



Gordon Primary School

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Fortnightly message

Last week, we celebrated World Book Day across the whole of the week, with various reading activities including: designing our classroom doors, news broadcasts about some of our favourite books and peer reading across year groups, which always seems to be the highlight of our book week celebrations. It was pleasing to see the commitment that the children had to creating home-made outfits; these were coupled with craft activities carried out in school to ensure that every child had a 'little something' to wear or carry: there were hats and masks, even character puppets on sticks!

And, of course, we have to congratulate our Pupil Leadership Team members, who wrote to Ms Naidoo requesting the opportunity to dress up on World Book Day – they wrote a very persuasive, convincing letter, detailing the benefits that dressing up has to children's learning including increasing not only their engagement and enthusiasm towards English, but their love of Reading, also. The letter features towards the end of this newsletter. Year 5 PLT: Hanna, Nuh, Taybah and Rania the whole of the Gordon Primary School community are very proud of the efforts you put into this – what a great example of pupil voice at its finest!

We hope you have a lovely weekend

Rights of the Fortnight

Article 29

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Article 24

All children have the exact same rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what they look like, or what they believe. No child should ever be treated unfairly because of their background, culture, disability, or if they are rich or poor.

Diary Dates

Week commencing Monday 16th March

Spring term clubs continue this week

Wednesday 25th March

Overnight trip to France – *Year 5 pupils only*

Thursday 26th March

Overnight trip to France continues – *Year 5 pupils only*

Thursday 26th March

Rock Steady Concerts, for both Key Stage 1 & 2

Friday 27th March

Last day of Spring Term, *school closes at 1.30pm to all pupils*

Monday 13th April

Summer term begins, *school commences at 8.45am*

Week commencing 27th April

Summer Term clubs commence this week

Wednesday 29th April

Year 5 Scholars visiting *Goldsmith's University of London*, for their graduation ceremony

Monday 4th May

Early May Bank Holiday – *school closed to all pupils*

Thought for the fortnight:
'You have to be able to accept failure to get better.'
- LeBron James

Cinema trip – attendance winners!

Class 3A were absolutely thrilled to win the attendance reward of a special cinema trip! Their fantastic commitment to coming to school every day truly paid off, and they were so excited to head off together to watch the new *SpongeBob* film. The children represented our school beautifully and had a wonderful time sharing lots of laughter and excitement on the big screen. It was a brilliant experience for everyone and a well-deserved treat for their excellent attendance. We all had a blast!

Dion - *'I really enjoyed how funny the film was! It was so nice laughing with my friends!'*

Sahad - *'The film was so enjoyable, I laughed so much and the experience going with my friends was the time of my life!'*

Aleena - 'I really enjoyed going to the cinema with my friends and eating lots of nice snacks!'

Sukriti and Gurneer - *'We really enjoyed relaxing in the cinema and we felt so sleepy in there because it was so cosy and dark!'*



Related Right:

This experience links to Article 31 of the UNCRC, which states that children have the right to relax, play and take part in enjoyable activities. The cinema trip gave Class 3A the chance to celebrate their excellent attendance by enjoying a fun, shared experience with their friends. By taking part in this well-earned reward, the children strengthened their sense of community, joy and belonging—supporting their right to meaningful and enriching recreational experiences.



Congratulations to this fortnight's commendation winners. Commendations are awarded to pupils who demonstrate the 5Cs consistently.

Year 1's Marvellous Middle

For our Marvellous Middle, Year 1 visited *Barking Park*. The children enjoyed a magical day of learning, inspired by the story *A Magical Do-Nothing Day*. They explored the outdoors by rolling down the hill, feeling the soft grass and cool sand on their hands, listening to birds and children playing nearby, and noticing the bright colours of the trees and flowers. Back in class, they talked about what they saw, heard and felt and then wrote an acrostic poem using the words *MAGICAL DAY*.

Yusuf - 'I was really happy when I was rolling down the hill.'

Eshall - 'I touched the beautiful flowers and they were so soft.'

Zulaikha - 'The sand was soft.'

Sebastian - 'We saw ducks quacking in the lake.'



Related Right:

This learning links to Article 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which gives children the right to express their thoughts and ideas in different ways; for example, the children shared their opinions about the day, talked about their favourite moments and expressed their feelings and experiences through their acrostic poems.

13

I have the right to get information and share my views

Governments should help children get the information they need, and make sure that information they access via the internet or other media is accurate.

Governments should let children access and share information, unless it is damaging to them or someone else.

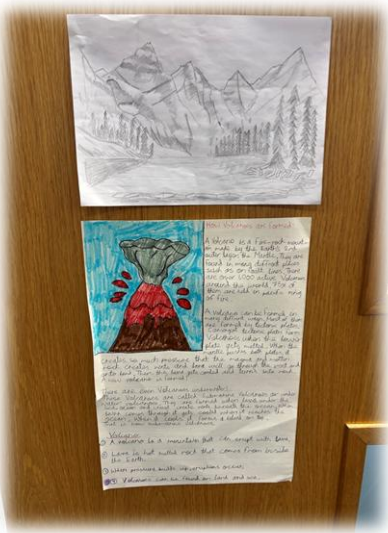
Governments shouldn't stop children from saying what they think.

Thought for the fortnight:
'You have to be able to accept failure to get better.'
- LeBron James

Volcanic Eruptions!

The children in Year 6 have been busy creating some fantastic projects to support our learning on Mountains and Volcanoes this term. They each created their own volcano, inspired by the volcanoes in Italy, and we spent Monday morning carefully avoiding the lava as we watched them erupt!

All the children worked independently and responsibly and we are super proud of their dedication and creativity. We look forward to seeing their next project creations after the Easter break.



Related Right:

This learning links to Article 29 of the UNCRC, which states that education should help children develop their skills, confidence and understanding of the world. By designing, building and erupting their own volcano models, the Year 6 pupils showed creativity, independence and problem-solving. This hands-on project deepens their geographical understanding while helping them grow as thoughtful, capable learners—supporting their right to an education that helps them reach their full potential.

29



I have the right to an education which develops my personality, talents and abilities

Education should develop children's respect for other people's human rights.

Education should develop children's respect for the environment.

Children should learn about their own culture and other cultures.

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Fun with Food!

Year 3 had a fantastic time making their very own healthy pitta pockets! The activity began with the children learning about which foods are healthy and how different ingredients can help our bodies grow strong. They then had the exciting opportunity to taste a variety of filling options, exploring new flavours and deciding which ones they liked best. With their chef hats on, the pupils carefully chopped fresh vegetables and selected their favourite ingredients to create their own delicious pitta pocket. It was a fun, hands-on experience that helped everyone learn more about healthy eating while enjoying some very tasty creations!

'It was so fun using the knife to chop up the different salad choices, with my friends!' - **Zayeem, 3A**

'The chicken tasted so good! I thought I was going to choose cheese, but then I had to choose the tasty chicken!' - **Mehmal, 3A**

'I loved being able to make choices about which ingredients I had in my pitta and how much of it went in!' - **Isaiah, 3R**

'I thought I didn't like tuna before the taste test, but then I tried it and loved it!' - **Huzaifa, 3R**



Thought for the fortnight:
'You have to be able to accept failure to get better.'
- LeBron James



Related Right:

This learning links to Article 29 of the UNCRC, which states that education should support children's development, confidence and understanding of the world. By exploring healthy foods, tasting new ingredients and safely preparing their own pitta pockets, Year 3 pupils built important life skills that promote independence and wellbeing. This hands-on experience encouraged curiosity, healthy choices and practical confidence—supporting their right to an education that helps them reach their full potential.

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Science with skittles

Last week in Science, the pupils explored the fascinating processes of osmosis and diffusion using two colourful favourites—gummy bears and Skittles. To investigate osmosis, the pupils placed gummy bears in water and observed how they grew in size over time. This happened because water moved into the gummy bears, passing through their semi-permeable surface from an area of higher water concentration to lower concentration. The result? Super-sized gummies and a memorable demonstration of how cells absorb water. Unfortunately though, the water penetrated the gummies so well, that the gummy snake ended up falling apart before we could measure its size!



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Next, the year 6 pupils looked at diffusion using Skittles. When placed in a shallow dish of water, each Skittle slowly released its colour coating. The colours spread outwards until they met, creating beautiful rainbow patterns. This showed diffusion in action—the movement of particles from an area of high concentration to one of lower concentration.

The experiment was a fun, hands-on way for our students to see real scientific processes unfold right before their eyes, turning everyday sweets into powerful learning tools!



Related Right:

This learning links to Article 13 of the UNCRC, which states that children have the right to share their thoughts, ideas and discoveries. During the experiment, students observed changes, made predictions, and discussed what they thought was happening as the gummy bears and Skittles reacted with water. By communicating their reasoning and comparing results, pupils strengthened their scientific voice and confidence in expressing their ideas.

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Year 5's trip to the Science Museum



Related Right:

This experience links to Article 29 of the UNCRC, which says that education should help children develop their skills, confidence and understanding of the world. Visiting the Science Museum and Wonderlab allowed pupils to explore scientific ideas through interactive exhibits, hands-on investigations and real-world examples. By engaging with science in such an exciting environment, the children deepened their curiosity, critical thinking and love of learning—supporting their right to an education that helps them reach their full potential.

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More Diamond Reading Award Winners

Both Ameenah and Parmeet in 6JL have been extremely committed to their reading since the beginning of this academic year and have now joined Eliza from 6K in successfully achieving their diamond reading awards too. To celebrate their success, Ameenah was awarded with a signed copy of *Murder on the Safari Star*, and Parmeet with *Kidnap on the California Comet*, by M. G. Leonard and Sam Sedgman.

As we enter our Summer term soon, we look forward to celebrating with a lot more of you, who will be successful in achieving your diamond reading award. However, in the meantime, keep reading, and well done to those who have been receiving awards regularly and working towards this great achievement. Ameenah and Parmeet – a massive well done to both of you from the whole Gordon Primary School community.



Related Right:

This links to Article 31, as reading for enjoyment is an important part of every child's right to take part in cultural and recreational activities. Ameenah and Parmeet's dedication shows how children can explore and enjoy literature as part of this right.



31 I have a right to rest, relax and play

World Book Day – Year 6 & Year 2 peer Reading



Thought for the fortnight:
'You have to be able to accept failure to get better.'
- LeBron James



Related Right:

This activity links to Article 29 of the UNCRC, which says that education should help children develop their skills, confidence and understanding of the world. By taking part in peer reading on World Book Day, all of our pupils had the opportunity to share stories, support one another and build their communication skills. The older pupils acted as positive reading role models, while the younger children gained confidence and joy in reading. This collaborative experience nurtured curiosity, teamwork and a love of books—supporting every child's right to an education that helps them reach their full potential.

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World Book Day – Some of our Door Designs



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Wonderful World of Reading

During the week beginning the 2nd of March, the staff and children of Gordon celebrated books and our lovely of reading, as part of the National Year of Reading. Throughout the week, the children participated in a range of exciting and engaging reading activities, from decorating their class doors on the theme of reading, to sharing favourite books with children in other year groups, as part of paired reading activities.

Walking around the school, it was an absolute pleasure to hear and see the classrooms and corridors alight with the buzz of reading and story language.



On World Book Day itself, several of the children and staff chose to dress up as their favourite book character. It was a delight to see the effort that so many of the children and their families had put into making and creating their costumes. Our thanks go to all of the members of the Gordon community who helped to make the week such a success, particularly to those who got their creative juices flowing and helped to design a costume.

Unfortunately, the book swap that was planned for the Friday was unable to go ahead. We will however reschedule

this for later in the year so please do drop off any book donations to the school office.

Lastly, due to the popularity of the whole school Readathon, we have decided to extend the finish date to next Friday - the 20th of March. Please remember that the easiest way to sponsor a child is at <https://readathon.my.salesforce-sites.com/sponsor> (which family and friends can use too) or return the sponsor card with a cheque(s) or cash sent to school.

All sponsorship money can be paid to the office, in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class on, or online via the link above. For more information, check out your child's sponsorship card and visit www.readforgood.org.



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Visit from a Poet

To finish off our fun Reading Week, we had the pleasure of welcoming poet Zohab Zee Khan to our school. He introduced us to the didgeridoo, a traditional instrument from Australia, and even played it for us! We also learned a rhyme together and enjoyed listening to a story at the end, which was written by his friend. It was a fantastic experience and we had great fun pretending to play our own didgeridoos too!

'I like the big tree' - Safi

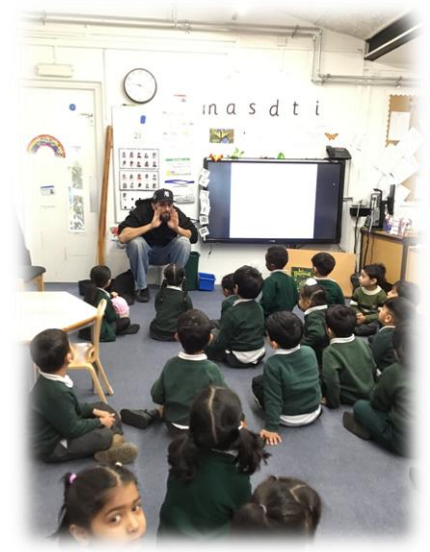
'The music was soooo loud' – Samrath

'It hurt me ears' – Yousuf

'I like the story, he have different socks' – Ozan

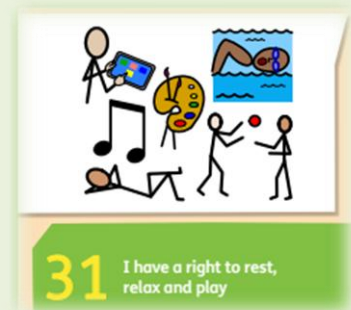
'It come from the tree' – Dua

'I dance and dance so much' - Samar



Related Right:

This experience links to Article 31 of the UNCRC, which states that children have the right to take part in cultural and artistic activities. Welcoming a poet into school gave pupils the chance to explore storytelling, rhythm and creativity in a fun and engaging way. By learning a rhyme together, listening to a story and discovering the sound of the didgeridoo, the children experienced rich cultural expression beyond the classroom. This joyful session supported their right to enjoy meaningful, creative opportunities while developing a deeper appreciation for literature and the arts.



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PLT letter to Ms Naidoo

Dear Ms Naidoo,

We are writing in regard to World Book Day and the disappointment felt by many families that children were not permitted to dress up this year. As a federated school, Cleveland Road Primary was allowed to do so, and this difference was raised as a key concern at our recent PLT meeting. Many members expressed that they did not agree with the decision, and in fact the majority of those present voted in favour of allowing children to dress up.

While dressing up itself is not the most important element, what truly matters are the memories created—particularly for our Year 6 children—the joy, laughter, and confidence it brings, and the opportunity to celebrate creativity through learning and fun.

We are also aware that class sizes in several year groups are currently small. Celebrating World Book Day in a visible, engaging way—such as sharing photos or experiences on the school website—could help promote the school positively and encourage new families to join, while also boosting attendance and enthusiasm among current pupils.

Articles 13 and 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasise children's entitlement to a high-quality education, alongside the freedom to express themselves and develop their individual identities. Allowing children to choose outfits inspired by books supports self-expression and often encourages others to read the stories those characters come from.

We understand concerns around parents and carers spending unnecessary money on costumes. As a PLT, we believe this can be addressed in an eco-friendly and inclusive way by promoting reused, homemade, or creatively adapted outfits. This aligns with the school's sustainability values and ensures no family feels under pressure to spend money.

We also recognise concerns regarding unpaid trips. We are committed to addressing this through clearer communication with families and supporting consistent engagement across classes.

Ultimately, celebrating World Book Day in this way supports every child's reading development. It increases enthusiasm for books, expands vocabulary, encourages discussion, and inspires writing. Just as importantly, it promotes inclusivity, confidence, imagination, and respect for individual differences.

With this week also being Children's Mental Health Week, we feel this would be a timely opportunity to support children's wellbeing by creating a positive, memorable experience for pupils and staff alike.

We trust you will carefully consider this feedback and make the decision you feel is best for the children, staff, and wider school community. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Hanna Salim, Nuh Samad, Rania Tariq & Taybah Ferdous,

On behalf of the Pupil Leadership Team and the community of Gordon Primary School

Thought for the fortnight:
'You have to be able to accept failure to get better.'
- LeBron James

Commendations

We are very pleased to be able to celebrate the children who have been awarded commendations, over the last fortnight. Many congratulations to all the children who have been awarded commendations for demonstrating the 5Cs.

		Week commencing 02.03.26		Week commencing 09.03.26	
YEAR	Class	Teacher Commendation	Peer Commendation	Teacher Commendation	Peer Commendation
Early Years Foundation Stage	N AM	Gurasees	Fayaz	Ibrahim	Zoraiz
	N PM	Samar	Musab	Subhana	Zohan
	RBH	Zain	Sajal	Ilyas	Rayaan
	RP	Affan	Zaynab	Shahwali	Eesa
One	1A	Fabia	Abdul Ahad	Whole class	Zulaikha
	1O	Khizar	Eshaal	Wali	Tymoffi
Two	2AS	Safiyya	Isaiah	Mirdhula	Sanah
	2R	Sarim	Osman	Osman	Musa
Three	3A	Aleena	Anastasia	Paul	Anika
	3R	Lucas	Hamza	Yunus	Aaminah
Four	4N	Amira	Iqra	Bruno	Ayaan S
	4P	Haniya	Ashreya	Jayson	Lujain
Five	5PW	Hanna	Maaz	Mudasir	Hanna
	5R	Taybah	Ahmad	Sophia	Taybah
Six	6JL	Kaif	Zlata	Madalina	Azaan
	6K	Tabrid	Ruqayya	Anays	Princess

Congratulations to this fortnight's commendation winners.
Commendations are awarded to pupils who demonstrate the 5Cs consistently.

Attendance Awards

Many congratulations to the classes with the best attendance. The attendance winners are announced in assembly every Monday.

Week commencing 02.03.26		Week commencing 09.03.26	
Phase	Winners	Phase	Winners
EYFS	RP	EYFS	RBH
KS1 (Years 1-2)	1A	KS1 (Years 1-2)	1A
KS2 (Years 3-6)	6K	KS2 (Years 3-6)	3A

Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) Awards

Many congratulations to all the children who have been given a Spanish commendation. These children have been nominated by Señora Fitzpatrick, for demonstrating excellent attitudes to learning in their Spanish classes.

Class	Week commencing 02.03.26	Week commencing 09.03.26
Nursery	Ibrahim	Dua
Reception	Riyasat	Ahmed
Year 1	Sebastian	Alayna
Year 2	Eesa	Sarah
Year 3	Asma	Whole class
Year 4	Hanish	Ayaan
Year 5	Amelia	Whole class
Year 6	Dilpreet	Jannat

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- LeBron James

Music Awards

Many congratulations to all the children who have been awarded the Music commendations over the last two weeks. These children have been nominated by Mr McKevitt, for demonstrating excellent attitudes to learning in their Music classes.

Class	Week commencing 02.03.26	Week commencing 09.03.26
Nursery	Aa'isha	Yusuf
Reception	Navicca	Ibraheem
Year 1	Eeshal	Ahmad
Year 2	Aryan	Fatima
Year 3	Asma	Ashfiya
Year 4	Prabh	Abdul
Year 5	Sophia	Mudasir
Year 6	Azaan	Ruqayya

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Sports commendations

Many congratulations to all the children who have been given sports awards by Coach Gbana. These awards are given to children demonstrating positive attitudes in PE and for those who put in extra effort to develop their skills, show teamwork and work hard to make great progress.

Class	Week commencing 02.03.26	Week commencing 09.03.26
Nursery	Anisha	Hafsa
Reception	Ayla	Yugveer
Year 1	Dua	Alaya
Year 2	Bhavreet	Faryal
Year 3	Isaiah	Shreehan
Year 4	James	Anfal
Year 5	Maliha	Raaghav
Year 6	Adeena	Giulia

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Reading Awards

Week commencing 02.03.26			Week commencing 09.03.26		
Name	Class	Award	Name	Class	Award
Abdul Ahad	1A	Silver	Sarim	NAM	Bronze
Musa	1A	Emerald	Jessica	NPM	Bronze
Hud	1A	Emerald	Tabrid	6K	Emerald
Aryan	4P	Bronze	Affan	6K	Emerald
Layal	3A	Bronze	Haya	6K	Sapphire
Zayeem	3A	Bronze	Ekam	6K	Sapphire
Hashim	3A	Bronze	Davidas	6K	Silver
Yousuf	3A	Gold	Emery	5PW	Silver
Mahroosh	2AS	Amethyst	Safia	5PW	Gold
Aryan	2AS	Silver	Dillon	5PW	Emerald
Lana	2AS	Gold	Bidit	5PW	Emerald
Eesa	2AS	Ruby	Raaghav	5PW	Amethyst
Safiyya	2AS	Ruby	Zahra	5PW	Amethyst
Ibraheem	3R	Emerald			
Ismaeel	3R	Bronze			
Hisham	3R	Gold			

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Safa	3R	Gold			
Erika	3R	Emerald			
Eesa	3R	Amethyst			
Alex	6K	Bronze			
Davidas	6K	Bronze			
Tabrid	6K	Gold			
Affan	6K	Gold			
Anays	6K	Emerald			
Isra	6K	Emerald			
Thansika	6K	Amethyst			
Ariya	6K	Amethyst			
Adeena	6K	Sapphire			
Haya	6K	Ruby			
Adi	6K	Ruby			
Ekam	6K	Ruby			
Prangon	6K	Bronze			
Sreeyan	6K	Gold			

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Parent Notices

RBO Youth Opera Programme Applications (2026-2027)

The Royal Ballet and Opera have opened applications for places on our FREE Youth Opera programmes starting in September 2026. We invite applications from all enthusiastic young singers living in and around London, who will be aged 8 –11 on 1st September 2026 (currently in Years 3-5).

Young Voices Programme

Young singers who will be aged 8 on 1st September 2026 are invited to apply for our Young Voices programme – a FREE 6-month singing programme aimed at developing participants’ vocal skills and musical literacy.

Youth Opera Company

Young singers who will be aged 9-11 on 1st September 2026 are invited to apply for our Youth Opera Company programme – a FREE multi-year in-house chorus which offers all-round training in the performing arts and opportunities to audition for the children’s chorus in the Royal Opera Company’s productions.

All applicants should be able to demonstrate:

- A passion for and commitment to singing
- An interest in drama and performing skills
- An enthusiasm for teamwork and collaboration

We particularly welcome applications from those typically under-represented within youth singing programmes including those who are from global majority heritages, lower-income backgrounds, those who are boys, and disabled children.

For more information regarding the RBO Youth Opera Programmes and how to apply, please visit our website here: [RBO Youth Opera Programmes](#)

Please submit your application **by midnight on Sunday 10 May**. Should you experience any issues completing the application form, please contact youthopera@roh.org.uk in advance of the deadline.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch — and many thanks in advance for any help sharing this opportunity.

Best wishes,

Stephanie Waldron
L&P Opera Officer

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Dear Resident,

I thought I would share a piece of good news for Redbridge.

The BBC's much-loved programme **Antiques Roadshow** will be visiting our borough this summer.

The show will be filming at **Valentines Mansion & Gardens in Ilford on Sunday 7 June 2026**, giving local residents the opportunity to attend and even have antiques or collectables assessed by the programme's experts.

So if you have an old family heirloom tucked away in the loft, a curious item sitting in a cupboard, or something you have always wondered about, this could be your chance to find out its story - and perhaps even its value.

Even if you do not have anything to bring along, it should be a lovely day out and a great opportunity for Redbridge to be showcased on national television.

You can find further details, including how to apply for tickets or submit an item for valuation, here:

<https://visionrcl.org.uk/antiques-roadshow-rolls-into-redbridge-this-summer/>

Best Regards,

Tanweer

Cllr Tanweer Khan

Councillor for Mayfield Ward

Chair of Pension Fund Committee

London Borough of Redbridge

Redbridge Town Hall

128-142 High Road, Ilford, IG1 1DD

Email: tanweer.khan@redbridge.gov.uk



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Redbridge Mental Health Support Team presents...

PARENT AND CARER'S IN MIND: WEBINARS FOR WELLBEING

Hear from mental health professionals about how to promote your child's emotional health and wellbeing. Our monthly webinar offer starts with our three most popular topics

**REGISTER
NOW!**

MANAGING EXAM STRESS

Exams can be stressful times for young people and their families, in this webinar we will be looking at the exam experience through the lens of anxiety. We will be sharing ideas on how you can support children and young people as they navigate this common event in school years.

WED 25.02.26 7-8PM

MOVING UP TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Moving from primary to secondary school can be a significant milestone, in this webinar we will be looking at ways parents and carers can support children with preparation, help them with any worries and support yourselves to manage the change.

WED 25.03.26 7-8PM

TALKING ABOUT BIG FEELINGS

Understanding our emotions can be an important way to help us communicate what we need successfully. In this webinar we look at the relationship between emotions and behaviour, we will be sharing ideas and strategies to help you support children and young people with this valuable knowledge.

WED 29.04.26 7-8PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP
CLICK HERE,

VISIT WWW.REDBRIDGE.GOV.UK AND SEARCH 'MHST'
OR GO TO LINKTR.EE/REDBRIDGEMHST



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