MEET THE TEACHER

Essential Guide for Parents and Carers of Children in Nursery
at Gordon Primary School

Welcome to Year Nursery

- <u>Class teachers</u>
- Teacher - Miss Able-Thomas
- LSAs – Miss Razak and Miss Imtiaz (morning session only)
- Support – Miss Juciline

- <u>Additional staff</u>
- P.E.: Coach Romeo
- Music: Mr McKevitt
- Spanish: Ms Fitzpatrick
- SENDCo: Ms Carrera- Hernandez
- Leadership Team: Miss Naidoo (Head Teacher); Miss Rogers(Deputy Headteacher); Miss Jones (Assistant Headteacher) and Ms Carrera-Hernandez (Assistant Headteacher)
- Phase Leaders: Ms Patala (Early Years Foundation Stage); Miss Rogers (Key Stage 1); Ms Nehaar (Lower Key Stage 2); Miss Jones (Upper Key Stage 2)

Behaviour

- Our behaviour policy is available on the school website
- Please encourage your child to follow the 5Cs:
  - Care
  - Courtesy
  - Co-operation
  - Consideration
  - Commitment

We use a rainbow, sunshine and rain cloud system.

  - Pupils will receive teacher and peer commendation awards for demonstrating the 5Cs in school. These will be published in our fortnightly newsletter.
  - If your child does not follow the 5Cs after a verbal reminder, they will be asked to have some Thinking Time where they will have time to reflect on their behaviour.

The School Day

- Children are admitted from 8:25am – 8:30am (morning session) and 12:30pm – 12:35pm (afternoon session)
- The register is taken at **8:30am/12:35pm**, this is a **legal** document
- Please ensure that you drop off and collect your child promptly
- Lateness has a huge impact on your child's learning. Please ensure that your child is in school on time every day
- Morning session finishes at 11:30am and the afternoon session finishes at 3:30pm
- Please wait patiently at the green gate for a teacher to call your child's name.
- Please give the children space to exit the gate. Your patience is appreciated as we ensure that your children are collected safely



Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality at school is an important factor in ensuring that children benefit from their education.

Facts about poor attendance

- Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind.
- Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.
- The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations 1999 require all maintained schools to open to educate their pupils for at least 190 days in each school year.

◦ School term times are on the school website

◦ Extended leave: the school has adopted the Redbridge policy

◦ **No leave** is to be taken during term time

Every Lesson Counts!

ATTENDANCE DURING SCHOOL YEAR	EQUATES TO SCHOOL ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY	NUMBER OF MISSED LESSONS
94%	10 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11 1/2 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13 1/2 Weeks	340 Lessons

It is not just about the percentage. Look closely at how many days/ weeks/ lessons have been missed.

Every Minute Counts Too!



Punctuality is **just as** important.

Absence

- If your child is not able to attend school, please ring the school office by 8:30am
- Your child's attendance and punctuality is tracked and reported to the Educational Welfare Officer
- The school will follow up on significant absences
- Once your child has returned to school, they must bring a letter to explain the absence
- Applications for exceptional circumstances can be made through the school office; contact Ms Ayres for further information

Allergy Awareness

- Gordon Primary School is a **NUT FREE SCHOOL,** in order to keep everyone with allergies, safe.
- We also strictly enforce a “no food swapping” policy, to ensure that all children and staff are kept healthy, safe and well.
- Though trading snacks might seem harmless or a great way for the children to try new or different food, it could result in a child having an allergic reaction or anaphylaxis.
- **We kindly request your support with this by not providing food items/ treats for your child’s birthday.**





Phone Policy

- Our school operates a **no phone policy** for pupils.
- The exception is for our Year 5 and 6 pupils, who have permission to travel home alone.
  - Their phone **must** be switched off, before being handed in to the office each morning.
  - It can then be collected at the end of the school day.

Parents/Carers are requested to not use their phones in the playground, at the beginning or end of the school day.

- This is a valuable opportunity for you to have face-to-face communication with your child/ren while also preventing any children or adults from being distracted when leaving the school site and using the road.



Snack time

- Please support us in encouraging your child to adopt a healthy lifestyle
- A bottle of fresh water should be brought in each day
- Pupils in EYFS and KS1 are provided with a piece of fruit or veg each day so you do not need to provide a snack from home.
- Children should not bring any sweets, crisps or chocolate to school, even on birthdays.
- Gordon Primary School is a nut-free school

Water bottles must have your child's name on them.

30hr children

- Please provide your child with a packed lunch

If you prefer, they can have a hot mea:

- Our school dinners are provided by Pabulum
- Pabulum lunches need to be booked via *ParentPay*.
- The school website has a School Meals and Packed Lunches page, in the Parent section, which has all the details and links you need
- If you need any assistance, please call Pabulum on 01252 819991 or email parentpay@pabulum-catering.co.uk

You will have to pay for these meals

Free School Meals

Please check your emails for an important email that we sent out to you in July, and again in August, regarding FSM.
- Please complete the form provided in the email.

- You are entitled to FSMs if you receive any of the following:
  - Income Support
  - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - The guarantee element of Pension Credit
  - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) - Working Tax Credit is a disqualifying benefit regardless of your household income - this means that you would not be entitled to Free School Meals whilst in receipt of Working Tax Credit
  - Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
  - Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- To apply online, visit the Redbridge website https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/free-school-meals/
- **Even though all primary aged children get a universal FSM, you should still apply as it will provide the school with extra funding for your child**

Curriculum

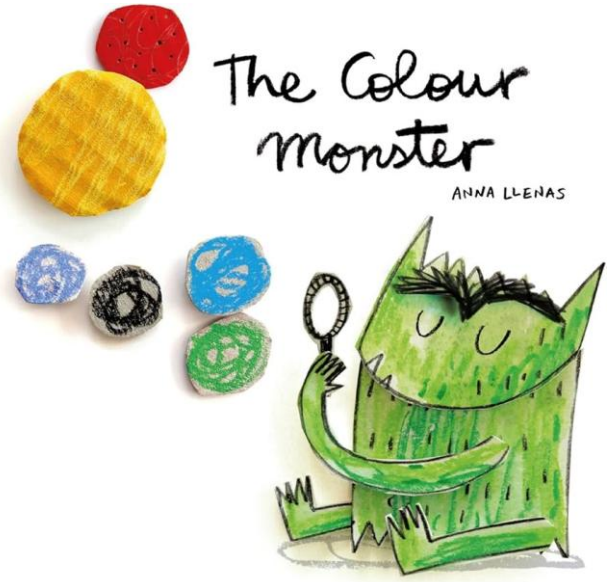
We are a Read Write Inc school and will begin teaching phonics in the Spring Term.

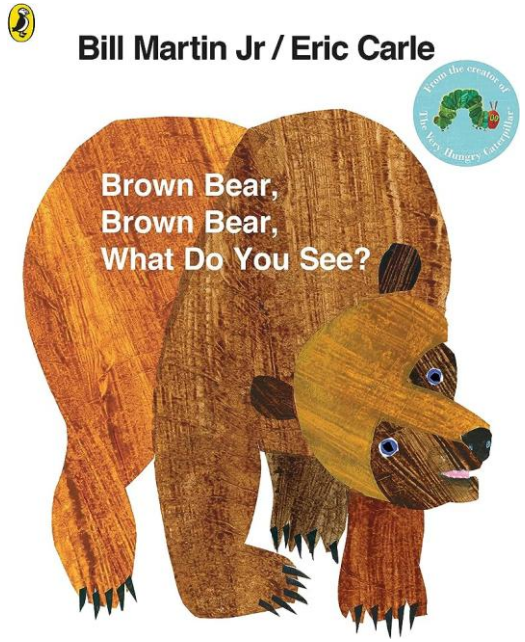
Reading

- Reading at home is an essential daily activity: children who are heard reading at home, in addition to school reading activities, perform better in school work and all tests
- Parents should read at home every day with their children and should sign the reading record each time
- Reading will be regularly monitored in school, with the children working towards earning commendations
- Membership of and visits to libraries are encouraged
- Guides for how to read with your child and suggested reading lists are available on the school website

Curriculum

- This half term we will be reading The Colour Monster and Brown Bear Brown Bear.
- In Nursery we complete 'focus' activities 1:1 with your child to ensure they are progressing in all 7 areas of the curriculum:
  - Communication and Language (C&L)
  - Physical Development (PD)
  - Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
  - Literacy (L)
  - Maths (M)
  - Understanding the World (UW)
  - Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)
- More information can be found on the Gordon Primary School website.





Spare clothes are really important! Please ensure these are at school everyday.

LABEL EVERYTHING








BOYS	**GIRLS**
Grey School Trousers White Polo Shirt or plain White School Shirt Green Sweatshirt Grey Socks Black School Shoes or Black trainers	Grey School Trousers, Skirt or Pinafore White Polo Shirt or plain White School Blouse Green Sweatshirt Grey Socks or Grey Tights only Black School Shoes or Black trainers *If head scarves are worn they should be green or white*

Physical Education

- PE is part of the National Curriculum and is, therefore, a legal requirement.
- On PE days, children should wear their kit to school. Both classes have P.E. on a Friday.
- Jewellery must be removed for all P.E. lessons; the items remain the responsibility of the child.
- If children are wearing stud earrings, these should be covered with micropore tape provided by the parent.
- Please ensure all clothing is **labelled.**

Homework

Your child's reading record book must come to school everyday.

How to support your child at home:

- Reading at home is expected to take place 5 times per week
- Offer encouragement and guidance
- Take your child to the library regularly; limit your child's screen time; go to the park and encourage physical exercise; look for opportunities to explore museums, galleries and other places of interest; check out the newsletter and school Twitter pages for events happening in Redbridge and around London; our website has a wide range of learning tools that your child can access at home

Online Safety and the School Website

- **Online safety** is an important part of keeping children safe. Visit our website for more information about our SMART rules for keeping safe online. You will also find our pupil Acceptable Use Agreements (AUPs) which detail our expectations for pupil's online behaviour. Please discuss these with your child.

The School Website

- Please visit and explore our website regularly as we are continuously adding new content. Here are a few key places to start your visit:
  - The Gordon Curriculum
  - The newsletter
  - Parents/useful information (term dates, uniform, school meals and much more)
  - Learning tools to support learning at home

- Useful Links for parents

Eating Healthily: Small Changes Makes a Big Difference

- Although we have seen a big improvement in the lunches many children are bringing into school, there are always ways we can improve our children's diets and help them to lead healthier lives. Here are some simple ideas to get you started:

  - Make one change at a time.
  - Always include a starchy food such as bread, pasta or rice, in each meal.
  - Peel or chop fruit and vegetables and put them in a small pot or bag to increase the chances of your child eating them.
  - If your child likes sweet foods, swap a chocolate bar for raisins or grapes. If they prefer savoury foods, swap the crisps and give them carrot sticks or plain popcorn.
  - Swap sugary squash and juice drinks for water or milk. Do not send juice into school with your child's packed lunch – water only!
  - Swap processed cheese for real cheese like Edam or cheddar.
  - Further tips are available on the school website.

Key Dates

- Term dates are available on the school website: Term Dates and are also outlined in this document
- You will be informed, by letter, of any visits or workshops organised for the year group

Autumn Term 2026

- **Autumn 2026**
- **Start of term:** Monday 7th September 2026
- **Half term:** Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026
- **End of term:** Friday 18th December 2026 – **school closes at 1:30pm for pupils**
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- **Christmas break:** Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027
- **In-service training days:** Wednesday 2nd September, Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September 2026
- **Parents' Consultation Meetings:** Thursday 22nd October 2026 (TBC) – **school closes at 1:30pm for pupils**

Spring Term 2027

- **Start of term:** Monday 4th January 2027
- **Half term:** Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027
- **End of term:** Thursday 25th March 2027 – **school closes at 1:30pm for pupils**
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- **Spring break:** Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027
- **In-service training day:** TBC
- **Parents' Consultation Meetings:** TBC

Summer Term 2027

- **Start of term:** Monday 12th April 2027
- **Half term:** Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027
- **End of term:** Thursday 22nd July 2027 – **school closes at 1:30pm for pupils**
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- **In-service training day:** TBC
- **Open Evening:** TBC

Parent Hub

- All parents and carers need to keep informed about what is happening in school
- *ParentHub* is completely free to download and set-up is easy
- Visit the App Store or Google play to download the free app and start receiving all the messages, letters and newsletters directly to your phone
- Call the school office if you need any help setting it up
- **We will now show you how to access and use ParentHub.**

