



KEY DATES

FEBRUARY

17th - 21st

Half Term

24th

School resumes

25th

Form 6

Unicorn Theatre Trip

28th

Forms 3 & 4

First swimming lesson

MARCH

3rd

3:50 - 7:30pm

Pre-School—Form 6

Parent Interviews

5th

3:50 - 7:30pm

Pre-School - Form 6

Parent Interviews

11th

9:30 - 11:30am

Taster Session

13th

Form 5

Brentwood Tournament

14th

Open Morning

20th

Form 4

Unicorn Theatre Trip

25th

House Prep Speech & Drama Competition

30th

All Prep children

House Cross Country event

Raphael's Park

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, a growing number of organisations are introducing email curfews outside of working hours to protect family and leisure time away from work, and for wellbeing. At Gidea Park College we have a curfew on emailing our colleagues after 7pm and for the whole of the weekend. We understand that sometimes as parents you may only have the time to sit and deal with emails in the evenings; if you are unable to use 'delayed send' or leave it in the draft box until the morning, by all means send the email and be assured that it will be replied to on the next working day. We are mindful of concerns around the Coronavirus; the advice that all schools receive is updated regularly, and I would encourage you to follow the updates on the PHE website if you have any worries - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>. Information and advice can also be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. If anybody is planning a visit to (or receiving visitors from) Mainland China or any other affected area, please do contact the school on the first morning back to let us know.

Finally, I have very much enjoyed the visits from pupils from across the school to show me their stories, drawings, maths and other work which has particularly impressed their teachers – a list of recipients of the Headmistress' Award is included in this newsletter, and congratulations to them all!

Have a lovely half term,
Mrs Whiskerd
Headmistress

Life in Form 2

The children in Form 2 have been very busy. They have been reading George's Marvellous Medicine and learning about measuring. In their maths lesson, they followed a recipe and carefully measured out their own (disgusting!) ingredients to make their own 'marvellous medicines'.

In Geography, the children have been learning about different types of maps and how keys and symbols are used, planning routes using compass directions and studying the human and physical geography of our local area. The children went on a walk to see how the landmarks on their maps translate into real life buildings and landmarks.





Head Teacher's Awards

- ◆ **Eesha Daudia, Ilyaana Ahmed, Elizabeth Waylen, Joshua Allen & Rhea Jacob (Form R)**
super Literacy work
- ◆ **Baxter McCormick (Form 5)**
great Maths work
- ◆ **Keyaan Patel (Form 4)**
great Maths work
- ◆ **Jairaj Agarwal (Form 2)**
super Literacy work
- ◆ **Andrew White (Form 4)**
great story-writing
- ◆ **Amaya Mathukia (Form 2)**
beautiful poetry work

Dr Kumar's Visit

We love it when parents come to visit to talk to the children about their jobs, especially when they link to areas of our curriculum. Form 4 welcomed Dr Kumar who is an Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon at Queen's Hospital. He came to talk to the children about how the ear functions and facts about hearing. The children enjoyed exploring different sounds and learning about sound levels and how to protect the hearing from loud noises. They also got to see one of the smallest bones in the body, Incus, which is present in the ear. This all linked in with their current Science topic about sound. Thank you, Dr Kumar.



Chinese New Year - Pre-School & Reception

The children celebrated Chinese New Year in style - they made musical shakers, lanterns and rat masks. Lanxi and Laura brought in decorations for the classroom and Lanxi's mum organised for the Chinese Community to loan us a Chinese lion costume. The children from Pre-School and Reception joined together to dance to Chinese music and they did a dragon and a lion dance. A huge thank you to Qian Zhang for her support and the resources which really helped to enhance the children's learning.



Pre-Prep Assembly

Pre-Prep celebrated National Storytelling Week. The children learnt about how to be a good storyteller and practised telling and reading stories out loud to their peers. Some children were selected to tell a story to the whole of Pre-Prep in a special assembly - what a great job they did!



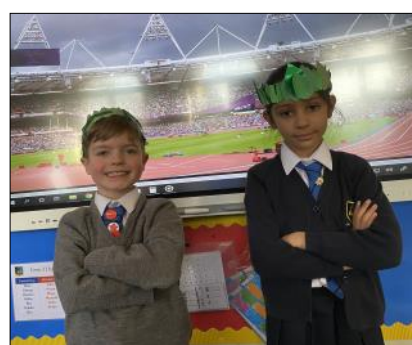
Reception

Reception have had great fun talking about their favourite animals and why they like them. They also made some models of their favourites - can you tell what they are?



Life in Form 3

Form 3 have been learning about capacity and put this into practice by enjoying some very carefully measured lemonade. Yum! They have also been busy making Olympic crowns which they have been very proudly wearing around school.



Have a fantastic Half Term!