

The Gorseley Weekly

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A very warm welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. I hope you have all had a lovely couple of weeks with your families and that your children have enjoyed being back with us this week. We are excited about what is always a busy Spring term here at Gorseley. There are loads of plans for the months ahead and events to mark including World Book Day, Safer Internet Day, World Read Aloud Day to name but a few.

We also have the start of our year group assemblies (see below), residential for the children in KS2 and some brilliant visits already planned for the children. As always a selection of key dates are included on page 2.

CHARACTER TRAITS



We are now a term into introducing our six 'character traits' as part of our curricula: **bravery, citizenship, curiosity, gratitude, integrity and kindness**. These represent a range of qualities which we think mirror both our status as a UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools and also our three school rules: we are respectful, we do our best, we make good choices.

These character traits are a central part of each year group's termly Bookshelf, discussed in weekly assemblies and form the basis for the weekly achievement certificates the children receive.

Some of the traits are more complex than others but the concept is that the children's understanding of each one evolves over the course of their time with us and by the time they leave us they are not only able to talk confidently about each one but regularly display behaviours which reflect them.

Bravery - Not running from challenge and speaking up for what's right

Citizenship - Working well as a member of a group or team; being loyal to the group

Curiosity - Taking an interest in experience for its own sake; finding things fascinating

Gratitude - Being aware of and thankful for the good things that happen

Integrity - Speaking the truth and presenting oneself sincerely and genuinely

Kindness - Doing favours and good deeds for others; helping them and taking care of them

DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?

Although the snow, at times this week, has been difficult, the children certainly enjoyed building snow men! Let's enjoy it whilst it lasts!



THIS WEEK'S ASSEMBLY

This week we shared a lovely book called '*Last Stop on Market Street*' by Matt de la Peña, the story follows a young boy named CJ and his grandmother as they travel across town on a bus. Throughout their journey, CJ notices the contrasts between different parts of the city, such as wealth and poverty, and questions why they don't live in a more luxurious neighbourhood. His grandmother helps him see the beauty in everyday life and teaches him to appreciate the world around him, finding joy in both the simple and the complex aspects of life. The story highlights themes of kindness and gratitude. During the assembly the children shared stories of what they were grateful for and how the story made them feel.



ADMISSIONS DEADLINE

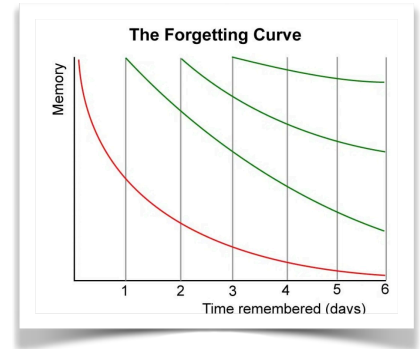
A reminder for any parents with children due to start school in September 2025 that the admissions deadline is this coming Wednesday 15th January. Places should be applied for via the Cheshire East website.

WHY DOES MY CHILD FORGET STUFF?

Amongst the many common experiences we have as parents and teachers, one of the more perplexing is those that end in the phrase (or thought) 'but you knew this yesterday!!' The key point for this piece is that when we 'learn' something for the first time, it is natural for us to forget it and to then need to relearn it again (and sometimes several times) before it goes into what is known as 'long term memory' and is truly learned (rather than just temporarily remembered). My intent in sharing this is to hopefully mitigate the frustrations we naturally all feel when supporting children with things like the learning of spellings and times tables.

As counter intuitive as it sounds, forgetting is actually a necessary part of the learning process and every time we forget something, the work that goes into trying to recall it, while sometimes deflating, is actively helping the process of truly learning it. A useful visual for this was developed by German psychologist, Herman Ebbinghaus whose work on memory theory included the development of the 'forgetting curve' (see below). This tracked the average time it took someone to forget a piece of information but also the fact that each subsequent time it is 'relearned', it sticks that little bit more.

While knowing this won't prevent the forgetting of facts, hopefully it will make those frustrating moments (for you and your child) a little less frustrating. It may even bring a little explanation for those facts you struggle to remember yourselves!



YEAR GROUP ASSEMBLIES

We're excited about the start of this year's Year Group Assemblies which commence with Year 3 next Friday. For those of you unfamiliar with these, the assemblies are usually about 15-20 minutes in length and are intended to be a light-hearted entertaining presentation of the children's learning so far this year. They also form part of our whole school commitment to give all our children the opportunity to take part in at least three audience-facing performances every year they are with us. Dates for this year's performances are as follows:

Friday 17th Jan - Year 3
 Friday 31st Jan - Year 4
 Friday 7th Feb - Year 2
 Friday 14th Feb - Year 5
 Friday 2nd May - Year 1
 Friday 9th May - Reception

All performances begin at 2.30pm. No tickets are necessary but places are strictly limited to two seats per child.

THIS YEAR'S HOUSE POINTS SO FAR...



DATES FOR THE DIARY

6th Jan - INSET Day
 7th Jan - Children return
 17th Jan - Y3 Assembly
 22nd - 23rd Jan - Parents' Evening (excluding Y6)
 31st Jan - Y4 Assembly
 5th - 6th Feb - Y6 Parents' Evening
 7th Feb - Y2 Assembly/Pop Up Uniform Shop
 14th Feb - Y1 Chester Zoo visit
 14th Feb - Y3 Palace Theatre visit
 14th Feb - Y5 Assembly
 14th Feb - End of term
 24th Feb - Start of term

Article 31

Every child has the right to play and relax by doing things like sports, music and drama



