

The Gorsey Weekly

PARENTS' EVENINGS

We are looking forward to welcoming you all in to the school for next week's Parents' Evenings. Bookings remain live until Monday so please ensure you have booked a slot. In the meetings your child's Class Teacher will focus on academic progress this year but of course be keen to discuss their personal development and attitude and behaviour.

A police presence...

We don't usually need a police presence for Parents' Evening but for our Thursday event we will be joined by Natalie Samuels who worked for many years on the prevention of online exploitation. Natalie will be at the front of school with us sharing some resources and will be available to answer any questions you have and offer advice on this crucial area. Whether you have your Parents' Evening appointment that evening or not please do consider using this opportunity for some expert input. She will be here from 4pm until the end of the evening.



DIGITAL WELLBEING - YOU MAY NOT BE TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY ENOUGH

As a parent of a 13 year old girl, the relationship she has with technology is pretty much top of my list of worries. I worry about how it will affect her self image, her attention span, her view of the world, her perception of what 'friendship' actually is, her ability to sleep, her ability to engage in conversation with adults, her physical development, her management of money . . . and that's before I start to worry about people targeting her from the outside for scams or much much worse.

Whatever the age of your child, if you don't share those concerns then you're either completely on top of this all (which is great) or you've possibly not taken the time to fully consider the full range of dangers technology poses to the wellbeing of your child.

At present the response rate to our digital wellbeing home agreement is shockingly low - it's a six minute video and a form which takes two minutes (plus whatever discussion you feel would be useful to have with your child) both designed solely to help you support the wellbeing of your child.

The video 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.

We can teach them about this stuff in school, but the actual dangers we're talking about don't really occur between 8.45am-3.15pm.

TWITTER

All year group Twitter Feeds have now been fully locked down and are being used by year groups to celebrate pupils work, communicate with authors and to catalogue learning experiences across the curriculum.

If you have Twitter account (and it is very easy to set one up if you do not) and you would like to follow your child's Feed, please remember you will need to request to follow them on Twitter **and confirm your details by completing this form.** Once we have verified your account details we will approve the request and you will be able to view all Tweets. Our whole school feed (@GorseyBank) remains an open feed so can be followed without submitting the above request.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

This week saw both the first Year Group Assembly of 2024 (well done Year 3, amazing performance!) and the start of this year's whole class instrument tuition in Key Stage 2. From this week until June, all children in Years 3, 4 and 5 will have a weekly lesson led by our regular music professional Mike Eccles. As in previous years, the lessons will culminate in the amazing 'Play With The Hallé' event at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Both of the above form part of our commitment to ensure all pupils in the school had the opportunity to take part in three audience-facing events per year. Parents of children in Reception and Key Stage 1 should look out for details of our Spring Sing which will take place in late March.



SAFEGUARDING FOCUS – SAFER RECRUITMENT

This week's safeguarding update for staff focused on safer recruitment practices within the Trust and school. As ever, ensuring the safety of your children in school is of paramount importance and the maintenance of rigorous routines at the point of recruitment and onboarding of new members of staff is a key way in which we do this.

Safer recruitment practices run throughout the process right from advertising a role, to the shortlisting process, interview schedules and post-appointment checks and school induction.

For more information on this area, please feel free to take a look at the following documents:

[Laurus Trust Safeguarding Policy](#)

[Gorsey Bank Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education \(Dept for Education\)](#)

THIS YEAR'S HOUSE POINTS SO FAR...



Earlier this week our Year 6s took to the campaign trail to seek election as this terms House Captains. They gave some really well prepared and impassioned speeches and we're very proud of all of them who stood. Our new House Captains will be announced in next week's whole school assembly.

EXTREME WEATHER OPERATING PROCEDURE

Although very rare, there are reasons why the school may have to close in the event of extreme weather. Should this ever be a possibility, parents should check the school website and their email for confirmation of this. Updates will also be posted on Twitter.

LAURUS JOBS PAGE LINK

The Laurus Trust is always looking for great people to join the team in a range of fields. Keep an eye on the [Trust jobs page](#) if you are interested - we can highly recommend it as a place to work!

Article 18

Every child has the right to an identity



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 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 - Charity Dress Down Day
- 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.