The Gattons Infant School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026
11th September

Welcome back!

Welcome back to Year 1 and Year 2 and a warm welcome to all of our new families in Reception and across the school. It has been so lovely to see all of your children settling into school so well this week. They have been amazing!
This week, we have been focusing on making sure we are all Ready, Respectful and Safe in school. Please use these words at home to support the children to understand what this looks like at home, as well as school.
Apologies that this first newsletter is so long but there are lots of important messages and dates to make you aware of. Please put the dates in your diaries now—more details for some events will follow soon.

Please ensure that you read the Talk to Me sheets that year groups will send home each week. They have important learning for you to do at home but also have important messages and dates for your diaries. Staff will try and let you know key dates for events well in advance so that you can come in to school or help on trips.
We are always looking for volunteers to come into school and Miss Bennett will be sending an email out shortly. If you have any questions about volunteering, please talk to me or Miss Bennett on the gate. Grandparents and members of the community are welcome to volunteer so please pass this on to anyone who might be interested.

Have a lovely weekend.
Sarah Gospel - Headteacher

Dates to remember

Monday 14th - Rainbow Relaunch - Colourful tights, socks, hair accessories

Tuesday 15th - Y1 Welcome Meeting 9am

Wednesday 16th - Y2 Welcome Meeting 9am

OPAL Play

OPAL play will start again on the 21st September, once Reception have settled into school and got used to lunchtimes.
We are always looking for resources to enhance OPAL so please keep an eye out on the newsletter for things we need.
This week, we are looking for small world toys such as animals, people,or Sylvannians and bike helmets.

Also do you have any decking boards or sanded planks of wood that we could use for obstacle courses?

If you are getting rid of any of the above, please send a photo to the office who will let you know if we would like it. Please don't just bring it in.

Rainbow Relaunch Day

On Monday 14th September, Year 1 and Year 2 will be celebrating our Rainbow Relaunch Day. We will spend the day thinking about our Rights, Respecting Rainbow and our Right to Play which is our focus this term. The children may come to school with colourful hair accessories and colourful socks or tights.

Burgess Hill & District PANTRY

We are in need of
Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate
Toilet Rolls
Biscuits
Squash
Longlife Fruit Juice and Milk
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Custard
Tinned Tomatoes
Tomato Ketchup
Laundry Detergent
Shower Gel
Shampoo and Conditioner
Baby and Toddler Food
Cereal
Dried Lentils and Dried Fruit
Pasta and Pasta Sauces

Harvest Collection

Our Harvest Festival celebration will take place on Monday 21st September. We will be donating any food that you are able to give to the Burgess Hill Pantry. The Pantry have sent us a list of items they need. We know that some of our families use The Pantry so any donations you can make will be supporting our local community. Please bring donations to your classroom on Friday 18th or Monday 21st September.

A volunteer from the pantry will be talking to the children in Year 1 and 2 about the work of the pantry in their assembly.

Mobile phones

Please remember that we have a no phones on the playground policy when you are dropping off and picking up your children. We will remind you politely if you are using them. Please support us with this in safeguarding all of our children.

School Photographs

On Wednesday 30th September the school photographer will be in school to take the children's individual school photos and Reception class photos. We are able to arrange for children to be photographed with siblings (either pre-school or in school) in addition to their individual photo and a letter will be coming home soon regarding this. Please note we cannot do this for children at Southway.

Reminders

Your child will need a book bag in school every day. These can be purchased from the school office for £4 - cash only. Please do **NOT** send your child with a back pack as there is not room in the corridors for these to hang up. Please make sure you name them.

Please can you also bring in a **NAMED** pair of wellies for your child and put them on the wellie rack in the playground.

Finally, please do not let your child or their siblings play on/with the school equipment before/after school. Please remember that you are responsible for your child before 8.50am.

For Reception parents - Tapestry activation emails are being sent out this week/early next week. Please check your spam/junk if you have not received one. Please activate your account. If you do not receive an email, please speak to your class teacher. Thank you.

Book Bonanza

On Thursday 24th September, we will be holding our Book Bonanza. The children will have a visit from a local book shop, The Book Nook. They will listen to a story and be inspired by the books they will be selling during the fair. You are invited to come to our Book Bonanza from 3 - 4.30. You can bring card or cash to purchase a book if you would like to. There will be lots of activities for you to enjoy with your child. Siblings are welcome.

THE BOOK NOOK

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every student, every day

Attendance

We would like to remind parents and carers that we are only able to authorise absence in term time in exceptional circumstances which does not include family holidays. If possible, please try to arrange dental appointments for after school or in the holidays.

Arriving on time for school is important as late arrivals are disruptive for the class and can be embarrassing for the child. A child who is late for school is missing out on a very important part of the school day including setting out the context for the work for the day - the classroom doors are opened at 8.50am for the children to come in and start at 8.55am. We want to have all our children in class ready to start the school day promptly and would ask parents for their support in this aim. Thank you.

Please look out for our separate Attendance Newsletter which gives up to date information on our attendance figures as well as helpful information and guidance.

Reporting a child's absence

If you need to report your child's absence by email (office@thegattons.co.uk) or via the answerphone, can you please ensure you have included your child's full name **AND** class. Thank you. If we do not hear from you by 9.25am, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school. Any arrival at school after 9.25am is unauthorised (unless it is for a previously authorised reason). Please be aware that 10 unauthorised absences can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice fine which is issued by the Local Authority. Please do NOT report absence via our website as this is not monitored on a regular basis. Thank you.

Low Income Free School Meals

All infant school children receive a Universal Free School Meal. However, if you are on a low income your child may be eligible for pupil premium/low income free school meals which releases vital funding to the school (£1,550, per year, per eligible child), in addition to over £100 worth of benefits from the school, as follows:

* the Government provides shopping vouchers for school holidays including half terms (approx £10-£15 per child per school holiday week)
* free school jumper or cardigan per year (usually saving £14-16)
* free book bag, PE bag, and water bottle per year (saving of £9)
* free school trips (approx saving of £12-£16)
* free in-house school clubs (approx saving of £15)
* free holidays clubs, including meals

If you think that your child may be eligible please apply online using the link below, or search "WSCC free school meals" to navigate to the application:- https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals

If you need help with this application or access to a PC, we would be very happy to assist. Please contact Clare Tidbury in the school office, or email office@thegattons.co.uk Thank you for helping to support our school.

Scooters and Bikes

It is lovely to see so many children coming to school on their scooters and bikes. Please can all children hop off their bikes and scooters once they reach the school gate. This will make sure we are all respecting the right to be safe and cared for. **All scooters and bikes MUST be named** - it is not unusual for several children to have the same model - and should be placed in the appropriate part of the scooter park. Thank you.

TUMMY BUGS!

Please remember that if your child is unwell with sickness and/or diarrhoea for whatever reason, they MUST stay away from school until they have been symptom free for a **MINIMUM** of 48 hours. This period of time significantly reduces the risk of the bug spreading throughout the school. We will request that children are collected if we discover they have not been symptom free for 48 hours. Thank you.

Emergency Contact Forms

An Emergency Contact Form has been sent home. It is very important that this form is completed, even if your details remain the same, so that we can check that our records are correct. If you have not already done so, please can you return these forms as a matter of urgency.

We would like to remind parents that we are only able to give prescription medicines to children during the school day and, in the case of antibiotics, only if they have to be taken 4 times a day. All medicines must be brought to the school office and the appropriate paperwork completed. Please do not put medicines of any description in your child's school bag. Thank you.

ParentMail

All the Reception children are on ParentMail. Please ensure that you have activated your account so that you do not miss any important information. Please remember to update your ParentMail details if your email address or mobile number change in addition to letting the school office know. If you have to do an IOS update, and then stop receiving ParentMails, it may be necessary for you to update the ParentMail App. Thank you.

Open Mornings

We will be holding open mornings for the parents/carers of prospective Reception children (September 2027 intake) on various dates in November. Details of the dates and booking links will be available soon on our website. Please pass this information on to any friends or family that you know have a child due to start school next September. Thank you.

Lunchbox Information

Following new guidance, if you include grapes **or** cherry tomatoes in your child's lunchbox, please ensure that these are cut into quarters, lengthwise, to avoid them becoming a choking hazard. Please remember **NOT** to include any nuts or nut products, including Nutella and Peanut butter, in your child's lunchbox. Thank you.

What is happening in school!

After all the notices and reminders, the children have been busy too!

The Reception children are settling in really well and we are looking forward to meeting you at our 'Settling In' meeting on Thursday 17th September at 9am. Please complete the reply form that was sent to you via ParentMail on Wednesday using this link:
Reception Settling In Meeting - Thursday 17th September 2026 – Fill in form

Our Year 2 have had a fab start to the term. They have settled in so well! We have been sent new challenges from Professor Clunk - curious quests has reached Year Two with some new faithful friends! The children have also enjoyed dressing up as Royals for portraits and taking part in lots of castle themed discovery times with their friends. We have been building castles out of Lego and junk modelling, taking part in draw-alongs and getting to know our teachers and routines in our new Year Two environment.

What a great start to the year for all our Year One children. We have been busy sharing our "All about me" mats and learning all about each other. We have enjoyed lots of practical activities including a walk around school to identify human (man made) and physical (natural) features during our Geography learning. We have spent time exploring the calm emotion in Feelsville with the result of a lovely, calm atmosphere everywhere! Ask your child about koala breathing to replicate the calmness at home!

And finally…..

Please help us to help you by ensuring that all items of clothing, including coats, shoes, gloves, hats and plimsolls are clearly labelled. Please also label book bags, PE bags, water bottles and lunch boxes. Thank you. If labelled items are mislaid, once found, they will be returned to your child's class.

September

Monday 14th	Rainbow Relaunch—Y1 & Y2—colourful socks/tights/hair accessories
Tuesday 15th	Y1 Welcome Meeting - 9am
Wednesday 16th	Y2 Welcome Meeting - 9am
Thursday 17th	Reception Settling In Meeting - 9am
Monday 21st	Harvest Celebration Assembly - food donations for The Pantry
Thursday 24th	Book Bonanza – 3pm – 4.30pm
Tuesday 29th	Reception Reading Meeting - 7pm
Wednesday 30th	Individual School Photos & Reception Class Photos

October

Tuesday 6th	FOGS AGM and meeting 7pm at school - all invited
Monday 12th	Y2 Trip to Hever Castle – Puffins and half of Owls
Tuesday 13th	Y2 Trip to Hever Castle – Eagles and half of Owls
Thursday 15th	FOGS Quiz – 7pm – Details to follow
Thursday 22nd	OPAL Stay and Play Meeting at 1.30, play from 2pm
Thursday 22nd	FOGS Cake Sale
Friday 23rd	INSET Day - School closed for children
Monday 26th—Friday 30th	Half Term Holiday

November

Wednesday 4th	Non Uniform Day – FOGS Chocolate Donations
Thursday 5th	Reception Learning Meeting - 9am
Monday 9th	Open Mornings for new Reception Parents
Tuesday 10th	Flu Immunisation - Details to follow
Wednesday 11th	Open Mornings for new Reception Parents
Friday 13th	Children In Need Day - Details to follow
Friday 20th	Non Uniform Day - FOGS Christmas Fayre Donations
Saturday 21st	FOGS Christmas Fayre 12.00 – 2.30pm
Tuesday 24th	Open Mornings for new Reception Parents
Tuesday 24th	Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings - Details to follow
Thursday 26th	Open Mornings for new Reception Parents
Thursday 26th	Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings - Details to follow

December

Tuesday 1st	FOGS Christmas Discos – Y1 & Y2
Tuesday 8th	Carol Service @ Kings Church - Years 1 & 2 - 2pm
Monday 14th	Reception Nativity at school 9.20am or 2.15pm
Tuesday 15th	Thank you assembly for volunteers
Thursday 17th	'All Things Christmas' Day - Details to follow

Provisional dates - please be aware these are subject to change

REMAINING INSET DAYS 2026/2027

Friday 23rd October 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Thursday 25th March 2027
Monday 7th June 2027