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The Gorsey Weekly

THE GORSEY BANK MISSION STATEMENT

To nurture lifelong learners who are confident and ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the outside world.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

For Remembrance Day, we were delighted to welcome our members of The Treasury who spoke to the children about the importance of remembrance. They shared information about the work of the Royal British Legion and explained how the charity supports veterans, serving personnel and their families through advice, care and practical assistance. The children listened thoughtfully and gained a deeper understanding of why we remember those who have served their country and the ways in which support continues long after military service has ended.



DIWALI ASSEMBLY

A huge thank you to Shila for coming into school to teach our children about Diwali.

The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about this important festival and its traditions. It was particularly lovely to see those children who celebrate Diwali having the opportunity to share and celebrate their culture and heritage with their friends, helping us to learn from and appreciate one another's traditions.

We are very grateful to Shila for making the experience so engaging and memorable for our pupils.

ATTENDANCE IN AUTUMN TERM 2

The Christmas period is always an exciting time for our children, with many memorable family and community events taking place. However, it is important that pupils continue to attend school regularly throughout the term so that they do not miss valuable learning opportunities.

We would like to remind parents that taking children out of school during term time for holidays or other unauthorised reasons can result in a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority. We have already had to issue several fines this academic year and are concerned that the number of requests for term-time absence remains high in Autumn 2. Regular attendance is essential for children's learning, progress and wellbeing, and we ask all families to support their child's education by ensuring holidays and non-essential trips are planned during the school holiday periods. Where unauthorised absences continue to occur, fines will be issued in line with current government and local authority guidance.

As a school, we carefully monitor attendance throughout the year. Over the last few years, we have noticed a recurring trend during the run-up to Christmas where attendance falls as some children attend festive events, visit Santa, attend performances or family activities during the school day. While we fully appreciate how special this time of year is for families, these absences can result in children missing important lessons, assessments, Christmas activities and performances and opportunities to learn alongside their peers.

This year, we will be monitoring attendance particularly closely during the Christmas period. We kindly ask parents and carers to support us by ensuring that children attend school every day and arrive on time unless there is a genuine reason for absence. Where possible, family events and appointments should be arranged outside school hours.

By working together, we can ensure that every child benefits from a full education right up to the end of term and continues to build the excellent attendance habits that help them thrive both now and in the future.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

16th Nov - School Tour

23rd Nov - School Tour

30th Nov - School Tour

30th Nov - Reception Nativity Dress Rehearsal to Y6

2nd Dec - Reception Nativity

3rd Dec - Sally's Christmas Concert

4th Dec - PTA Christmas Market

9th Dec - Y3 / Y4 Rex Cinema Visit (AM)

9th Dec - Y5 / Y6 Rex Cinema Visit (PM)

10th Dec - KS1 Nativity

11th Dec - KS1 Nativity

14th Dec - KS2 Carol Service Dress Rehearsal

15th Dec - KS1 Christmas Party

15th Dec - KS2 Carol Service 2pm

15th Dec - KS2 Carol Service 7pm

16th Dec - Christmas Lunch

17th Dec - Rec, Y1 & Y2 Rex Cinema Visit



THIS WEEK'S HOUSE POINTS SO FAR...

210	ALTIUS	MAGNUS	243
202	CITIUS	FORTIUS	252

PARENT COUNCIL UPDATES

Thank you to all the parents who attended our recent Parent Council meeting. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for us to gather feedback, share updates and work together to further improve the experience of all children and families at Gorsey Bank.

A key discussion centred around PSHE and how we can best support families at home. Parents shared that they would welcome further guidance around the use of AI and technology, as well as practical strategies to support positive behaviour at home. We will be exploring ways to provide additional resources and workshops in these areas.

We also discussed attendance and the importance of maintaining excellent attendance to ensure children achieve their full potential. Parents asked us to reiterate key messages regarding attendance fines and penalty notices, which have been included in this week's newsletter. We will also look to share further information about the significant impact attendance has on both academic outcomes and children's wellbeing and mental health.

The recent Movie Night was also reviewed. Parents shared some positive feedback about the event and discussed ways it could be enhanced in the future. Suggestions included extending the length of the event and potentially splitting it into separate sessions for Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 to provide more space and a more comfortable experience for everyone attending.

As always, we greatly value the feedback, ideas and support provided through the Parent Council. Your contributions play an important role in our ongoing school improvement journey, and we are very grateful for the time and commitment given by our parent representatives.

EARRINGS

As outlined in our school uniform policy, children **should not wear earrings to school**. We would be very grateful for parents' support in helping us maintain a consistent approach by ensuring that children do not come to school wearing earrings.



