

# GOODRINGTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

25 May 2018

Issue 88

Dear Parents

Welcome to our latest newsletter with all the news and events of the past half-term.

## Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex

The Consortium of Selective School in Essex (CSSE), has a comprehensive website for those parents who wish for their children to sit the 11+. They can be found on: <http://www.csse.org.uk>

Registration for the 2019 Entry examination will open on 5th June 2018. **It is important that you do not click on the registration link prior to the 5th June. Email addresses entered prior to the opening date will not be valid for registration.**

The examination date for the 2019 entry: will be held on Saturday 22nd September 2018.

The purpose of the 11+ test is to select the children who have the potential to thrive in an environment which provides a highly academic curriculum and a range of challenging pursuits. Such children will have demonstrated some of the following:

- curiosity, enjoyment of learning and problem solving
- perseverance and completion of challenging tasks
- understanding of all concepts taught at primary school
- enjoyment of a wide range of literature and/or non-fiction texts
- creativity in sustained writing
- ability to make connections between various areas of knowledge
- good memory
- imagination and original ideas
- ability to work at pace and assimilate information quickly.

The Head Teachers of the CSSE schools believe that in addition of the above, children should:

- have a sound understanding of the National Curriculum Mathematics and English
- be familiar with reading and responding to texts with a reading age greater than 11
- fully understand the rudiments of spelling, grammar and punctuation.

**Please note that Head Teachers share a concern that extensive coaching for the 11+ is inappropriate, ultimately counterproductive and may jeopardise a child's ability to cope with the demands of a grammar school education.**

## E-Safety

A reminder to parents that Goodrington has an e-safety policy that ensures the very best internet safety that we can give for all the pupils in our care and thank you to you all for supporting the school in this very important matter.

Meanwhile, I receive the latest information from the UK Safer Internet Centre and urge parents to log onto their site and click on the parents section. Whilst it is often aimed at older children, it is always helpful to have as much information as possible in this ever growing world of technology.

Parents and carers play a key role in supporting children to learn about how to stay safe online, and they are one of the first people children turn to if things go wrong. We know it can be difficult to stay on top of the wide range of sites and devices that young people use, so I hope that the following advice helps.

The latest top tips for parents and carers can be found on the following link:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018/safer-internet-day-2018-top-tips-parents-and-carers>

### **Big Battery Hunt**

I am delighted to inform you that our school has come second in the Big Battery Hunt organised by Duracell. Jimmy, in Year 6, also came first out of all our pupils as he collected an amazing 169 batteries! More information on the prizes that our school has won will be available after half-term.

### **Fire Drill**

The whole school had their termly fire drill during the morning of Thursday 26th April. Everyone evacuated the building very quickly and safely in a record time. Well done to all the pupils who are now extremely familiar with the procedure.

### **Cycles and Scooters**

Please do make use of our Cycle Storage System by encouraging your child to **cycle or scooter** into school, even if it is only for part of your journey. However, I would like remind you that only Year 6 pupils are permitted to cycle alone to school, once I am satisfied they have received the relevant training and I have also received a letter from their parents.

All other pupils must be accompanied by their parent/carer. Cycles must be legally roadworthy and high visibility clothing must be worn. A correctly fitted safety helmet is also a requirement. Within the facility are 10 lockers, which pupils may use to store their helmets, but they must provide their own padlocks. We hope to see more cycles and scooters coming into school.

Please remember that you can always park safely and considerately a few roads away and then walk the remainder of the journey to school with your child, or allow them to cycle or scoot alongside you.

### **Car Share**

One of our objectives, within the School Travel Plan, is to continue to encourage the use of car sharing amongst the families attending Goodrington. We are delighted that a number of families, living too far away to walk, are already using this mode of transport to reach school. If you are interested in car sharing, please let Mrs Williams know and she can circulate your journey details via ParentMail.

### **Driving, Parking and Pupils Safety in Walden Road**

**May I again remind you to drive slowly and carefully down Walden Road when bringing your children to and from school? Please always park with consideration and ensure that you do not park across OR IN residents' driveways to avoid me having to mention cars/registration numbers on ParentMail.**

**As you know, I am always working to stay on good terms with the residents in Walden Road, and I would be grateful if you could all do your utmost to support me in ensuring that this objective is achieved.**

**At the end of the school day responsibility lies with parents, child-minders and au-pairs who are requested to HOLD ONTO their own children and not let them run around in the cul-de-sac, on the**

**pavement, in the road OR in the staff car-park. Thank you for your support with this very important health and safety issue.**

### **Change of Clothes**

Some of the younger pupils occasionally have ‘accidents’ when they don’t make it to the toilet in time. As a result, the pupils are changed into spare uniform, which they are then sent home in. Please ensure that you then wash and return this uniform to the school as soon as possible, as our supply of spares are dwindling.

### **Portable Hearing Loop**

I would like to remind you that we have a Portable Induction Loop System for use around the school. The induction loop is used to assist individuals with a hearing impairment by transmitting sound from a sound system, microphone, television or other source, directly to their hearing aid.

### **FOG NEWS**

#### **Sponsored Bounce**

I am pleased to announce that the FOG committee have organised a sponsored bounce which will take place on **Monday 25th June 2018**. Every child is invited to take part in this activity, where they will be supervised by members of the FOG committee.

If your child doesn’t attend Pre-School on a Monday, you are very welcome to bring them into Pre-School in the morning and wait for them while they complete the bounce, before taking them home again.

Sponsor forms will be sent out after half-term and please ensure that you sign and return it to confirm that you provide consent for your child to participate. **Please note that children will not be able to participate if they do not have parental consent.**

Thank you, in advance, for your continued support.

#### **End of Term Disco/Summer Garden Party/Summer Raffle - Friday 6th July 2018**

Plans are underway for the forthcoming combined event on Friday 9th June from 3pm to 5pm. This year the parents have been invited to join us all for this social occasion which will include garden games and a family disco.

Offers of help and support prior to, during and after these events are crucial for everyone to have a good time. Offering your services, if only for a short while, can only help to make the event run smoothly and raise lots of funds for the benefit of all pupils in the school. Tara and the FOG team will be selling tickets after half-term, but in the meantime, please keep the date in your diaries free.

#### **School Uniform**

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform items that are only now available from **HAVERING SCHOOLWEAR**:

**HAVERING SCHOOLWEAR (SCHOOL AND CLUB WEAR)  
160/162 HORNCHURCH ROAD,  
HORNCHURCH  
ESSEX,  
RM11 2QH.  
TELEPHONE: 01708 767890**

Lately, I have noticed that some of the boys are not wearing the correct grey trousers and it is essential that the correct school uniform is bought. Please, please **ensure that all items of clothing are properly labelled with your child's name**. Should your child come home with someone else's item of clothing, do please return it to school the next day.

A number of girls have 'fashion' shoes that are not suitable for school. There is not enough support in most of them, and pupils have been seen falling out of the 'ballerina' style shoe and tripping up. It is important that growing feet have a good supporting shoe with secure fastenings. When school shoes are next purchased, please consider the above points and ensure that they are suitable. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

### **SATS/PTT**

The SATS took place during the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone will have tried their very best with the testing and some results have been passed on to pupils. This information is a useful aid to staff for the inputting of data into the Primary Target Tracker and will be evident in the end of term reports.

This is an opportune moment to highlight once more parental awareness of the Primary Target Tracker, what it does and what it's intended to do. Parents were informed when the PTT was originally introduced in 2013 and of the subsequent 'Steps' updates, and were also advised how the data gets inputted. It is an important and very useful tool to highlight how each individual pupil progresses in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science and whether they need extra support or whether they need moving on. It is a great strength and an ambitious programme for our small school that this tracking system is being used. Overall, since its inception, the PTT has demonstrated that very good progress had been made by most pupils and this was also highlighted in our ISA Inspection in June 2017. Once a pupil remains static, information is flagged up and the parents are invited into school to put supportive next steps in place. Do not hesitate to speak to me should you require further information.

### **School Trips and Visitors**

A number of school visits and visitors for the first half of the summer term were organised as follows:

- Perform Workshop ran two sessions for the EYFS Department with an African Theme on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May
- Jonah, our local policeman visited the EYFS and Reception classes to speak about 'People Who Help Us' on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- Tara Payne gave the whole school music workshop sessions on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May
- Years 5 and 6 visited The Houses of Parliament on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May
- The EYFS had language researchers into school from The University of East London on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May
- Wylie's Vets visited the EYFS on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May
- Year 5 attended a Taster Day at Brentwood School on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Houses of Parliament Trip**

It was May 13<sup>th</sup>, 9.30am, our visit to The Houses of Parliament and it all starts now!

We got on the train to Westminster for our school trip – we were all excited to see what we had been learning about and discussing in class, and hoped we would see someone famous – and we did!

By 10.45 we were all starving, so what better way to eat than the lovely Mc Donalds.....“One medium size plain cheeseburger, small fries and a chocolate milkshake please,” I said. Ahh, it makes me hungry just thinking of it!

Anyway, once we all finished our Mc Donalds we headed out towards Parliament. We saw the Palace of Westminster first though, and we saw statues of famous people like Melissa Fawcett, Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela.

Then...the main attraction...The Houses of Parliament. We walked up to the imposing structure; I was amazed by the size and how beautiful it was. We walked into the education centre ready to learn about the magnificent building. We met our tour guide, Matthew, and he began to show us around the ancient building. We learned that the Houses of Parliament was rebuilt in 1834 after it had been damaged in a fire in the 1830s. Matthew showed us most of the most fascinating rooms including the House of Lords and the House of Commons. We were then so excited as Parliament was in session and we had the privilege of actually going up into the public gallery and watching a debate with Boris Johnson talking about the Iran nuclear deal. We also saw Jeremy Corbyn on the opposition side. It was an amazing experience.

Matthew then told us some more interesting facts and then we finally went back to the education centre for a Women's Rights film and workshop. It was fascinating!

We then picked up our souvenirs and headed back to the station to get the train home. It was a great trip and I really hope I will be able to go again another day.

## **Callum, Year 6**

### **Year 5 Taster Day at Brentwood School**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Year 5 visited Brentwood School for a taster day to see what life is like in a Senior School. It all started when we went on the luxurious mini bus. The journey was about 25 minutes and we had an excellent time on the journey. Once we arrived, we were greeted by a member of staff called Mrs Bailey. She led us around the outside of the school to see the amazing sports facilities and then through the tuck shop to reach the lecture hall. There were some children from another school called St Cedds there.

When we had all settled down, the Headmaster came to talk to us about the school. He told us that the school was 461 years old! He also explained about all the activities on offer at the school such as the Cadet Force, music and drama. He impressed us by saying that many of their students go to top Universities such as Oxford or Cambridge.

After the talk, we went to our first lesson – Design and Technology. It was great fun as we learned all about thermoplastics and then made a box from thermoplastic material. We had to heat the plastic on a very hot machine then shape it using a set square. They all came out really well, then we decorated them. The teacher then took us to look at the go kart and other mechanical things the pupils had designed before we set off to have a break. The school very kindly gave us a drink and snack, and a rucksack bag with stationery items.

We then went to Maths – that really stretched our brains! We had to solve some number puzzles and the teacher showed us how to form algebraic equations. We then had a challenge as we had to work out how many handshakes would there be if we all shook hands. It was harder than we thought to work out! It got harder still when he said we had to work out how many handshakes would there be in a room of 160 people! We all did really well to try and work it out and had some great ideas. Sean managed to find the solution. After that, we were ready for lunch so we were taken to the dining hall where we could choose from so many different things for lunch. The food was delicious. All too soon it was time to leave, so we had a quick run around the lovely playing fields before our driver brought us back to school.

I really enjoyed my visit and would like to thank Brentwood school for giving us such a great experience.

## **Tolase, Year 5**

## Lunchboxes

Please ensure that all lunchboxes are emptied and wiped clean on a daily basis and periodically, if appropriate, run through the washing machine. **At this time of year it is a good idea to include a small ice pack to keep food fresh until it is eaten at lunch-time. Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation in this matter.**

## Pre-school and Reception Places for Autumn Term 2018

Mrs Williams has informed me that we do still have some Pre-school and Reception places available for September. If you have a relative or friend who would like to reserve a place for their child, please ask them to contact the school office on 01708 448349 in the first instance.

## Reports

Reports will be finalised during next half-term and will be distributed on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July. A **reply slip** will be enclosed with each report, which needs to be signed by you along with any comments about the report that you wish to make. **This reply slip informs the staff that you have received the report and must be returned to school on the 10<sup>th</sup> or the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> July.** Please note that attendance, late marks and unauthorised absences are added onto each pupil's report.

## ParentMail

ParentMail proves to be extremely efficient and environmentally friendly. Communications from the school are speedily sent to parents with little worry of them getting lost. Please continue to check your emails **daily** to see if there are any updates or information that has come in from the school. A number of parents have recently said that they didn't have certain information, but when asked, they had not checked their emails.

## Contact Details and Pupil Collection

A request please, for all parents and carers to ensure Mrs Williams and Mrs Ruyten have your **latest contact and emergency details**. It is also vital that the office **MUST** be able to get in touch with someone on at least one of your contact details during the school day. To avoid distressing situations for pupils, do ensure your availability.

Please note, should a serious accident happen, an ambulance would be called and if a parent could not be contacted, myself or an available member of staff would travel with the pupil. Mrs Williams and/or Mrs Ruyten would continue to try to make contact with the parent.

Please ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day or following the after school clubs. Staff do their very best to have personal appointments during the school holidays, but occasionally they have to attend some after school. *Consideration is appreciated with your child's collection, so that staff do not need to cancel appointments, which may incur a cost, as for example, in dental appointments that may have been booked for some time.*

## Passports

Parents have found my offer of completing passport forms very useful. The charge for this is £25 per form. This nominal amount is highly competitive as I have heard of some 'professionals' now charging up to £100. The monies raised will go towards resources within the school which will benefit your child.

## Pupils' Achievements

Dasia in Year 4 recently achieved her blue belt in karate. On Sunday 13th May she won silver and bronze at the Koshiki UK National Karate Championship. Well done, Dasia!

## Sports Day

The annual Sports Day went ahead for the KS1/2 pupils on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. We were thrilled at having a dry day for the activities. To those parents/carers who were able to attend, many thanks for your continued support. It means so much to each and every pupil to see you there cheering them on. Whether they win, lose or draw, it's the taking part and joining in to enjoy the team spirit of the day that really matters. A special thank you must be extended to Mrs Cast, the staff and FOG for all their help behind the scenes and, of course, on the day. Do please look on the school's Facebook page to see some wonderful photographs of the afternoon.

The winning house team was Wedlake with 61 points, second were Aylofffe with 51 points and third were Appleton with 50 points.

## Upper School Prize Giving and Open Day – Years 3 to 6

I have previously mentioned that all pupils in Years 3 to 6 are expected to attend the Upper School Prize Giving and Open Day on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 9.45am to 12.30pm**. If there are extenuating circumstances as to why your child cannot take part, please write to me giving your reasons by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June** at the very latest. Pupils will be receiving prizes and the programme order has to be finalised. It is, therefore, essential that pupils who are expected to attend do so, in order to ensure that the occasion runs smoothly.

## End of School

At the end of the school day, the Lower School staff accompany their pupils out via the side entrance. It would help them enormously if parents/carers could stand away from the end of the path, so they can clearly and safely make sure their pupils are collected by the correct person.

## Term Dates 2017/18

### **Summer Term 2018**

Half Term	Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 25th May Return 9 a.m. Monday 4th June
Term Ends	Break-up 12.15 p.m. Wednesday 11th July

## Term Dates 2018/19

Autumn Term 2018	Starts 9 a.m. on Thursday 6th September
Half Term	Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 19th October Return 9 a.m. Monday 5th November
Term Ends	Break-up 12.15 p.m. Wednesday 19th December

Spring Term 2019	Starts 9 a.m. Thursday 10th January
Half Term	Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 15th February Return 9 a.m. Monday 25th February
Term Ends	Break-up 12.15 p.m. Thursday 4th April

Summer Term 2019  
May Bank Holiday  
Half Term

Starts 9 a.m. Thursday 25th April  
Closed all day Monday 6th May  
Break-up 3 p.m. Friday 24th May  
Return 9 a.m. Monday 3rd June  
Break-up 12.15 p.m. Wednesday 10th July

### Stamps

Do please continue to send in your stamps to the office. On our return after half-term Mrs. Ruyten will send them off to the Royal Mail where they help the Barnados Charity.

I hope you all have a relaxing break, and look forward to seeing you all when we return **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 8.45am with prompt registration at 9.00am.**

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J.R. Ellenby  
Head Teacher