

# GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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ISSUE 01  
13th SEPTEMBER 2019

## Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back. I hope that you all had a restful break and were able to spend some time together as a family. It's great to see how the children have all settled and are ready for the new academic year with lots more exciting experiences to come. It was lovely to see the smiling faces of the students arriving at school on Wednesday morning; they all looked very excited to be returning to school. This is of course the best way to start the new school year, nothing beats a positive frame of mind.

During the first Key Stage Assemblies of the year Mr Tidd and I continued to reinforce the messages around having a "growth mindset" and having a positive frame of mind. We talked about the importance of this in not only a school setting but also as we grow older. Developing resilience, accepting challenges, learning from our mistakes and knowing that failure is not the end of the road are all key elements within the learning process. This is something that we will continue to foster throughout the year as it is a huge part of our school ethos.

Over this past week we have held "Meet the Teacher" presentations for the parents from each Year Group. If you were unable to make the "Meet the Teacher" presentations, we will be uploading all information from these on to the School Website along with each of the year groups Long Term Plans (LTP), Curriculum Maps for Autumn and End of Year Expectations (EoYE) for English and Maths. These items are placed here to help you support your children at home, please come and ask us if you have any questions.

As we begin the new academic year I would like to share with you an exciting project that we are currently investigating. As you are all aware over the past few years we have been through a phased expansion. By September 2020 we will be a full three form entry school and unfortunately our current library is not reflective of this. Therefore, we are conducting a feasibility study into the expansion of the library. Alongside this we are hoping to also build a space which will be used for a new Computing Suite. It is of course very early in the process, the FOGs team have earmarked this as one of the things that they wish to fundraise for, which is fantastic news. As the process moves forward I will continue to keep you up to date with developments. With all of this in mind I want to thank all those parents who have donated books to the School Library, Mrs Frewin has been inundated with these. However we still have nearly outstanding 100 books, to the value of over £500 unaccounted from the school library. We are actively trying to have these books returned to the school, unfortunately if these books are lost then we will need to invoice the parents for the replacements. We will of course happily accept a new copy donated to the school as a replacement.

At the end of every newsletter we have listed some of the important upcoming dates, Mrs Savan will ensure that this is updated every newsletter and on the School Website. She has also attached an extended School Calendar for the year. Please remember, although we do try to avoid it as much as possible, these dates are subject to change.

I look forward to working with you over the course of the academic year.

Kind regards  
Iain Sutherland  
Headteacher

**Respect Empathy Compassion**  
**Three words can make a huge difference!**

# WHOLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM UPDATE

## RECEPTION

The reception children have made a great start to school life and are settling well into their classes. They all seem very happy and excited to explore their new classrooms. Our Topic this half term is 'Colours of the world'.

Over the past week, we have been learning about school routines, getting to know our new friends and went to our 1<sup>st</sup> gymnastics class and enjoyed outdoor PE.

Next week, we are looking forward to staying for lunch. We will also be creating our class charters to remind the children of good behaviour. In English, we will be learning about being a good friend using the story of the 'Rainbow Fish' and in maths we will be beginning to recognise and sequence numbers to 10 and beyond. We will also be continuing our learning about friendship through the story of 'Elmer'. The children will be thinking about how Elmer is unique and what makes them unique. In maths we will be learning about 2D shapes. We will also be exploring colours and colour mixing.

## YEAR 1

**The children are all settling in fantastically into Year 1. We have been very busy learning lots of new challenges and routines. Our current topic is 'Home Sweet Home'.**

### English

This week we have been reading various stories that include rhyme and when reading we have been pausing to see if children can guess the rhyming word. The children have then gone onto writing simple rhyming sentences making sure they include clear finger spaces. We have learnt our first handwriting join of 'ai' and are encouraging the children to use it when they are writing words where they hear the 'ai' sound.

**Next week** we will be reading a repeating story and creating simple sentences using some of the Year 1 common exception words e.g. This is the house.

### Maths:

This week we have been counting forwards and backwards to and recalling numbers that are more and less than a given number.

**Next week** we will start to be more confident when looking at numbers to 20, counting forwards and backwards and looking at correct number formations. We will also be exploring the terms 'more' and 'less'. The children will use the symbols < , > and = to compare two different numbers.

In other subject areas, children have been learning the names of different types of homes. They have also started to label parts of the body.

Thank you for attending the meeting today. We hope that it was informative and made clear all the new routines that we have in year 1. Thank you

## YEAR 2

The children have all settled really well into Year 2 and we are very proud of them. Our current topic is 'Famous People'.

This week we were looking at the author Jill Murphy. We read the book Whatever Next and did some drama and role playing based on the story and the different characters. Children have started to think about the story from the owl characters point of view and next week we will plan and write their own version of the story, substituting the character of owl for something new, e.g. a bird, magical flying unicorn etc.

Next week the children will also be learning more about Florence Nightingale, with a cross curricular link to our Topic. We will start the week by looking at different images of Florence in the hospital in Scutari. Children will use their senses to describe how her and the soldiers might have felt, what they might have seen or heard etc. Children will then write some sentences about the hospital into their English books.

This week in maths children have been looking at their number bonds to 10 and 20. We started the week by counting in our tens. Through the week children have been encouraged to see the relationship between their number bonds to 10 and their number bonds to 20. Next week the children will be continuing with numbers bonds at the start of the week and then moving onto looking at place value. We will begin by looking at the digits in a number and identifying the tens and ones in a number. The children will also be ordering numbers and we will be encouraging them to use vocabulary such as: greater than, less than, equal to etc. We will also be doing the second part of our maths assessment.

## YEAR 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant start to the new term and have settled in tremendously in the junior school. During our first week back, the children learnt how to plan their writing using the skill of bullet point notes. They created personalised fact files and were keen to take their homework home to create a fact file on someone in their family. We have been practising our times tables each day, so that we can become experts at them as quickly as possible. We need to master the 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 8x, 10x, 11x as per the Year 3 Curriculum so any practise at home is helpful. We have also completed lots of place value (Th, H, T, U) and number sequencing.

In the next few weeks, children will be becoming more familiar with correct punctuation and grammar. We will be looking at using proper nouns, pronouns and conjunctions in particular. In maths, we will use our skills from this week and start adding three digit numbers by regrouping. In history, we will continue our new topic of the Stone Age and put timelines in order according to B.C. dates and A.D. dates. We will also continue looking at different patterns in art and following sequences such as AABB, ABAB, AAAB and ABBA.

Thank you to all the parents that could make our Year 3 curriculum presentation on Thursday. We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year and making the most of Year 3 and the first year in the junior school!

## YEAR 4

We've finished our first full week of Year 4! Firstly, it was lovely to meet some of you at our Meet the Teacher meeting on Tuesday, we hope you found it informative and useful.

The children have settled in and are learning the expectations of their new year group. We began the week by taking a look at place value and moved on to using the column method for addition. We explored the role of Tim Peake in space travel through our comprehension. The children practised finding a piece of information in a text and used it effectively to answer the questions. We started our topic of Living things and Habitats in science. The children were given the task of finding as many minibests on the field as they could. They were all very excited and enthusiastic to take part and found lots of creatures roaming the field! The children have also been learning about Egyptian Gods in preparation for our topic, the ancient Egyptians.

For the next few weeks, we will be looking at the written method of subtraction and applying the skills learnt to word problems. In English, the children will be starting to write SPaG-tacular sentences and knowing how to use fronted adverbials effectively in their work.

In the coming weeks, the children will begin looking more deeply at the ancient Egyptians and their way of life. They will be combining their knowledge of the Egyptians and their art skills to create Egyptian cat models. We ask that the children bring in kitchen roll tubing to assist us with this!

## YEAR 5

Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019:

Year 5 have settled well into their new year group and have begun reading their class reader 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty, following the life and troubles of Jim Jarvis. Set in the Victorian era, it links to our current history topic and will assist our learning. We have been studying how figurative language such as simile, metaphor and personification can help make our writing more interesting and individual and they have been looking at ways in which they can be more creative in extended writing tasks.

Over the next two weeks, Year 5 will be covering the following areas of curriculum:

Science – As we continue our topic of 'forces', the children will be thinking about friction and how different surfaces affect a moving object. We will also be looking at air resistance and how the shapes of objects impact on its ability to move through the air.

History – During our last lesson, we looked at where the Victorian era fits into the rest of history and some important events that took place in Queen Victoria's reign. We will be studying how rich and poor people lived and the rights that each citizen had during this era. There was a fantastic BBC documentary series called *The Victorian Slum* which sent modern families back to the Victorian era which aired three years ago. It is no longer available on i-Player but can be found if you search for each episode. Watching this with your children would be a great help to get them to engage in this topic of study.

## YEAR 6

Everyone has been settling in well into Year 6 and is very excited for the new topics and trips ahead!

This week the children have started to explore some of the topics they will be covering in History, Science and Geography this year. The children discussed their knowledge and what they would like to find out about WW2 in History and their prior knowledge of the topic of Animals and their habitats in Science. The children shared some impressive facts as well as asking very interesting questions. Over the next two weeks children will be learning more about these topics.

Literacy - Year 6 pupils wrote a recount describing an event in their summer holidays. Everyone had wonderful memories to share with their friends and teachers! Over the next two weeks the children will be learning about tenses, punctuation, conjunctions and a range of clauses and how to incorporate these into their writing. We have started to look at the stimulus for the piece of writing that they will write next week which is an animation called The Piano. We can't wait to read their writing.

## NOTICE

### WOODEN PLAY EQUIPMENT

If anyone has a wooden play kitchen that they would like to rehome, can you please contact [Year1@grimsdke.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:Year1@grimsdke.harrow.sch.uk)



## DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

Infant and Junior School students are expected to arrive through their respective gates with the exception of the Rear Access across the field. This is designated as a Pupil Pedestrian Entrance Only, students are to enter through here on their own regardless of Year Group. Infant School students can make their way around the field and across the Junior School Playground.

The gates are open for short periods of time at the beginning and end of the day. Students are expected to be in the playground ready for the bell at 8.45am. Each week the class with no lates is awarded an OWL in assembly as recognition of this achievement.

## SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

There are many different ways in which the school communicates with the parents. Email and text are the most widely used, for this the school requires up to date parent contact details.

It would be much appreciated if parents could keep the school informed of any changes to these so we can update our system accordingly. Alongside this the School Office send out letters; update the school website; post on the A-Frame in the car park and use the school Twitter account. If all else fails and you are still unsure please come and ask.

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY EXPECTATIONS

Attending school and being on time are two influential factors in the progress and attainment of the student in school. We would ask that you familiarise yourself with the school policy for Attendance, which can be found on the School Website - <http://www.grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk/School-Policies>

For your information two documents have been added to the end of the newsletter to further explain the impact, both positive and negative, of attendance and punctuality.

# GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

20th September	Parent Forum 9am
1st October	Y4 CREW visit—Egyptians
2nd October	Reception Vision Check—one class
3rd October	Y3-4 Dodgeball Festival (selected only) Special menu—due to school census
7th October	Individual and sibling photos
8th October	Individual and sibling photos Parent Consultations—3.40—7.30pm
9th October	Y1 CREW—Victorian House Reception Vision Check—one class
10th October	Rec—Y6 Flu Immunisation Parent Consultations 3.40—5.30pm
11th October	Non-Uniform Day—Teddy Tombola Author—Jim Smith visit and book signing FOGS Halloween Disco
14th October	Y6 Kingswood Residential trip
15th October	Y3 visiting St Anselms Church Y4 Parents Kingswood Meeting (Time TBC)
16th October	Y2 CREW—Florence and Mary Reception Vision Check—one class
17th October	Y5/6 Cross Country (selected only)
18th October	Y6 Return from Kingswood Y3 CREW—Stone Age Last day of 1/2 term
28th October	Back to school—in line for 8.45
29th October	Y6 visiting Lincolnsfield
4th November	Y5 visiting Gunnersbury Park Museum Y6 WW2 workshop
5th November	KS1 Sports Festival (selected only) Y5 visiting Gunnersbury Park Museum Y6 WW2 workshop Y4 visiting Cassiobury Park
6th November	Y4 visiting Cassiobury Park
8th November	Parent Forum 9am
18th November	Keeping Ourselves Safe Week
20th November	Y2 CREW visit—Great Fire of London Parent Curriculum Evening
28th November	Non-uniform day—bring a gift for the tombola or £1
5th December	Y2 Christmas Performance (2pm)
7th December	FOGS Christmas Fair (Saturday)
10th December	Y1 Christmas Performance (2pm)
12th December	Junior Carol Concert (11am) Reception Christmas Performance (2pm)
17th December	KS1 Christmas Panto (children only)
18th December	Christmas Jumper Day KS2 School Disco
19th December	Last Day of Autumn Term—school closes at 2.30pm

## 2019—2020 TERM DATES

### AUTUMN TERM 2019

Monday 2 September - Friday 18 October

**Half Term** Monday 21 October - Friday 25 October

Monday 28 October - Thursday 19 December

### SPRING TERM 2020

Monday 6 January 2020 - Friday 14 February 2020

**Half Term** Monday 17 February 2020 - Friday 21 February 2020

Monday 24 February 2020 to Friday 3 April 2020

### SUMMER TERM 2020

Monday 20 April 2020 to Friday 22 May 2020

**Half Term** Monday 25 May 2020 - Friday 29 May 2020

Monday 1 June 2020 to Tuesday 21 July 2020

PDD Dates:

- ◆ 2nd and 3rd September 2019
- ◆ 3rd April 2020
- ◆ 20th and 21st July 2020

Please use the following to communicate with the school—Year group emails are:

Reception@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Year1@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Year2@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Year3@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Year4@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Year5@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Year6@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

After school club -

Asc@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

For changes to drop off and collection please email:

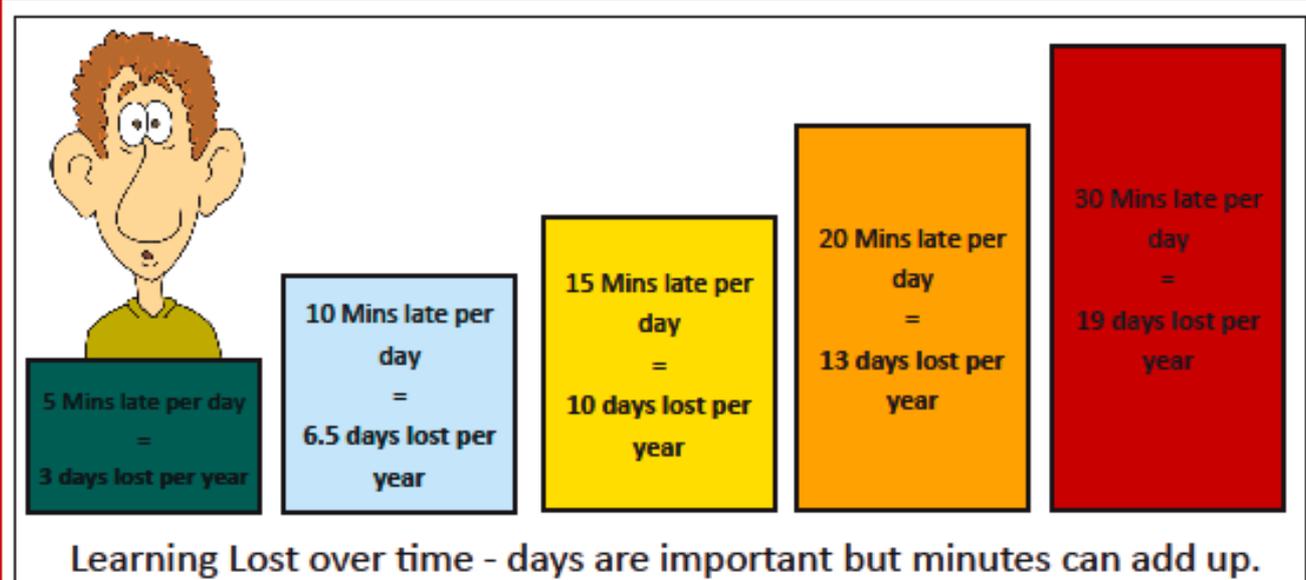
Attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

## Other important 2020 dates

19th Jun	Summer Carnival
25th Jun	Y3 Performance—6.30pm
2nd Jul	Y4 Performance—6.30pm
9th Jul	Y5 Performance—6.30pm
16th Jul	Y6 Performance

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PUNCTUAL TO SCHOOL

As students grow older it will become an expectation placed on them as they enter the working world.



## The benefits of being punctual

It shows others ...

- That you value and respect others close to you.
- That you want to show others what you are capable of doing.
- That you care about yourself and others.
- That you are responsible for your time and the things you do with it.
- That you have integrity and high expectations of yourself.

Students have the opportunity to...

- Talk with friends, share experiences and build relationships.
- Discuss homework and check that they are on the right track.
- Practice organising their belongings within a routine start to the day.
- Work with an adult to further support or challenge their learning without being withdrawn from the classroom.

Everyday moment counts - Being punctual means a calm start to the day which fosters a better environment for your child's learning. Do this now and create positive habits for better learning tomorrow.





# THE IMPORTANCE OF “GOOD” ATTENDANCE



Making the most of every opportunity in order to be the best we can be.

## Why your child's attendance at school is important...

### *Reasons why it is important to ensure your child attends school:*

- To learn, develop and improve.
- To make new and foster current friendships.
- To experience new things and new skills with our peers.
- To build self esteem and confidence in our own abilities.
- To prepare for the next step in our educational journey.

### *Absence has an impact!*

100% Attendance  
*0 days / 0 Lessons missed*

95% Attendance  
*9 days / 45 Lessons missed*

80% Attendance  
*19 days / 95 Lessons missed*

85% Attendance  
*28 Days / 140 Lessons missed*

*Absence = Missed Opportunity to learn*

**Missing school creates a greater distance between your child and their learning and friends which increases the feeling and sense of isolation.**

Develop a morning routine where preparation is key.

Support your child in taking responsibility for their attendance.

Plan for and book medical and dental appoints outside of school hours.

Don't book holidays during term time - there are 12 other weeks to do this!

**How you can support your child to make the most of school ...**

Ensure that your child arrives on time and not after.

Take an interest in their learning and praise them for their efforts.

Support the school in ensuring that your child is meeting expectations of behaviour at school.

Talk to them about their learning and their day at school.

**Everyday counts - Success at school and in later life starts at school. Creating positive habits for a better tomorrow.**

