

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** our Gainsborough family.



Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a great summer break and enjoyed the different things Newham had on offer.

We've had a lovely start to the new school year, with smiling children, smart uniforms and everyone ready for learning.

As always, we are all committed to the teaching and learning of your children and to do this we need to work together. Please make sure your child(ren) does their homework, gets to bed early and eats breakfast in the morning. We know that you are all busy, but if you can take the time to ask your child(ren) about what they have been learning, what they need to learn next and encouraging them to work hard that would be fantastic. Let us know if there are any changes in your circumstances or if you feel your child needs extra support or challenging, together we can achieve the best.

Last year our children achieved great outcomes and results; the school website will be updated very soon with these results. We also had the most clubs on offer ever! Children were involved in Zumba dance, Glee club, drama, crafts, maths, grammar, language, cooking, dance, football, tag rugby, multi-sports and chess. We hope that this year we will be able to put on just as many. We will send out forms in the first 2 weeks of school. Numbers will be limited though. Although we ask for contributions for the clubs, the school subsidises the clubs so our children can benefit from the experiences.

If you are a working parent/carer or need support with childcare, don't forget our Breakfast Club runs from 7.35am (50p a session and 10p per slice of toast, no entry after 8.30am) and our Monday to Friday club runs until 5.30pm (£5 a session with snack provided). Please ensure you do pay for these clubs whenever your child attends, you can book and pay in advance to ensure your child has a space. Further details can be gained from the school office.

Attached are the holiday dates for the school year. Please keep the dates safe as you will need to refer to them throughout the year.

If any of your home or personal details have changed please ensure you have informed the school office so we can update our records.

We aim to continue to build on our successes from last year and with your help and support we are confident this can be achieved.

Many thanks

Ms D Strain
Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 3.9 to Fri 18.9.15: new nursery children home visits
Thurs 3.9 to Tues 8.9.15: Reception children 8.50am to 12pm
Tue 8.9.15: Y5/6 Parent/Carer meeting at 3.25 to 4pm
Wed 9.9.15: Reception children in 8.50am to 1pm (stay for lunch)

Police in for a talk with Y5 (pm)

Y3/4 Parent /Carer meeting at 3.25 to 4pm

Thurs 10.9.15: Y1/2 Parent/Carer meeting at 3.25 to 4pm

Mon 14.9.15: Reception children in all day

Toddler Zone reopens (Mon/Thurs)

Fri 18.9.15: Y6 Secondary Transition Meeting 3.30 to 4pm

Mon 21.9.15: Nursery reopens for old children

Wed 23.9.15: SCHOOL CLOSED for Eid

Thurs 24.9.15: 9am RWI meeting for EYFS and KS1 Parents/Carers

New Nursery transition starts

Fri 25.9.15: Y4 to the Museum of London

Y3 to the Soanes Centre

Fri 2.10.15: Y3 to the Soanes Centre

Thurs 8.10.15: Curriculum meeting for parents 3.25 to 4.15pm

Mon 19.10 to Weds 21.10.15: Y6 to Fairplay House

Fri 23.10.15: International Day (heritage appreciation)

BREAK UP

Mon 2.11.15: BACK TO SCHOOL

Thurs 12.11.15: Nursery Open Day

Parents' & Carers' Evening, 3.30 to 6.50pm

Fri 13.11.15: Children in Need

Mon 16.11 to Fri 20.11.15: Anti-Bullying Week

Fri 27.11.15: Sharing Assembly for the children (Anti-Bullying)

Mon 30.11.15: Saint Andrew's Day (Children can wear blue and white and celebrate all things Scottish)

Weds 9.12.15: KS1 Nativity (pm)

Thurs 10.12.15: KS1 Nativity (am)

Fri 11.12.15: KS1/2 Pantomime at Barking Playhouse

Weds 16.12.15: KS2 Christmas Production (pm)

Thurs 17.12.15: KS2 Christmas Production (am)

End of Term celebration/Christmas Party (pm)

Fri 18.12.15: BREAK UP

Tues 5.1.16: CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

HOME LEARNING

Please support your child with their home learning. Regular reading and practising of number bonds/times tables really helps. We also send home tasks that enrich and support the learning that has been happening within the class or prepares them for new learning. Every class can earn a special cup for 100% homework and get extra play time.

We are passionate about teaching your child how to read and to have a love of books. Reading helps children develop in all areas. Please try to ensure your child reads 5 times a week for 10-20 minutes depending on their age. Where possible, read to your child before they go to bed, this helps children develop their ideas in writing and also enriches their language.

Following up feedback from the parent questionnaires we are making adjustments to our homework policy. We are happy to support you if you need help with this.

MESSAGES

SCHOOL UNIFORM

All children at Gainsborough are expected 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. School jumpers (with the logo) can be purchased through Tesco school uniform.

All children should have a **named PE kit** in school—this should also be school colours (navy and white).

Jewellery is not generally allowed in school, but small stud earrings and a watch may be worn. These **MUST** be removed for all PE lessons.

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.

ABSENCE

Thank you to all the parents/carers who always inform/telephone us when their child is off. As you know part of our role is to follow up any absences and it makes our job easier if you call us early in the morning. 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.

The Governors **do not allow any holidays or family visits to be taken in term time.** 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 common Newham policy.

HEALTH & SAFETY IN THE PLAYGROUND

Please allow the teacher to get children lined up in the playground at the end of the day and only take them when you or your child have spoken to the teacher and they have seen you. If someone different is collecting your child please make sure you inform the office who will get a message to the class teacher. **Please ensure your children do not go on any of the playground equipment before or after school.** We are only insured for its use during school playtime and lunchtimes.

BIRTHDAYS

If your child has a birthday and would like to bring a treat for their class make sure that this is a fruit or a healthy treat Do not bring party bags or cakes as the teachers will be unable to give these items out. If in doubt, please check with the office.

NUTS: Please do not allow your children to bring anything with nuts into school. This includes peanut butter and Nutella sandwiches, sweets, cakes and biscuits.

Be the best that you can be.