Book Day / Family Book Evening
- 8th Mar - PTA Fish and Chip Quiz Night
- 28th Mar - end of term
- 15th Apr - INSET Day
- 16th Apr - start of term
- 26th Apr - Year 1 Assembly (2.30pm)
- 10th May - Reception Assembly (2.30pm)

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