

The Gorse Weekly

PUPIL PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLY

Every term we have an assembly in which members of each of our Pupil Parliament group update the whole school on what their group has achieved so far this year and what they are currently working on.

These assemblies are a source of great pride for us both in seeing some of the children presenting to their fellow pupils but also in seeing the engagement of all the children who ultimately feel the benefit of the work of all the groups. A summary of this week's work is as follows:

The Arts Council - run a KS1 choir and are working on a KS2 Arts Club

The Treasury - staged a number of fundraising events last term and are currently planning CAFT-fest!

Ministry of Justice - support younger children outside and in the hall during lunch

Department for Sport - organising sporting events against our sister primary schools

Department for Education - organised two author visits and currently planning World Book Day!

Department for Health and Care - organised kindness day and currently planning random acts of kindness day

Department for the Environment - made eco-bricks and currently working with Dolce on garden development

Department for Digital Culture - worked in Digital Wellbeing agreement and currently planning lessons to support Digital Wellbeing of children across the school

Home Office - organised numerous House events and supported behaviour around school and currently organising House reward afternoon

We are very proud of everyone involved in our Pupil Parliament both pupils and adults!

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T STOP READING ALoud TO YOUR CHILD

It is an unfortunate yet predictable fact that as children move through the years at Primary, the number being read aloud to at home progressively drops off. A shame though this is, it is not wholly surprising - a combination of busy lives, the proliferation of technology and also children's developing ability to read on their own by this age all point in a certain direction. I would, however, like to suggest three reasons why we should be reading to our children for as long as possible, both for our benefit and their's:

1. Every time children are read to, they are having fluent reading modelled for them. This is the ability to read with things like expression and tone and is a step above just 'being able to read'
2. Listening to stories is great for children's attention span but equally frees up some of their mental capacity to concentrate on a story because they're not having to think about the actual act of reading (which is hard!)
3. (This is the most important one) Relationships - carving out protected parent/child time, particularly during the week, can be really hard. Sharing a book together every night is one of the easiest and yet most productive and pleasurable solutions to this. I was still reading to my daughter right up until the end of Year 6 when she decided she was too old (or too cool) for it and I genuinely miss the 11 years worth of sharing books that illicit many happy memories.

So if you do one thing during the half term break, particularly if you have already stopped doing it, offer to read something aloud to your little one (or not so little one) - it may just be a joy worth rediscovering!



FAMILY BOOK EVENING 6-8PM 7TH MARCH

As part of our World Book Day celebration we will be running a repeat of our Family Book Evening in which we invite children and parents back in for an evening of celebrating the joy of reading. The evening will include some time for you to explore so amazing books with your children, take part in a fun family quiz led by our Department for Education and hear from the team about the importance of reading for pleasure and sharing this with your child. This event will be ticketed and can be requested by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/>

Article 31

Every child has the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated



SCOOTERS ON PLAYGROUND

Please remember that no children should be riding scooters or bikes in the school playground for the safety of others.

We request your support in ensuring this rule is followed if your child does bring a bike or scooter in to school. Thank you.

WATERSTONES BLUE TICKET WINNERS VISIT

Children across the school get weekly blue tickets for nightly reading at home. Earlier this week we took a group (one per class picked at random from all the blue tickets collected) for a termly special trip to Waterstones in Wilmslow to pick a free book of their own to take home.



DRESS DOWN DAY

Thank you to all of you who have engaged with our new approach to dress down day in which the children have to earn the money that is being donated. The children can of course earn and donate the money retrospectively if they haven't already.

For a reminder of the list of jobs, see last weeks Weekly by clicking [here](#)

Donations can be made on our JustGiving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gorseybankcaft>

WILMSLOW RUNNING FESTIVAL

A number of the team will be running the Wilmslow 10k in March in aid of CAFT and would invite any children and/or parents who would like to get involved either in this or the fun run to join us. [Details of entry can be found here.](#)

CAFT EASTER EVENTS

Loads of Easter related events happening at CAFT - we have posted details of how you could get involved on our [whole school Twitter Feed here.](#)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY

If you think that you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please follow this [link](#). This will take you to the Cheshire East Free School Meals page where you can check your eligibility and make an application.

The Free School Meal scheme is separate to the Universal Infant Free School Meals for Reception and KS1 children.

If you are eligible for Free School Meals you may also benefit from Household Support Fund Vouchers which will support you with the following:

- Help with boiler repair or replacements for home owners
- Help with housing costs for those in rented accommodation

[More information on family support can be found on the dedicated page of our school website which can be accessed by clicking on this link.](#)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

26th Feb - start of term

26th Feb - Empathy Week

5th Mar - Parent Council

7th Mar - World Book Day / Family Book Evening

8th Mar - PTA Fish and Chip Quiz Night

26th-28th Mar - Spring Sing (Rec-Y2)

28th Mar - Random Acts of Kindness Day

28th Mar - end of term

15th Apr - INSET Day

16th Apr - start of term

19th Apr - School Eid celebrations

26th Apr - Year 1 Assembly (2.30pm)

