GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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ISSUE 08
17th January 2020

Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020. It was wonderful as always to see the students arrive at the beginning of last week ready to yet again take on new challenges in their learning.

As we start what is often referred to as the "working term" I would like to share some lovely news that will hopefully put a smile on your face. On behalf of the staff, students and parents I would like to offer congratulations to Mrs Rowley and her husband who are expecting their first child. This is wonderful news and another lovely addition to the growing "Grimsdyke Family".

Part of the "Monitoring and Evaluation Schedule" in school Mr Tidd, Mrs Curry and myself were able to spend time analysing the Autumn Term Pupil Progress data. All three of us were very pleased with the data that was presented, this showed how hard the students worked leading up to Christmas. Following on from this we have met with each of the teachers to discuss their data in detail, this is to ensure we maintain appropriate provisions for all of the students as we move through the Spring term towards Easter.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the Office Staff have been contacting parents on my behalf to set up "Progress Discussions". The purpose of these meetings are to develop and plan a variety of approaches to support students both in school and out of school. Historically I have always found these meetings to be very productive. I would like to thank those parents who have met with me already, the meetings have been positive and forward thinking.

On Tuesday evening Year Two Parents were invited to attend a briefing meeting about the National SATs Tests, a similar meeting was held with the Year Six Parents on Thursday. These meetings proved to be quite informative where lots of thoughtful questions were asked. Key messages included testing arrangements, preparation in school and support at home were shared with those attending.

At the beginning of the week all of the parents received an email from the school as part of the consultation for the new Relationship and Sex Education which becomes a statutory element of the curriculum in September. Please take some time to review the curriculum documents sent earlier this week and use the attached feedback form to share your thoughts. We will be accepting responses up until the 14th February. After this date we will be considering all of the feedback offered to us.

I am sure by now you have all seen the wonderful addition to our Infant School Playground. The new adventure trail has been fully funded and donated by FOGs as part of the amazing work they do in supporting the school. This of course happens not only from their hard work but also because families across the school support the events that they run. We are now just waiting for the final inspection before we hold our own opening ceremony.

Attached to the back of the newsletter is an up to date calendar for the terms ahead. This can also be found on the new website and additional notification app. As always we will try to keep this as updated as possible, but as you are aware things can sometimes change which might have an impact on individual classes or even Year Groups.

Finally, as we start the new term I would like to remind parents about the expectation on uniforms. Headbands or hair ties, if worn, are to be plain black or red, polo shirts are only to be worn by Reception children, knitted cardigans are not school uniform and appropriate school shoes must be worn in school unless there is a valid reason such as a doctors certificate. Thank you for the support in this area.

I look forward to an exciting Spring Term with longer days and hopefully warmer weather.

Kind regards
Iain Sutherland
Headteacher

WHOLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM UPDATE

RECEPTION

Last week we started our new topic 'To Infinity and Beyond'. We were very impressed with what the children already knew about space! In maths we were looking at time, in clocks as well as days, weeks, months etc. In literacy we focused on writing our very own New Year's resolutions. The children came up with some really thoughtful wishes for the year ahead.

This week we continued to learn about space. In Literacy our focus story was 'Whatever Next'. The children shared ideas then wrote their own lists of what they would take with them for a trip to the moon. In maths we covered addition number sentences as well as some practical addition.

Next week in reception we are learning about the first real astronauts to visit the moon. Our Literacy focus will be the book 'Man on the Moon'. We will be thinking of and writing down some questions to ask Bob, the man on the moon. We will also look at what it is like to live on the international space station. In maths we q=are going to focus on 1 and 2 less and writing our own subtraction number sentences.

YEAR 1

Happy New Year! Our topic this half term is called **'Let's Play'**. The children settled back into school life well last week and were excited to tell us all about their Christmas holidays.

English
Last week we read the story 'The Naughty Bus' by Jan and Jerry Oke. The children enjoyed retelling the story. The children wrote a part of the story adding extra detail- time adverbials, conjunctions, adjectives. This week we are continuing with the story of 'The Naughty Bus'. The bus will be getting up to mischief around school and then the children will be writing their own adventures of the naughty bus.

Maths
Last week we learnt about time. The children made O'clock and half past times thinking about where the minute and hour hand would point. The children then solved time problems for 1 hour earlier and 1 hour later. This week we will be learning about number bonds to 10 and 20. The children will be completing missing number sentences for the number bonds.
The children have enjoyed a visit from CREW linked to our history topic 'Toys of the past'.

YEAR 2

The children have loved getting started on their new topic 'The Far East' and have been learning lots of facts and information during learning time. Please can you ensure show and tells are related to the topic.
This week and last week in English the children have been looking at the story 'The Magic Paintbrush' by Julia Donaldson. The children were introduced to the suffixes –ing and –er and wrote letters to the old man from Shen, including a range of suffix words.

Next week we will be moving onto 'The Willow Pattern Plate' story. We will begin the week by working on inferencing skills and the children's ability to look for clues. The children will create story maps and character descriptions later on in the week.
This week in Maths the children have been learning about 2D shapes. They have all identified and described the properties of each 2D shape. The children have been involved in a shape hunt within the classroom and surrounding areas of the school.

Next week in Maths the children will be continuing their learning on shape and will be focussing on 3D shapes. They will be identifying and describing the properties of each 3D shape. Towards the end of the week, we will be carrying out an end of topic assessment on shape.

YEAR 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful start to 2020! The children have come back well rested, and we have already seen an improvement in their work. We have been learning about how to use punctuation correctly with focus on commas. The children have learned the correct ways to use commas and the importance of punctuating accurately so their sentences sound right.

Cont overleaf…….

YEAR 3—continued

In maths, we have been writing our digits in words up to 1000. This also correlates with their spellings and how to properly spell common numbers. They have seen common misconceptions (ex: ex: four, fourteen and forty) and know which numbers include a hyphen. We also have looked at roman numerals where the children have been using problem solving skills to decode different roman numerals, which has been a fun way to help them remember the symbols and is a great link to our history topic. In history, we have started our new topic on the Romans and children have been very intrigued to investigate what life was like in Roman times. We have explained certain items the Romans invented and which items we still use today. It will be a very thrilling six week topic that will include an up-coming project.

In the coming week, Year 3 will focus on our new topic in literacy; they will be using their research skills to study our unit on Big Cats and will be designing Power point presentations with members from their class. This is a lovely in-school research project that shows children how to research facts on a topic properly, in addition to working with a team. Children will research where Big Cats live, their appearance and features, behaviour and whether or not they are on the endangered list. They will also be applying ICT skills needed.

For science, we have started our new topic of 'Animals and Human bodies'. This will range from topics including the digestive system, bones, muscles and the effects of exercise. There will also be an opportunity to refer to prior knowledge e.g. the role of teeth in digestion.

YEAR 4

Year 4 have come back for the Spring term with a spring in their step! We began the term by starting our new text *Arthur and the Golden Rope*. The children will be studying this for the term but have been asked NOT to read ahead! There are a lot of surprises in store in the story. The children have been predicting who Arthur is and what kind of adventure he is going on. Arthur and the Golden Rope provides a cross curricular element to the curriculum and links to our history topic, the Vikings. The children are excited to learn about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings who settled in Britain. Over the term they will discuss Viking life and have a look at artefacts from the time period.

In maths, we have been exploring fractions. The children have been learning how to find equivalent fractions by simplifying. They have been using their times tables knowledge to do this and have worked extremely hard. We also took a look at short division, the bus stop method. The children were extremely successful with this and really enjoyed the challenge, using all the resources to help them share equally. Next week, we will be continuing with our topic of fractions, taking a look at adding fractions and finding fractions of amounts.

Our first Year 4 class, 4J, embarked on their trip to Wembley Stadium. The children were fantastic when travelling and were complimented by members of the public. We started the construction of our London landmark structures and had a VIP tour of the stadium. We look forward to 4V and 4M visiting the stadium.

YEAR 5

Happy New Year from all the staff in year 5. We would like to thank you all for your generous gifts over the festive period and we are glad that everybody has returned back safely.

In year 5 this term, we are beginning new topics in Science and History relating to 'Space - The Earth and Beyond' and 'The Normans' respectively. We will be learning about how we define a year and a day scientifically, the planets in the solar system and why we have seasons. We will also be studying The Battle of Hastings and the Norman influence on the country that followed, as well as completing artwork and design relating to the Bayeux Tapestry and Norman castles. These topics will also include trips to The Science Museum and The Tower of London as the term progresses.

In English, we have started reading *Danny the Champion of the World* as our new class reader. The children have designed their own traditional caravan, similar to where Danny and his father live in the book, and have been working on writing a property let advertisement which uses positive persuasive language to try and let their caravan to potential customers. We will be looking at writing instructions next week so the children will need to think about a process that they are familiar with, like making the perfect BLT sandwich or baking cup-cakes, that they will be able to write-up as a set of instructions. At the very least, we hope this leads to them waiting on you or cooking for you at some point over the weekend. Enjoy!

YEAR 6

Year 6 have got straight back into the swing of things after Christmas. The children have loved designing their ideas for their cushions and cannot wait to get sewing!

In English, they have been writing instructions on how to make a cup of tea. This is something that has seriously concerned us all in Year 6 as many children 'claim' to have seen their parents putting the teabags into the kettle to make their tea?! Part of their homework is to learn the correct (teabag in cup) way. Building on from learning how to write instructions, we made delicious healthy wraps on Thursday and then used all the skills and features needed to make a great set of instructions in our extended write on Friday.

Year 6 have started another new topic this week – Evolution and Inheritance in science. There have definitely been some 'big' questions coming from the children and it is great to see their enthusiasm for the topic.

TEAMWORK CITIZENSHIP AND LEARNING AWARDS

BRONZE AWARD

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



Congratulations to the 507 students, (85%) who have already earnt their Bronze Award

SILVER AWARD

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



Congratulations to the 199 students, (33%) who have already earnt their Silver Award

GOLD AWARD

Congratulations to pupils who have achieved 20 merit points and received their GOLD Certificate of Commendation

Congratulations to 3 children who have achieved their GOLD Award

HOUSE POINTS

Congratulations to Tanush for winning the Year 5 Table Tennis House Competition. He earned a total of 36 points for his house team. Letchford.

A massive well done goes to all who took part and for earning house points. The current league table is below. Thank you also to the year 6 house and sports captains who helped to run it; there will be many more competitions to follow this year.

Letchford	169
Woodridings	152
Chantry	148
Royston	146

NEW PLAYGROUND

Thank you to FOGS for our wonderful new junior adventure playground. It looks amazing.






SPORTS

Y6 Girls Football **Wednesday 15th January**

Fabulous footballers!

Well done to Libby, Mahi, Elif, Safia, Rokhsar, Juhi, Grace, Zahrah, Isabella and Isla who participated in the girls football tournament at The Hive on Wednesday. They won two games and drew two games. Grace, our star goalie, did not let in a single goal! Despite the awful weather, they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



READING ROUND-UP



In light of the New Year starting, it seemed like the ideal time to look back over the last 12 months of statistics in the library to share with you the positive figures that can demonstrate quite how busy the library gets over lunchtimes.

Across the last 12 months, 75.7% of the entire school as a whole have borrowed a book from the library, with those statistics being made up of 65.7% of girls within the school, and 77.6% of the boys within the school. We have had donated over 1500 books, and our overdue book statistics are falling weekly. I think it's fair to say we have had an extraordinary year within the library, and I thoroughly look forward to those percentages rising significantly throughout this year.

Best Wishes
Mrs Nolan

UNIFORM REMINDER

We have noticed a number of children wearing incorrect uniform.

- Children should wear school shoes and not branded trainers or boots to school.
- Polo shirts are only to be worn by Reception pupils
- Knitted sweaters/cardigans should not be worn unless it is due to medical conditions.

GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

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 Vison 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)
3rd March	Y5/6 Table Tennis Tournament (selected only)
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)
	Parent Consultations 3-40pm—7.30pm
12th March	Parent Consultation 3.40pm—5.40pm
	Y5/6 Cross Country (selected only)
18th March	Dance Showcase
19th March	Y3 visiting Houses of Parliament (1 class)
23rd March	String Festival
25th March	Y3 visiting Houses of Parliament (2 classes)
	Y5/6 Basketball Tournament (selected only)
26th March	Y4 Sea Life talk
27th March	FOGs AGM/Quiz Night
30th March	Y5 visiting Tower of London
2nd April	Last day of Spring Term—School closes at 2.30pm

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
23rd Jun	**Sports Day**
25th Jun	Y3 Performance—6.30pm
2nd Jul	Y4 Performance—6.30pm
9th Jul	Y5 Performance—6.30pm
16th Jul	Y6 Performance