



Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers

I would firstly like to say a huge thank you to all the parents for their support with our Christmas Charity this year. From the contributions made by parents at the recent Christmas Performances, including Christmas Jumper Day we have raised an amazing total of just over £1014 for the Harrow Food Bank. Mr Tidd and members of the Student Steering Group are now going to take this wonderful donation and purchase recommended items from the Harrow Food Bank List. This will then be presented to the Harrow Food Bank on behalf of the staff, students and parents of Grimsdyke School. What a great way to show kindness and generosity at the beginning of this festive period.

If you have been on site over the past two weeks you would definitely recognise that this is “performance season” for the staff and students at Grimsdyke School. There has been a rolling programme of Year Groups going into the hall to rehearse for their respective shows. Once again Reception, Year One and Year Two presented amazing Christmas performances to the parents. All three Year Groups did a fantastic job with these. I would like to extend my congratulations to the students, staff and parents for the work in preparing and supporting the students with these learning experiences.

On the 12th December we held our annual Junior School Carol Service. It was a touching and thought provoking service where the theme of “giving” ran from start to finish. The Headteacher Prefects spoke wonderfully with their own reflections and each Year Group added their own reading and song. Once again Father David was hugely impressed by the students and their conduct throughout the Carol Service. I hope that those Y6 and Senior Choir Parents in attendance enjoyed this as much as we did preparing and performing it.

I am sure that by now you would have heard about if not attended the annual Grimsdyke School Christmas Fair organised by the extremely hardworking FOGs Team. Yet again this was a hugely successful event in the School Calendar. It is fundraising events like this that allow for the installation of things like the Infant School Adventure Playground, which is another wonderful addition to the school premises. One of the reasons that events like this are so successful is the support offered by so many different people. This support comes in a multitude of different ways from cake donations to volunteering at the actual fair, all of these things help a huge amount. As a result the FOGs have managed to raise an amazing £8185.10. Thank you to all those people who were able to join us on the day and to those who supported the running of the fair.

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term it is time for staff to hand in assessment data to the Senior Leadership, this is a very important activity within the monitoring and evaluation schedule of the school. The data is then analysed by Mrs Curry, Mr Tidd or myself, pupil progress meetings with members of staff are then held and finally I may request to speak to various parents. All of these actions are completed with a view to develop an appropriate support package for the students enabling them to make as much progress as possible. Please don't be concerned if you are asked for an appointment.

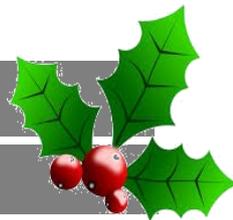
In order to maintain the momentum from this first term there are plenty of things that can be done at home over the holidays to further support your child's development. Remember that children are often the mirror image of the things they see and experience. With this in mind, family centred experiences such as reading stories together, baking Christmas treats, playing board games or spending quality time together at the local park or writing a family diary can teach many different skills. As always the value of discussion during these experiences can further strengthen a child's wider understanding of the world around them. Opportunities such as this will greatly assist the momentum as we move into the Spring Term.

Finally, I would like to thank the parents for their continued support and on behalf of all the staff to wish parents and students a restful break over the Christmas period, I hope you enjoy the time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing everyone returning refreshed and ready for more learning in the Spring Term.

Kind regards
Iain Sutherland
Headteacher



WHOLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM UPDATE



RECEPTION

Last week we had so much fun performing our Christmas play 'Angel Express' to the infants and then to parents on Thursday. We also had the chance to watch year 1's Christmas performance which was lovely. In class, we worked hard on our unaided writing all about Excitable Edgar as well as making some Christmas cards and sewing our stockings so we can decorate them next week.

This week we will be baking some mince pies in preparation for our learning journey afternoon with the parents where the parents get to come in and see the children's hard work during their first term at Grimsdyke. We will also be finishing off our Christmas cards and decorating our stockings.

The children have worked hard during this first term and we are very proud of all they have achieved. We hope you all have a well-earned rest, and wish a safe and happy Christmas to all of your families.

YEAR 1

It's been a busy few weeks on the run up to Christmas! The children have really enjoyed learning about Christmas.

In English last week, the children wrote a letter from Edgar the excitable dragon to the towns people as an unaided piece. This week, they will be making and writing Christmas cards.

In Maths last week, the children were ordering numbers out of sequence. They were comparing and ordering quantities using the language 'greater than' and 'less than'. This week we will be completing some Christmas maths activities.

Finally, we would like to say how proud we were of the children's Christmas performance. They all did so well and we hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did! The children have had a fantastic first term in Year 1 and we look forward to seeing them in the New Year. Our next topic is called 'Let's Play'.

We have noticed the BBC are showing a few 'Julia Donaldson' animations on the television your children may enjoy;

- ◆ The Gruffalo - 24th December 9.45am
- ◆ The Gruffalo's Child - 24th December 10.15am
- ◆ Stick Man - 25th December 8.55am
- ◆ Zog - 25th December 9.25am
- ◆ The Snail and the Whale - 25th December 2.30pm
- ◆ Room on the Broom - 26th December 1.25pm
- ◆ The Highway Rat - 30th December 11.35am
- ◆ Also, The Tiger who came to tea – 24th December 7.30pm

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

YEAR 2

We have been very busy continuing all our Christmas crafts which we hope you will love. This week we were also lucky enough to have a pantomime visit our school and enjoy a Christmas party!

During the Christmas holidays, in addition to their home learning, we would like your children to:

- Do the things that they enjoy
- Eat foods that they love
- Watch their favourite programme or film
- Make somebody laugh or smile
- Visit their favourite place
- Play with friends and toys

and finally

Come back to school ready to learn! Our new topic will be 'The Far East.' Please could PE kits be checked over the holiday and could ALL PE clothing be named. *As a reminder PE kits should include: white top, white shorts, black jogging bottoms, black jumper without a zip and plimsolls that fit correctly.* Show and Tell will begin again the first Friday back with Yellow and Red colour groups.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in 2020!



YEAR 3

The Year 3's performed in the Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol concert and enjoyed singing the song 'Merry Christmas everyone'. Selected readers also read out the story 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' by Clement Clarke Moore. It was a wonderful performance by all year groups and the children should be really proud of their singing skills.

We have finished our maths unit on measurements and finding the perimeter. In English, we completed our unit on fables and had created our own fables from given morals. In Geography the children finished our settlement topic by creating roundhouses.

Over the holidays, children can practise their handwriting skills to ensure that each letter is joined in a fluent style that is presented neatly. We also hope that they continue their daily reading practise and try to use inference in the stories they are reading where possible. As always, we hope they are mastering their times tables in and out of order with focus on the 3x, 4x and 8x tables.

Next term we start learning about the Romans in history which is always an exciting topic in Year 3. The children could challenge themselves over the holidays by researching where the Roman Empire originated from and research some fun facts! We want to wish you a safe and happy holiday from all of us on the Year 3 team!

YEAR 4

Wow what a fantastic, hard working term the children have had in year 4! Over the last week the children have got into the Christmas spirit by pretending to be Edgar the Dragon from the John Lewis advert. They wrote brilliant diary entries showing off the skills we have learnt this term. In maths, the children worked hard to solve a Christmas mystery which they had to use their problem solving skills for. The children have also used their art and DT skills this week to make their very own Canopic Jar, they all look fantastic! We hope you like them!

For our first week back we will be looking at division in Maths. In English, we will be developing our knowledge of speech and using possessive apostrophes accurately.

We hope you have a restful and relaxing Christmas break and a Happy New Year. We look forward to see you back after the holidays! Happy Holidays,

YEAR 5

Week beginning 16th December 2019

As we approach the end of term in Year 5, it is hard to believe that a third of the academic year has already passed. We have enjoyed reading *Street Child* and learning about the Victorians and have made progress across many curriculum areas. Our African drumming performance was a great experience for the children and an opportunity to show off what they had been practising and rehearsing. We all hope that everybody has a well-earned, relaxing holiday, stays safe and comes back ready for more learning in 2020.

In the spring term, we will be learning about fractions as well as shapes, area and perimeter and beginning our study of space in science. In history, we turn our attention to the Normans and we will be reading *Danny The Champion of the World* as our class reader. We will also be visiting The Science Museum and The Tower of London as part of our curriculum so there is lots to look forward to.

Merry Christmas, happy holidays and we wish you all the best for 2020!

YEAR 6

Miss Murphy and Mr Joanides would first of all like to congratulate all the year 6s on a beautiful carol concert performance. They did us so proud with their rendition of Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas with Makaton signing. It was lovely to share our surprise with you, finally.

We are also extremely proud of the progress that every single child has made this term. We had a very successful assessment week last week and are all on track to be ready for the SATs tests in May. Well done all of you!

In English we wrote a Christmas themed report on a sighting of 'Santa' and had to immerse ourselves into the role of a newspaper reporter using a range of features and language you would see in a newspaper.

Finally, the whole Year 6 team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you all enjoy the break and look forward to starting again in 2020!

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 456 students, (76%) 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 140 students, (23%) 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).

Congratulations to the 153 students who have achieved 100% attendance this term.

	Infant School	Junior School	Infant School	Junior School
	2nd half of Autumn Term	2nd half of Autumn Term	Full Autumn Term	Full Autumn Term
1 st	2D(97.2%)	3S (98.3%)	2D(97.8%)	3S(98.2%)
2 nd	1B (97.1%)	5B(97.1%)	1B(97.7%)	5B (97.6%)
3 rd	2T (95%)	4J (96.6%)	2T(96.7%)	4J(97.3%)

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to:

Vihaan and Yasmin who won the programme design, Ishaan and Safa who won the highest raffle ticket sales, Katia and Swara who won the best Jolly Jars and Aryan, Madina, Olivia and Nayia who had the most highly commended jolly jars. Shreem, who won the 'Where's Santa' and finally Mili, Shanaya, Hannah and Olivia who jointly won the 'Be Your Own Boss' Business Enterprise raising £205.61 with their ingenious games stand.



SPORTS

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

Y5-6 Indoor Athletics

Friday 22nd November

In late November, the Y5-6 Grimsdyke Indoor Athletics team, made up of 24 children took part in various field and track events at Harrow Leisure Centre. Individually in the events, there were some good results, Phoebe and Grace earning Bronze in the 6 lap parlauf. There were also top 5 finishes for the girls in the 1+1 relay, speed bounce and standing long jump. The boys achieved top 5 finishes in the 1+1 relay, speed bounce and vertical jump. Overall the team came 7th out of 14.

Y6 Girls Football

Wednesday 27th November

The Y5-6 girls football team took part in the Barnet FC regional championships and got off to a great start, winning their first match thanks to a goal scored by Hannah. The next matches saw some dogged defending and this earned the team a place in the knockout stages. Sadly, the girls lost in a game they could have definitely won and were disappointed not to make it to the semi finals. However a huge congratulations was in order, as it was the first girls first win. The team have a few more league games to play in 2020.

Y6 Boys Football

Wednesday 20th November

The Y6 boys football team also took part in the Barnet FC competition and played 4 group games. The team lost their first match 3-2 but won their second match 1-0. Another defeat followed and needing a win to qualify for the quarter finals, the boys came up just short in their last group game, drawing 2-2. Well done to Neil, Shane, Esa and Charlie for all scoring. The boys continue their football in 2020 with 5 league games still to be played.

Y6 Netball

Friday 8th November

The Y6 netball team, led by Miss Mahara and Miss Toombs, have showed that their hard work in training is paying off. After a friendly defeat away to West Lodge, the team played their first league match of the season at home vs Pinner Wood. In an exciting game, Grimsdyke forged a comeback to tie 6-6. The following week, we hosted West Lodge in a league match. The team showed that they had learned from their defeat before and put West Lodge to the sword, rushing into a 3-0 first quarter lead. However, West Lodge tried to mount a comeback of their own, and going into the last quarter it was all even. Shane then took control of the game for Grimsdyke and scored two to earn Grimsdyke an 8-7 win. The team continue their league matches in January ahead of the netball rally in February.

Y4 Football Tournament

Tuesday 3rd December

The inaugural Y4 Pinner Schools Football Tournament took place in December, with 8 local schools visiting Grimsdyke for a mixed 8-a-side competition. Each team played 6 matches against other schools with the Grimsdyke team showing some good skills. Leandro scored in the first game to earn a win vs Longfield. St John Fisher were the overall winners however, not losing a game and winning 5. We look forward to having all of the teams back next year.



NEW WEBSITE

Dear Parent

We have just launched our new website. As with all websites, it will evolve over the next few months.

We would also appreciate it if you could download our new app, which will give you up to date information about the school and enable you to have the full calendar at your fingertips. To download the app, please visit

www.grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk/app

Our web address has not changed



www.grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Carol Service Headteachers Prefect Reflections 2019

To give a gift is a gift in itself.

Giving is a feeling, Making someone feel special,
A feeling of importance, care and emotional support,
To feel loved

Grant a wish for that lucky someone,
Make them feel cherished,
Show someone that your heart is pure,
And your soul is considerate,
Let them know that you're charitable and kind,
Give them the love they need.

As Jesus once said,
"Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly,
Whoever sows generously will reap generously,
Each and every one of you should give what you have
decided in your heart to give.
Give not reluctantly or under compulsion, God loves a cheerful giver."

When **YOU** hear the word **GIVING**, what do you think of? I'd like you to stop for a minute and think about a time when **giving** has made you feel **really** great about yourself. Why did it feel so great? Probably because you knew it had made a huge difference to the receiver.

Every year since I have been 2 or 3, on the 23rd of December, we take part in something called Basket Brigade. Basket Brigade started nearly 40 years ago in America, when one man's father had had a bad year and could not afford to feed his family that Thanks Giving. A stranger knocked on their door and offered a basket of food – he was so ashamed to take charity that he nearly turned him away but the man put his foot in the door before it was closed and said "take this basket, offered to you from a friend and I only ask that when you are able you do the same for someone else". The man that started Basket brigade is Tony Robbins who was only 17 years old when this incident happened and he promised himself he was going to do the same for others when he was older. It started with 2 baskets he gave at Thanks Giving which turned into 4 and before he knew it he had a team of people helping him make and deliver hundreds of baskets in towns and cities all over the world at Christmas and Thanks Giving.

On Basket Brigade day, we all get up extremely early, go to the specified location, where we spend the day preparing Christmas hampers - we pack Brussel sprouts (not my favourite), stuffing, carrots, potatoes, gravy, parsnips, crackers, satsumas, and other essentials for a Christmas dinner!

Christmas is a joyful time as we share Christmas dinners, visit friends and family and give and receive presents. When giving presents, do you think about giving the best toy ever or the coolest gadgets or do you give presents from the heart, which are all about thoughts? I am going to recite a poem called Christmas Giving by Iris W. Bray and maybe you could think about what you would give to a loved one at Christmas. Poem:

Christmas is for giving, And for showing that we care.
For honouring the Christ child, with the loving gifts we share.
The Wise Men gave of riches, the shepherds, faith and love.
Each gift in its own measure, was smiled on from above.
Let every gift be treasured, not always size or price.
Determines the extent of love, and willing sacrifice.

Enjoy the gift of time with your family and friends this Christmas,
Because yesterday is history,
Tomorrow 's a mystery, And today is a wonderful gift,
Which is why we call it The Present

Giving isn't just for Christmas,
We should make someone feel extraordinary everyday,
And try our best to make the world a kinder place,
For giving is an essential part of happiness.

For these reason, I give you the gift of happiness and joy. I would like to present this gift to our wonderful school and community and hope that with this happiness, we will unite in harmony and rejoice our differences. We shall thrive in a peaceful, happy world.

Thank you—Amaya

We prepare around 1500 baskets for those who are less fortunate and won't be able to afford a Christmas dinner that we will all enjoy on the 25th of December. After all the baskets are made, we are given some of the baskets and addresses where they need to be delivered. With a card we write ourselves which simply says *Merry Christmas love from a friend*. If asked by the recipient who the basket is from we are instructed to say that *'it is from a friend who simply asks that you do the same for someone else when you are able.'*

Another part of the day that shows the power of giving is when every year people that have **received** these baskets in the past choose to stand up and share their story of receiving a Basket Brigade basket themselves and how happy they are to be able to help others this year.

Over the years, giving these baskets and seeing the emotional faces of the families when they open the door can be overwhelming but to me is truly what giving is!

So, please remember that feeling of giving, whether it was your time or a gift. They could be all alone but that one act of kindness has maybe just made them feel really loved. And that's what I love about giving.

For these reasons, I would like to give this gift to the school and community. My gift is the gift of LOVE. Hopefully with my love the world can be a better place no matter who they are or where they come from.

Thank you for listening! Mili

Handsome gifts with festive trim, bring smiles of sweet content
But modest gifts of humble means are of times heaven sent.
Whether it be large or small, each gift will share in part
The message of true Christmas joy, if given from the heart!

I would like to present this gift of peace and hopefully with my present, people could help the world be a better place for everyone no matter what their age, race, gender or background is. If people spread Christmas joy and peace then there would be more love for everyone.

Thank you. Hannah

GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

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	4J visiting Wembley Stadium
14th January	KS1 SATS Parent Meeting (Time 6.30pm)
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 6.30pm)
17th January	Y6 Boys Football (selected only)
20th January	4M visiting Wembley Stadium
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	4V visiting Wembley Stadium
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—details to be confirmed 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
2nd March	Y6 Bikability (3 days) Y3 visiting Roald Dahl Museum (2 classes)
4th March	Y5/6 Girls Football (selected only)
5th March	World Book Day
6th March	Y3 visiting Roald Dahl Museum (1 class) Y6—visit from Dr Bike
9th March	Y6 Bikeability (3 days)
10th March	KS2 Swimming Gala (selected only) Y5/6 Table Tennis (selected only) Parent Consultations 3-40pm—7.30pm

2019—2020 TERM DATES

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:

◆ 3rd April 2020

◆ 20th and 21st July 2020

2020—2021 TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2020

Wed 2nd Sept - Friday 23rd Oct

Half Term Mon 26th Oct—Fri 30th Oct

Monday 2nd Nov—Friday 18th Dec

SPRING TERM 2021

Monday 4 January 2021 - Friday 12 February 2021

Half Term Monday 15 Feb 2021 - Friday 19 Feb 2021

Monday 22nd Feb 2021 to Wednesday 31st Mar 2021

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