Newsletter 2 *Monday 5th October 2026*

Gordon Primary School

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Fortnightly message

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2nd edition of Gordon's newsletter, for 2026-2027.

The last two weeks of term have seen us celebrate some fantastic achievements from individuals, groups and classes. We are proud to share that a group of children visited Langdon Secondary School, to represent us in a netball competition. We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate each and every one of them for the hard work and determination that they put into preparing for and participating, in the competition. We look forward to celebrating more sporting events, this term.

Please see the diary dates for some further information about upcoming events. If your child is in Year Six, please pay particular attention to the secondary school application window date. Further information regarding this, was shared as part of your *Meet the Teacher* meeting in September. We will shortly be sharing some more information with you, regarding this.

Rights of the Fortnight

Week 1 – Right 30

Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

Week 2 – Right 17

Every child has the right to reliable information from the mass media, television, radio, newspaper and other media should provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Diary Dates

1st September – 31st October
Secondary school application window for September 2027

Friday 9th October
Hello Yellow Day – Whole school

Year 4 visit Hainault Forest

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd October
Bikeability – Year 5 and 6

Tuesday 20th October
Flu immunisations – Reception to Year Six
- Further details to be provided, nearer the time

Thursday 22nd October
Parent Consultation Meetings – School closes at 1:30pm, for pupils

Week beginning 26th October
Half term – School closed to pupils and staff

Thursday 19th November
Individual photos

Wednesday 25th November
Year 4 visit The Lion King musical, in London

Thought for the fortnight: We know what we are but not what we may be. ***– Shakespeare***

Autumn Walk in Year One

Year 1 had a wonderful time exploring the school grounds on our Autumn walk! The children enjoyed spotting the signs of autumn all around them, noticing colourful leaves, conkers, acorns, twigs and berries. We also visited the school garden, where the children were excited to discover a variety of fruits and vegetables growing in the garden beds. They talked about what they could see, hear and feel, and noticed how nature changes as we move into autumn. It was a fun and exciting opportunity for the children to explore, observe and appreciate the natural world around them.

"Look at all the different coloured leaves!" – **Arham, 1HR**

"I found some tomatoes!" – **Zaynab 1HR**

"The leaves are falling off the trees because it's autumn." – **Daniyal, 1HR**

"I LOVE school!" – **Rebeca, 1HR**

"Look! Miss! I see a spider!" – **Yusuf, 1HR**

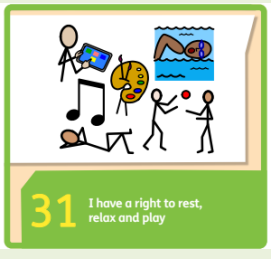






Related Right:

Our Year One learners explored their natural environment, developing their curiosity and knowledge of the world that they live in. This supported them to access several different articles, including Article 31.



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

Exploring Rocks

This week, Year 3 put on their scientist hats and became **rock investigators**! They explored the different properties of rocks and carried out a series of exciting experiments to find out what makes each rock unique.



The children tested **durability**, by scratching the surface of different rocks to see which were harder and more resistant. There was plenty of excitement as they eagerly scratched away, carefully recording their observations and comparing their results.

Then they investigated **permeability**, testing which rocks allowed water to pass through them and which kept the water out.

Finally, they explored **buoyancy**, by placing different rocks into water to see whether they would float or sink. The children particularly enjoyed this part, making lots of hilarious sound effects as the rocks made their dramatic *"PLOP!"* into the water!

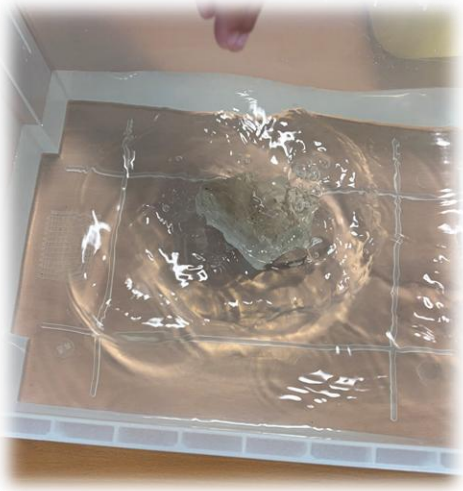
It was fantastic to see the children making predictions, asking questions, observing carefully and using scientific vocabulary to explain what they had discovered. Year 3 certainly proved that being a scientist can be messy, exciting and lots of fun!



Sarim 3A "I loved when I put the biggest rock in the water and it made a really big splash!"

Faryal 3R "I enjoyed scratching the sandstone and watching lots of bits of sand fall off of it!"

Miss Riches "I thoroughly enjoyed getting splashed in the face by the limestone!"



Related Right:

The children accessed a range of rights respecting articles, through their scientific exploration. This included Article 29, while developing their skills, curiosity, critical thinking and understanding of the world. Alongside this, they made observations and discussed their findings, ensuring that their voice was heard.



Thought for the fortnight: We know what we are but not what we may be. ***– Shakespeare***

Fun at Fairplay House



On the 21st of September, a group of 21 Year 5 children and 3 members of staff, went on a residential to Fairplay House.

What an incredible two-night adventure, they had!. From the moment they arrived, the focus was on looking out for each other, trying new skills and discovering what they all are capable of.

The children stepped outside their comfort zone, encouraged one another, took on new responsibilities and faced challenges with determination.

There was certainly no shortage of excitement! They tackled a fantastic range of activities, including:



- The 3G Swing – facing nerves, building, courage, coordinated group work, active communication and trust building
- Caving – navigating underground challenges and working together as a team
- Archery – developing focus, patience and accuracy
- Night Walk - navigating and following directions from start to finish. But, at the same time, stopping and enjoying the sunset during their walk.

The adventure wasn't just about the organised activities. The children also took responsibility for setting up for meals and tidying up afterwards.

On their last evening, they were fortunate enough to have a campfire setup, where they sang songs, laughed at their singing skills and ate toasted marshmallows. To end the night, they enjoyed some popcorn and watched a movie.





Mr McKevitt, Ms Abha and Mrs Patel believe the biggest achievement of the trip was seeing the growth in confidence and attitude in our children. Challenges that initially seemed daunting were met with:

"I'll give it a go."

Congratulations to this fortnight's commendation winners.
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"I can do this."

"Let's try again."

The children discovered that they could do far more than they first thought possible.

They left with new experiences, new skills, new memories and, most importantly, a can-do attitude — the confidence to face a challenge and to support others and to keep going.

A huge well done to all of the children who visited Fairplay House. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves!





Related Right:



For many of our children, this was their first experience of staying away from home, without a parent. Not only did they develop their independence, resilience and perseverance, but they also accessed their right to rest, relax and play. A wonderful enrichment opportunity, for them all.

Thought for the fortnight: We know what we are but not what we may be. ***– Shakespeare***

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 21.09.26		Week commencing 28.09.26	
YEAR	**Class**	**Teacher Commendation**	**Peer Commendation**	**Teacher Commendation**	**Peer Commendation**
Early Years Foundation Stage	N AM	To commence soon		Maahi	To commence soon
	N PM	To commence soon		Esa	To commence soon
	RB	Gurbaz	Maahi	Samrath	Mannat
	RP	Eisa	Dua	Ronan	Zahra
One	1HR	Devonte	Alayna	Rebeca	Navicca
	1R	Haniya	Shayaan	Yugveer	Hussnain
Two	2A	Safa	Milan	Milan	Rut
	2P	Lamaisah	Fabia	Hud	Bryan
Three	3A	Hayaa	Yahya	Ahmad	Musa
	3R	Faryal	Sulaimaan	Sanah	Sofia
Four	4B	Jussara	Ayaan	Lucas	Fatimah
	4N	Aleena	Alisha	Hamza	Hamza
Five	5MP	Anfal	Dunya	Anfal	Dunya
	5R	Alyssa	Ayaan	Alyssa	Ayaan
Six	6JL	Emery	Dillon	Umar	Umar
	6K	Ayaan	Maliha	Izaan	Amelia

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 21.09.26		Week commencing 28.09.26	
Phase	**Attendance Winner**	**Phase**	**Attendance Winner**
EYFS	RP	**EYFS**	RP
KS1 (Years 1-2)	2P	**KS1 (Years 1-2)**	2A
KS2 (Years 3-6)	6JL	**KS2 (Years 3-6)**	6JL

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 28.09.26
Nursery	Yusuf
Reception	Dilina
Year 1	Aila
Year 2	Ravneet
Year 3	Naomi
Year 4	Ezra
Year 5	Stanislav
Year 6	Omer

Thought for the fortnight: We know what we are but not what we may be. ***– Shakespeare***

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 21.09.26	Week commencing 28.09.26
Nursery	To commence soon	Abu Bakr
Reception	Zamil	Zoraiz
Year 1	Dua	Hamza
Year 2	Abubakar	Milo
Year 3	Safiyya	Yahya
Year 4	Chris	Fatimah
Year 5	Taha	Yanis
Year 6	Bilal	Abu Bakr

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Sports Commendations

Many congratulations to all the children who have been given sports awards by Coach Romeo. 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 21.09.26	Week commencing 28.09.26
Nursery	To commence soon	To commence soon
Reception	To commence soon	To commence soon
Year 1	Devonte	Yinuo
Year 2	Meriem	Kaylan
Year 3	Avneet	Khadijah
Year 4	Hoorain	Eesa
Year 5	Haider K	Kaiyim
Year 6	Zainab	Emery

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Reading Awards

Week commencing 21.09.26			Week commencing 28.09.26		
Name	**Class**	**Award**	**Name**	**Class**	**Award**
Taiba	5MP	Bronze	Fatima	3A	Bronze
			Faryal	3R	Bronze
			Sarah	3R	Bronze
			Eesa	3R	Bronze
			Asma	4B	Bronze

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MacMillan Cake Sale



We would like to extend our special thanks to all those of you who supported our Macmillan Cake Sale, last month. Be that through donating baked goods for us to sell and raise money to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer, or purchasing some tasty treats for you to enjoy at home.

We are pleased to share that we raised £140 for the charity.

Should you wish to find out more about Macmillan Cancer Support or how you can make a donation, please visit:

- https://www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee-morning

Thought for the fortnight: We know what we are but not what we may be. **– *Shakespeare***

Importance of Attendance

As you will be aware, regular school attendance is incredibly important. Each day at school supports your child to build essential academic skills and healthy routines, while developing their social interactions with others.

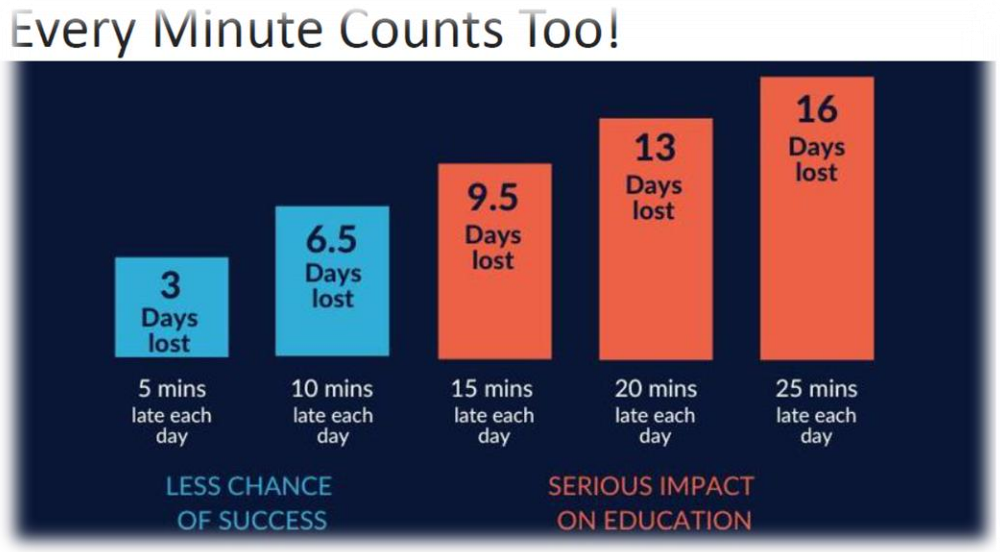
Though an attendance of above 90% may seem high, a child who attends for 94% of the day has in fact missed approximately 2 weeks of learning and 50 lessons, significantly impacting their progress and understanding.

The table below outlines how attendance percentages link with sessions, weeks and lessons missed. Please pay particular attention to the columns circled in red, to identify the significant impact that absences have.

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

Punctuality is also a vital part of your child's schooling experience. Not only does attending on time ensure that your child is able to access all of their lessons, it also teaches them vital work habits and responsibility for future jobs.



Did you know that just 5 minutes of missed learning time each day equates to a total of at least 3 days of learning lost, in a year?

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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.



Mobile 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 into 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.

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