

# Gilbert Scott Newsletter

It has been a very good first half to the spring term with lots of progress seen, especially in writing. Hopefully you will be able to see that in the children's books at parents evening this week.

We have launched our six core values: Excellence, Respect, Aspiration, Responsibility, Perseverance and Unity. Our assemblies have focussed on these as have class discussions.

Children are now earning house points and have all been placed in Zeus, Poseidon, Artemis or Athena. Currently Zeus are in the lead.

Our first Parent's Forum will take place next half term as will the launch of Magic Breakfast. If you can, please try and support these events and initiatives as they will help us to continue to improve.

Thank you as always for your continued feedback and support.

Paul Thomas (Principal)

## Parents Forum

We are hosting our first Parents Forum on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm in the school hall. The idea of the forum is to talk about whole school developments and give you the opportunity to question and give feedback.

This one will focus on our plans for the future, both short term and long term. We would also like to get your ideas and feedback on how we are doing as a school.

It would be really great to see a big turnout for this. There will be tea and coffee and maybe a few biscuits!

## Launch of Magic Breakfast

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, we will be launching 'Magic Breakfast'. This is run by a charity, nationally and is sponsored by the Department for Education. It aims to encourage pupils to get in to school on time and to ensure that they have a breakfast inside them so they are ready to learn.

Each morning, the children who go through the door before the first bell goes at 8:42 will be able to pick up half a toasted bagel, (either with spread or plain) from outside the dining hall. All pupils in the Nursery, Reception and Little Owls will have a quarter of a bagel in class if they are on time.

Each week we will get a delivery of bagels for free and our catering company, AIP, have very generously provided us with the spread. This will currently continue until March 2020 when the charity is hoping they can prove to the government that it has made a difference.

Our attendance and punctuality is not great and does need to improve. We are hoping this will make a difference. Any child who is not here by that first bell **will not get a bagel**. Please make every effort to get your child to school on time every day.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance slipped badly to 94.8% at the end of the autumn term. This was disappointing BUT there are positives. Attendance in all classes from Year 2 upwards is better than it was the previous year.

We do of course want this to continue to improve and a massive thank you to everyone who ensures that their child is in school every day, on time.

However, there are 32 children who have an attendance that is below 90% and a further 29 who have below 95%. This does affect your child's self-esteem, attitude to learning and of course their progress and academic achievements. By the end of the academic year, 95% is two weeks off school, 65 hours missed and a huge amount of learning.

Year 1 are currently at 91.3% and our Early Years is a lot lower. Obviously the younger children do pick up a lot more colds and general illness but please do send them in to school if you can. If the children start their school careers with poor attendance and/or punctuality, this does often continue through to when they start work.

It is vital that your child is in school every day and that they are here on time. The pupils who make the least progress are very often those that are not at school regularly or who are consistently late. Please make every effort to get your child in to school. Remember you need to be on the playground **before 8:45am**. If you are having a problem, please come and talk to us, do not ignore it! Our Education Welfare Officer is in school each week.

The Education Welfare Officer and our staff are working very hard to improve and support those families who need it, but if improvements do not happen then the authorities will have no option but to prosecute.

**The money from fines does not come to the school and we currently pay for the services of an Education Welfare Officer. If our overall attendance was consistently above 96%, we could spend that money on resources to support your child's learning.**

## Pupil Success

The girl's football team came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Croydon school games competition. They did not let a goal in or lose a match in normal time. It took a penalty shootout in the quarter final

to knock them out. They have also won their four league matches and sit on top of the league.

The girls were mascots for Crystal Palace Ladies in their recent league match versus Durham at Bromley Football club. They walked out on the pitch with the team and afterwards the players signed autographs and had photos with our team. It was a great experience even with Palace losing 2-0.

The boys football team have continued to do well, winning two matches and losing one. They sit in third place currently.

Year 5 have visited the Science museum and learnt a huge amount. We are looking forward to seeing the follow up work to this.

Key Stage 2 were invited to see 'Little Shop of Horrors' at The Quest Academy this week. It was a fabulous performance which was enjoyed by all.

Some children in Years 3 and 5 have experienced squash for the first time at David Lloyd, Purley. We are looking at how we can make this a regular event.

Robins class and some children from Years 3 and 5 are taking part in a para games competition at Lanfranc school on Friday. We will let you know how they get on.

Film Club (Years 4-6) is up and running and has a hard core of about 20 members. So far we have watched four films including Peter Rabbit and ET.

A group of Year 3 children have had some table tennis sessions at Forestdale Primary School. We are now looking at whether we can get some tables of our own.

Our Reception and Nursery children have been on local walks to look at the environment.

Our School Council have been meeting regularly and have made a lot of good suggestions on how we can continue to improve our school.

## **Social Media**

Please note that only children in Year 5 and 6 can bring mobile phones in to school. These should be handed in to the office for safe keeping every morning. No other child should need to bring one in to school.

All classes have had sessions on internet safety this half term.

Our new website is up and running at [www.gilbert-scott.org](http://www.gilbert-scott.org)

Please use this to find all the information you need about our school as well as news items. We will be developing the site over the next few months.

Also try our twitter account @SchGilbert for up to date information on school events including our sports teams.

@gilbertscottart is our new Instagram account where you can see great examples of the wonderful art work produced by our children.

## Gentle Reminders

Please make sure that your child's dinner money account is kept topped up. We have had a few that needed chasing up recently. Any issues should be discussed with the office.

Parking- Please ensure that you are not parking on the zig zag lines or across residents drives. We have had a couple of complaints and traffic wardens are likely to be in the area as a result. Thank you to those who always park in a considerate way.

Due to an increase in traffic from Red Gates School, parents and children are to access our school via the public pathway (Conker Alley) and our blue entrance gates between 9am-9.45am. If you are entering the school site later during the school day, access is only available via the top black gate so please be vigilant when walking down the vehicle access road.

## PTFA

We had a very successful disco, with really good feedback from parents. We are sure this will become a regular event.

The money they raise and the community events they organise are vital to the schools ongoing development and progress. Please support them in any way you can. There will be more information coming out soon, so please make every effort to help.

Please look out for their newsletters.

## Future Events

Break up for half term - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Children return to school - **Tuesday** 26<sup>th</sup> February

Parents Forum - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm

Break up for Easter holidays at 2p.m on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Children return to school - **Tuesday** 23<sup>rd</sup> April