

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to share some wonderful news by offering my congratulations to Mrs Doughty and her husband, who are expecting their first child. I am sure that all of the students and parents will join with me in celebrating this wonderful news.

Over the past two weeks I have been able to be involved in some wonderful school events. Mr Godfrey, Mr Tidd and myself took three teams of Y5/6 students to the Harrow School Tag Rugby Tournament and even though it was cold, the students all played wonderfully. Thank you to the supportive parents that were able to join us.

We have recently had a netball fixture against Pinner Wood on our site, this is part of a list of fixtures that the students have played in this term. The students did extremely well in securing a draw in the dying moments of a tense match. A big thank you to Miss Herbert and Miss Mahara who have trained and supported the team of students with this.

Following on the sport theme, Grimsdyke School hosted the inaugural "Y4 Football Pinner Schools Tournament". Nine schools from the local area took part in a round robin style competition and even though our team didn't come away with the trophy we are already looking forward to the competition next year. Well done to those students who represented Grimsdyke School and Mr Godfrey and Miss Cresswell for preparing the students leading up to the tournament.

In the past two weeks we have had the first of some lovely performances at school. Year Five kicked this off with the colourful extravaganza of their African Drumming. This is something that they have been learning about with the support from two Harrow Music Service tutors. It was an amazing presentation of drumming, dancing and singing. I want to extend my congratulations to all the students who really got involved in a great toe tapping show. Following on from this, Year Two showcased their acting and dancing in the first of our Christmas Shows. Once again it was a true West End performance which gave the students a great experience and a reminder of the story of Christmas. Well done to all student and staff involved.

Our Christmas Charity this year is the Harrow Food Bank, over the course of the performances between now and the end of the term we will be collecting monetary donations. With these kind donations we are going to take members of the Student Steering Group to a local supermarket and purchase items from the suggested list provided by the Harrow Food Bank.

Hopefully we, as a school, can support local residents who are less fortunate than ourselves through these donations. You may have noticed that the installation of the new Infant School Playground is currently taking place. I am hoping that this will be finished before the end of the term so the students can start using it. I know that the Steering Group were very excited when they got involved in the design of the project. They offered some very insightful suggestions that we were able to take back to the company who is installing. A huge thank you to FOGs who have worked hard to fundraise for this exciting piece of equipment. As with the Junior Playground we ask the parents to ensure that their children do not play on the equipment at the beginning and end of the school day. The equipment is only insured when supervised by a member of staff.

Finally, tomorrow is our Annual Christmas Fair and the FOGs team have been working hard in the background to prepare another wonderful community event. As I write this I am also looking down the list of raffle prizes and it is wonderful to see, not only, the lovely prizes that they have arranged but also the support from the local community donating these gifts. I do hope you can find the time to join us, I look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards
Iain Sutherland
Headteacher

WHOLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM UPDATE

RECEPTION

Last week the children enjoyed writing letters to Santa. On Friday we walked round to the post box and sent the letters off to Santa. In maths we focussed on money, especially 1p, 2p and 5p coins. In RE the children had fun looking at each other's baby pictures, discussing what has changed for them and guessing who is who.

This week the children have been learning about 1 less. All of the reception classes now have their own elf visitor; the children are enjoying writing to them and finding out what they have been up to at night! The children have been working very hard during our Christmas play rehearsals. On Friday we had our first dress rehearsal for our Christmas show where we showed 'Angel Express' to Key Stage 2.

Next week we will be performing our Christmas play to the infants, then to parents on Thursday. We will also be watching the Year 1 Christmas concert and are very excited that we will also see a pantomime performance soon. In class we will be completing our unaided writing task and continuing with Christmas craft activities.

YEAR 1

In **English** last week, we read the story of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. The children planned a tiger party and followed a recipe to make tasty tiger treats.

This week the children have been learning to use '**because, and, so**' as conjunctions and they began to use these in their letters to Santa.

Next week the children will be completing an unaided piece of writing based on the John Lewis Christmas advert. In **Maths** last week, the children were learning about 2D and 3D shapes. The children were learning the names of different shapes and describing them using their properties.

This week the children have been learning about place value, counting one more and one less of any given numbers, with some children working up to 100.

Next week the children will be continuing with place value but focusing on ordering numbers.

YEAR 2

We hope you all enjoyed our Christmas concert Lights, Camel, Action, we were so proud of all the children! We have also been very busy continuing all our Christmas crafts which we hope you will love! We tested the children on their Reading this week and have been very pleased with the results. All of this is just to help us prepare your children for their SATs tests and helps to give us a clear indication of any gaps in their learning.

Next week we will be doing a piece of unaided writing based on the John Lewis Christmas advert, 'Excitable Edgar'. We will be writing a newspaper article to use some of the skills we learnt a couple of weeks ago when writing our Great Fire of London newspaper reports.

We will also be busy continuing with lots of Christmas crafts next week too!

In maths this week we have been completing our fractions topic by looking at halving and quartering numbers. We have taught the children a range of strategies, such as using multilink cubes to physically share out the number, drawing circles to divide out the number with dots or halving the tens and ones e.g. $48 = 20 + 4$, so half of $48 = 24$.

Next week we will be carrying out some end of term assessment in maths so that we can see the gaps in the children's learning. We will then be doing some fun Christmas maths to end the year!

On Wednesday 18th December we will be having a Christmas party to end a very successful autumn term. Please could we ask you to send in a Christmas top for your child to change into for the afternoon. Please place it in a named carrier bag. Thank you! Our new topic after Christmas will be 'The Far East', in case you want to spend any time with your child preparing for this over the Christmas break.

YEAR 3

This week in English year 3 having been looking at the different ingredients that go into creating their own myths to conclude our topic of Myths and Legends. It has been fantastic reading how they have used all the features to make their very own. In maths, we have been applying the measuring skills learnt last week to find the perimeter in different shapes.

Year 3 have been very lucky this week to have a visit from Mrs Zai who works at West house dental. She shared with the children many great tips in making sure they keep their teeth healthy and how we can save our adult tooth if it falls out. All children received a letter with these tips and some toothpaste. This went with our science topic where the children were learning about what teeth we have and the function of them.

Next week In DT, the children will be creating the box's they planned and creating something special to go in them. In literacy, we will move onto looking at a variety of fables and the morals/ messages they are trying to prove.

Just wanted to say a massive thank you to help given to the children for their fantastic Pandora's Box's.

YEAR 4

Over the past few weeks, Year 4 have been working on their persuasive writing. The classes did some research on the effects of climate change and global warming on their world. The children were experts in this- thank you for all the research and beautifully made posters. The children read some articles about how humans have affected the tourist attractions around the world. We took a deeper look in to deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. The children were very enthusiastic about this topic which was very pleasing to hear. We are now working on ideas for our own school, how can we help our environment? The children came up with some fantastic ideas, we'll let them tell you about them! In maths, the children have been continuing on with their work on different forms of measurement and conversion.

As we wind down to Christmas, the children will be writing persuasive letters to the school council representatives to encourage Grimsdyke to become a more eco- friendly school. We will also be creating our own Canopic Jars using clay and paint! The children have been working on their Christmas carol and we have been very pleased with their singing and performance skills!

YEAR 5

Year 5 put on their African drumming performance this week showing the drumming and dancing skills they have learned as part of our programme of study. They all really enjoyed being able to put on the performance and I am sure you all agree that they were fantastic and should be very proud of themselves. We would like to say a big thank you to Tammy and Akoto from Harrow Music Service for all of their hard work.

In English, we have been looking at the features of persuasive writing and we have produced persuasive formal letters to Queen Victoria requesting that children in the Victorian era receive the same rights that we enjoy in 2019. Among many other features, the children have learned what 'flattery' is and how it can be used as a persuasive tool. We have also been writing a book review of *Street Child* where, again, we have been able to use many of the persuasive techniques that we used in our letters.

YEAR 6

Year 6 have been working hard learning our Christmas carol 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas'! Lots of lovely singing voices have been on show and we're all looking forward to performing at the church next week – we hope to see you there where we have a special surprise in store!

In English, we have been writing a newspaper report of a Santa sighting based on the scene from Elf where Santa crash lands in central park. We have conducted lots of news reporter techniques to gather quotes from eye-witnesses that we can use for our extended write on Friday!

We have been enjoying our mindfulness advent calendar where each day we do an activity. Mindfulness is about learning to train your attention to the present moment without dwelling on what has happened in the past or worrying about the future. Mindfulness provides many physical and psychological benefits which we're trying to highlight to the children. Something they seem to be really enjoying!

TEAMWORK CITIZENSHIP AND LEARNING AWARDS

BRONZE AWARD

Congratulations to pupils who have achieved 10 merit points and received their Certificate of Commendation

Congratulations to the 328 students, (55%) who have already earned their Bronze



SILVER AWARD

Having achieved 25 merit points we are very proud of the first children to receive their Certificate of Commendation

Congratulations to the 33 students, (6%) who have already earned their Silver Award



ATTENDANCE

As you are all aware, Grimsdyke School places a high importance on attendance. Along with the Government's expectation of a certain level of attendance the school also actively encourages this through attendance awards and the weekly "Owls" presentations. These are presented on a regular basis in whole school assemblies and then published on the display screen in the foyer in order to celebrate the success of the students.

Below you will find the attendance results for the first half of the Autumn Term. These are excellent and I want to congratulate all of the students (and parents) for doing their best to be at school and demonstrating a responsibility for their right to an education (Article 28 UNCRC).

	Infant School	Junior School
1 st	2T	5B/6M
2 nd	2D	4J
3 rd	1B	3S

CONTACT DETAILS

If you need to inform the school of any of the following:

* Changes to collection arrangements * Medical appointments * Absences * Expected late arrivals

Please email attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk with the relevant documentation.

SPORTS

Here are just a few snaps from our recent Tournament and the netball match that we hosted on site.





FRIENDS OF GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS

FAIR

12pm-4pm



ADULTS
£1



07
DECEMBER

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL SYLVIA AVENUE,
HATCH END, HA5 4QE

RAFFLE • TOMBOLA • SANTA'S GROTTTO

MULLED WINE, FOOD & DRINK, GAMES AND FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY...

GET YOUR GROTTTO TICKETS AT: WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/FRIENDSOFGIMSDYKE

GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

10th December	Y1 Christmas Performance (2.15pm) Y6 Netball Match (selected only)
11th December	Christmas Lunch—if you have not ordered, you need to bring a packed lunch for your child.
12th December	Junior Carol Concert (11am) Reception Christmas Performance (2.15pm)
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
6th January	Back to school—in line for 8.45am
9th January	Reception Vision Screening (one class)
13th January	Y4 visiting Wembley
14th January	KS1 SATS Parent Meeting (Time TBC)
15th January	Y1 CREW visit—Toys Y3/4 Girls Football (selected only)
16th January	Reception Vision Screening (one class) Spring Census—Special Menu KS2 SATS Parent Meeting (Time TBC)
17th January	Y6 Boys Football (selected only)
20th January	Y4 visiting Wembley (one class)
21st January	Y5/6 Badminton (selected only)
22nd January	Y5 attending a musical performance at Hatch End High School
23rd January	Reception Vision Screening (one class)
24th January	Parent Forum (9am) Y6 Boys Football (Selected only)
27th January	Y4 visiting Wembley (one class only)
28th January	Y5/6 Hockey Tournament (selected only)
29th January	Y2 visiting Kidzania
30th January	Y6 visiting Wallace Collection
3rd February	Y5 visiting Science Museum
4th February	KS1 Sports Festival (selected only)
7th February	FOGS Movie Night
10th February	R/Y6 Height & Weight check
11th February	Guitar Festival Reception visit from CREW
12th February	Y3 CREW visit—Romans
13th February	International Day Y3/4 Gymnastics (selected only)
14th February	Last day of 1/2 term
17th—21 February	1/2 Term Break
24th February	First day back—in line for 8.45am
25th February	Y5/6 Netball Rally (selected only)
26th February	Y5/6 Boys Football (selected only)
28th February only	Y6 Bikeability—Dr Bike on site to service Y6 bikes

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