

Our Vision

We **ASPIRE** to be the best we can be.
We learn from our **EXPERIENCES**.
We **CHALLENGE** ourselves each day.
We respect and **CELEBRATE**

Head Teacher Newsletter September 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the Autumn Term 2017 – 18. A special welcome to our new families and children to Gainsborough, I look forward to getting to know you all.

I would like to thank you all for your support throughout last year. I am extremely proud of what we have achieved and value the impact made by each and every pupil, member of staff, governor and family member. We work very hard and continue on our quest to be the best school we can be. The hard work can be seen in the standards achieved by our pupils taking part in national assessments and by those across the school; we have met and exceeded national standards by the end of EYFS, KS1 and KS2. Our continued focus on a topic based curriculum and learning through experience and creativity, alongside our dedicated staff remains a credit to the school. I am immensely proud of our Gainsborough Family and sharing this when we welcome visitors to our school.

The last academic year in education was one of change and we have worked well to respond to the challenges, and to keep the best interests of our children at the heart of our approach. Our commitment to high standards whilst providing a nurturing and respectful environment has enabled us to prioritise and adapt to change. Being a founding school within the Eko Trust has supported our journey to excellence.

This year we welcome new teachers – Ms Capdevila (Y1), Mrs Watson (Y3), Ms Parr (Y5) and Mr Jones (Y6).

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions or would like to speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team. Although we are on the playground daily there is only time for quick chats. We will continue to use letters, texts, our website, emails and newsletters to provide you with information.

I am sure 2016-17 will bring its own level of excitement and challenge alongside continued development in all areas and I look forward to continuing to lead the school, alongside an amazing team, on the next stage of the school's journey. Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Strain

Head Teacher

Teaching Staff Structure 2017 - 18

Deborah Strain - Head Teacher			
Lisa Christall - Deputy Head Teacher			
Alex Roberts – AHT		Felicity Coetzee – AHT	
Caroline Pitts - SLE			
Rokya Miah – YN Brown Hawkes - YR Emma Webb - YR	Shereen Agar – Y1 Montserrat Capdevila – Y1 Oliver Dean – Y2 Laura Mattieson – Y2	Julie Carver – Y3 Elizabeth Watson – Y3 Siobhan Murphy – Y4 Fernando Leyenda – Y4	Merline Worgess – Y5 Daphne Parr – Y5 Patrick Taylor – Y6 Sam Jones – Y6 Caroline Pitts – Y6
Annette Clark – Reading Lead Kereen Hurst – EAL Lead	Caroline Cawtherley – INCo Theresa Hedoun – SEND Support Peter Kelly - SEND Support	Tracy Atherton & Emma Muirden – Interventions/Cover/Support	Sara Amin – RP Lead Daniel Cox - RP

SCHOOL UNIFORM

All children at Gainsborough are expected to wear our school uniform; it supports our sense of belonging and family. **Please label your child's clothes with their name.** Our school colours are **navy and white**. Jewellery is not generally allowed in school, but small stud ear-rings and a watch may be worn. These **MUST** be removed for all PE lessons, children should be able to do this themselves or not wear them to school.

SCHOOL TIMES

The school gates open at **8.40am**. Please make sure that all children are in school by **8.50am** at the latest. School finishes at **3.15pm**. Parents should make sure that their children are collected on time. If there are any changes to your usual collection arrangements please phone the school to let us know.

Attendance and Punctuality

We will use newsletters and the school website to inform you of attendance and punctuality figures for all classes. We were disappointed that due to dropping attendance figures in the last two weeks of the summer term our overall attendance reduced and we slipped below our 96% target despite good attendance figures in other parts of the year. We were able to celebrate with a party for the children with high and improved attendance and wristbands for 100% attendance. Let's keep working on this.

We have an obligation to follow up absences of all children when they fall below 95% and a legal duty to put actions in place to ensure attendance improves. Please work with us on this.

It is our policy that term-time holiday is unauthorised but in extremely exceptional circumstances, where evidence is provided, a limited amount of time may be authorised. Term-time holiday may be subject to a penalty fine and referrals made to the Educational Attendance Officer. ***We would like to thank all those parents/carers who have supported the school in this decision.*** We appreciate how expensive it is to take a vacation during school holidays. **There have been families who have been fined for taking children out during school time – this is a fine for each parent for each child.** This is common Newham policy.

The figure for 'Persistent Absenteeism' is now attendance below 90% and any pupil who has a figure below this figure, or poor punctuality, throughout the year will be discussed with our Attendance Officer. Punctuality is vital to a good start to the school day for pupils and we thank all our families who ensure that children arrive ready to start learning at 8.50am. The gate opens at 8.40am.

Nut-free and Healthy Eating School

We are a nut-free school – with many children with life threatening nut allergies. As nut allergies can include seeds (including sesame seed) and nut-oils, we ask that packed lunches and snacks are free from these products, including seeded bread and chocolate spreads, which contain nuts.

It is school policy that we encourage healthy lunches and snacks. If we have concerns about the content of your child's packed lunch or the amount they eat, we will contact parents/carers. Crisps and chocolate bars are not allowed as a break-time snack (nor fizzy drinks).

Breakfast Club and Monday to Friday Club

Both these clubs now have more children than spaces. We are unable to take children who have not booked and paid for a space in either club. We will be sending out further information in September. Please see the school office for further details and to confirm your child's place for September. Both clubs will start (for those booked) on Wednesday 6th September.

Other after school clubs

We are continuing with clubs this year. A letter will be sent out next week detailing the clubs available. Please return the slip as soon as possible. Clubs will start the week commencing Monday 18th September.

