

# **GODWIN NEWS September 2024**



Welcome back for the new school year – it has been lovely to see so many of our families back in school again. Please help us to facilitate entry to the site by remembering to walk on the left when entering and leaving (lines and arrows are painted on the ground at both entrances to help). Can I also take this opportunity to remind everyone:

- We aim to open the main gates to the school 5 minutes before the doors into the building.
- Please keep younger children with you at all times, especially while waiting for their siblings at the end of the day, and do not let them run around or climb/sit on tables.
- Please take care not to block other people's entrance and exit by stopping to talk along the pathways.
- Animals are not allowed on site (even if carried).
- All council sites are non-smoking this includes vapes.

### Wheels

The rule, for our playground, (regardless of the time of day) is that anyone coming to school on a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or similar must dismount outside the school gate and push it through the playground (this does not apply to disability scooters and wheelchairs). Children in Years 5 and 6 who have passed *Bikeability level 2* can cycle to school on their own, providing they follow the rule for dismounting at the gate and wear a helmet.

## **School Uniform**

Thank you to all parents who have sent their child back to school in the correct uniform – they look really smart and your support is much appreciated. If you are replacing any items of uniform, please remember that shoes and trainers should be plain black (no coloured laces).

Jewellery must not be worn in school, the only exceptions being small stud ear-rings which must be removed on PE days.

## Water bottles

We have plenty of water bottles in school, enough for every child to have one. If, however, you would prefer your child to bring in their own water bottle then you are welcome to do so providing the following:

- Bottles must be clear and transparent (not coloured; no large patterns or designs on them)
- They may only contain still water
- No single-use plastic/disposable bottles
- The bottle should be clearly marked with the child's name and class

### Homework

Homework books for children in Years 2 to 6 are expected to be sent out from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September (deliveries allowing). These will go home every Wednesday and are expected back on the following Tuesday.

All children are expected to read at least 5 times a week and to regularly practise spellings and number bonds/times tables.

Lunchtime homework club will start on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. On Mondays, children can *choose* to attend if they need extra support or time to complete the work in their homework books. On Tuesdays, anyone who has not handed in their completed homework will be expected to attend homework club to finish the work set.

## **Gratitudes**

Being able to regularly express our 'gratitudes' – the things we are thankful for - has been shown to have positive benefits for both our mental and our physical wellbeing. This is particularly true at times when we are not feeling so great.

Following a trial with some of the children last year, this term we will take a few minutes each morning to ask the children to think about what their gratitudes are.

If you would like to try this at home, it often helps to start with the words: 'I am thankful for...'

# **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is now open (7.30-8.45am) at a cost of £3 per session. Bookings are made through the school office, via a booking form which should be completed a week in advance. Payments are made via ParentPay. For more information, please see the school website <a href="https://www.godwinprimary.co.uk">www.godwinprimary.co.uk</a> (see: PARENTS>BREAKFAST CLUB LEAFLET)

## Lunches

For this school year, the Mayor of London has said that *all* children in London primary schools can have a free lunch every day. Our current menu is below.

# **Bringing and Collecting Children**

Following guidance from Social Services, only children in Years 5 and 6 are able to come to school and go home unaccompanied. Your written permission is required for this (a form is available from the school office). All other children should be escorted into the playground and taken to the appropriate entrance door by an adult who should check that the child has actually entered the building — please do not leave your child at the gate.

Similarly, children in Reception to Year 4 who are attending Breakfast Club should be taken right up to the appropriate door and not left at the gate.

### **Past Pupils**

As a school, we love to hear how our past pupils are getting on, particularly what their next steps are once they finish secondary school. If you have an older child who attended Godwin, please take a moment to share any updates by emailing them to the school office.

## **Very Important: Parents of Children in Year 6**

The deadline for applying for secondary school places is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024. Please ensure that you have completed an online application form by the closing date. Any online applications received by the Local Authority after the closing date will be treated as late and may result in some children not being allocated a place at their preferred school.

### **School Streets**

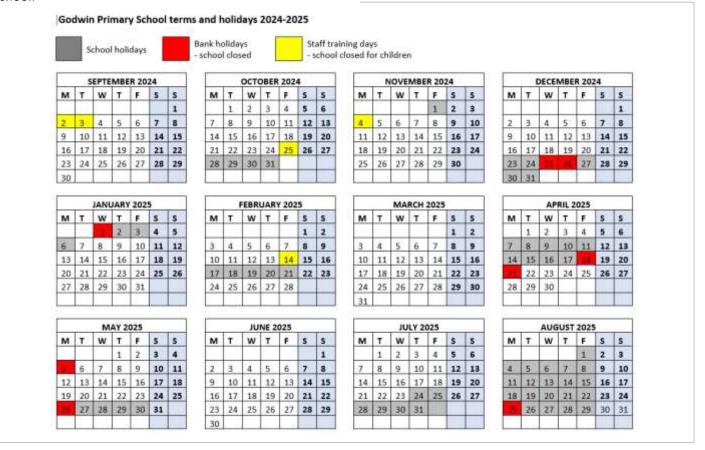
I have been asked by the Council to advise parents that the School Streets parking restrictions (when the roads around schools are closed to most traffic at the start and end of the school day) are not yet in place around our school. An update has been promised for the end of September and residents should not try to apply for exemption permits at this time. Information about how and when to apply will be provided in due course.

# **Relief Midday Positions**

We are currently looking for caring and friendly people who can teach and promote playground games, support social interaction and generally help children at lunch times. Application forms can be obtained from Miss Merritt in the school office. These positions are not permanent roles; relief middays are asked to work when the need arises during term time.

### **Code of Conduct**

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our *Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors*. Please be reminded that, in the spirit of *Working Together*, anyone coming onto the school site, or using social media, is expected to abide by this code.



# **School Lunches**

The lunch menu operates on a 2-weekly rotation and is currently as follows (this week is Week 2, so next week - starting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September - will be Week 1). The menu will change after the half term holiday at the end of October:

