

Friday 20th September 2019

Hello Goodrich,

Parent Evenings

Ensure you have signed up for one of the parent evenings on 14th (4 pm – 7 pm) and 15th October (4 pm – 6 pm). This is an important time for you to talk to the class teacher about how your child has settled into this school year and how you can help support your child at home.

Humara Abidi, our dyslexia tutor, will also be available to meet parents so please do sign up for a meeting slot.

Reading at home is really important

Talk to your children (a lot). Exposing your child to a variety of words helps the development of literacy skills.

Read to your children - make it a regular activity in your home. Make reading a part of your daily life, and kids will learn to love it. Set aside some time when everyone turns off the TV and the web and does nothing but read. There are so many wonderful children's books. Visit your local library and you'll find an armful of free adventure.

Ask questions – lots of them! When your child reads, get them to retell the story or information. If it's a story, ask who it was about and what happened. If it's an informational text, have your child explain what it was about and how it worked. Reading involves not just sounding out words, but thinking about and remembering ideas and events. Improving reading comprehension skills early will prepare children for subsequent success in more difficult text.

Have younger children tell you a "story." One great way to introduce children to writing is to take their dictation. Have them recount an experience or make up a story. For younger children a typical first story may be something like, "I like fish. I like my sister. I like grandpa." Write it as it is being told, and then read it aloud. Point at the words when you read them, or point at them when your child is trying to read the story. Over time, with lots of rereading, don't be surprised if your child starts to recognize words such as "I" or "like."

Teach phonics (letter names and their sounds).

If you need advice or support related to phonics please do ask your child's teacher as they will have knowledge and resources they can share with you.

Promote writing. Literacy involves reading and writing. Having books and magazines available for your child is a good idea, but it's also helpful to have pencils, crayons, markers, and paper to encourage your child to write.

Year 6 adventures in UKSA

A large number of Year 6 children went to UKSA with some of our staff last week. Here are some quotes from the children themselves:

"I enjoyed SUP (Stand Up Paddle boarding) the most at UKSA because we got to push each other off the boards in a 'Battle Royale'." *Jamie - Class 26*

"UKSA is a place where you can test your confidence and bravery. It is an experience of a lifetime that will always be remembered. There's an adventure every day! It certainly is a week worth trying." *Aaliyah - Class 26*

Some children stayed at school and took part in an activity week. *Harry - Class 26* said "My favourite bit about last week was the trip to the park; we got to play games and eat our packed lunches in the sunshine."





Got any tech??? Following the popularity of card payments at school events, we're on the lookout for a couple of smartphones / tablets or similar to use with the card readers. So if you have any poor, sad, unwanted or unused devices hanging around, we'd be more than happy to give them a new lease of life! Condition isn't important, as long as they work, have a battery that lasts a few hours, and have Bluetooth and WiFi connections (most do). Please drop us an email at friendsofgoodrich@gmail.com if you have anything that sounds like it will do the job - many thanks!

To learn to read is to light a fire...and our kiddos need some sticks! If you have any spare books laying around, Year 3 (7&8yr olds) would love to have them. Any book donations can be handed into the school office.

Our school is a wonderful thing and to keep wonderful school trips happening, amazing book days ticking over, winter fairs rocking, Fun Runs running, well you get the picture, FoG needs your help. If we all pitch in a little together we can make a huge difference. Right now we've got some great roles open and being part of FoG gives you the ability to have major input into how FoG raises money; supporting and co-coordinating other volunteer parents with their fundraising activities; having a say and leading discussions on how we spend the money raised; meeting with the school management team to discuss what support they need for the benefit of all the children at Goodrich. And generally getting to know other parents, teachers and your community. It's a hugely positive way to make a massive difference to school life – plus with government budget cuts to school funding, an increasing crucial one. **We currently have the following roles opening in FoG:**

Chair Or Co- chair

Head of children's events

Social media coordinator - lovely role, perfect if you love social media or writing etc; like the newsletter it's another important way to help keep parents in the loop on FoG events, what we spend the money on and how they can get involved; super flexible in that it can be done at any time from home/on your phone if you can't attend FoG meetings;

Help with business sponsorship – work with our lovely Lucy to help secure additional businesses to sponsor our school events; in particular help to arrange in-kind donations for the winter fair, and help getting in new sponsors in for the fun run etc.

Welcome picnic organiser – all you have do is organise the yearly picnic we have for new starters (nursery & reception) right before school starts. It means getting the word out and be there for set up & meet and greet at the picnic.

Help with our raffles – we run raffles twice a year generally for the winter & summer fair. We've got one superstar already doing this but could do with a helping hand, if you can spare one we'd be super grateful

Drop us a line on friendsofgoodrich@gmail.com if you're interested in any of these roles, we'd be happy to chat through them with you! You can also learn more about FoG and any opportunities available by coming to the annual general meeting on Wednesday Oct. 16th from 7:30pm. It will be held in the lower school hall, all our welcome and drinks & snacks will be served.

Class Representative? I'm looking at you reception and nursery...we've got nearly all class reps sorted just missing a few names from reception and one for our nursery group. If this is you do get in touch! This is a great role that acts as a liaison between the teacher and the parents in your class. Nice way to get to know your teacher and the other parents. It's a relatively straightforward role that consists mostly of getting messages to all parents in your class from the teacher and forwarding this newsletter around weekly. So if you're a rep and haven't gotten a newsletter email from me please drop me a line to let me know. My email is briscoesarah@hotmail.com

We know that Girls (and boys) Just Wanna Have Fun, so put Friday 11th October in your diaries as a date not to be missed. Come on Down to Goodrich where we'll be cutting Footloose and taking you back to the 80s for the night. Think games shows, music, dodgy hair and air guitars, with prizes for the best outfits. We're going to Raise the Roof and Have Some Fun with DJ Mandy providing the ultimate 80s disco! 8pm till late, tickets on sale soon, watch this space...

The Goodrich to Goodrich Cycle Challenge 2020

Do you like riding your bike? Want to help raise money for the school? Then this event is for you. The Goodrich to Goodrich (G2G) is a 350km ride, taking place over two days between Goodrich Castle and Goodrich school. In June this year 14 parents took part in the first ever G2G, raising over **£9,000** for the school. They even made a film about it! Watch it here: www.tiny.cc/G2G

The **G2G2020** will also take place in June. More details will be announced in October, but in the meantime you can register your interest now by emailing cyclistsofgoodrich@gmail.com.

Dates for the diary

80's Night at Goodrich – Friday Oct. 11th
FoG AGM – Wednesday Oct. 16th from 7:30pm

friendsofgoodrich@gmail.com 
www.friendsofgoodrich.com

Get social and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

