

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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31st January 2020

Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers

The Spring Term is traditionally quite short, this year is no exception. We are however maximising the time we have for progress, attainment and for school improvement. On that note I would like to thank the FOGs team again for their donation of the Infant School Adventure Playground. We had an opening ceremony on Monday, we were joined by Patch from PSD and 2 members of FOGS, when we cut the ribbon and allowed each of the Infant School classes an opportunity to try out the new equipment. It was an exciting time for all of the staff and students. Moving forward, for safety reasons all parents must ensure that they do not allow their children or siblings onto the Infant or Junior Adventure Playground equipment at the beginning or end of the day. All of the students have been made aware of this through assemblies.

The Governors were very impressed with the supplementary curriculum that is offered to our children. The list was quite extensive with activities such as sporting exchanges, CREW visits, bird watching / identification workshops, Safer Internet Day, Bikeability and the Grimsdyke School International Day. When and where these events are taking place can be found on the "Parents" tab on the website and within the newsletter. For some of these events further information will be sent via email or letter. If you have any questions regarding these then please do ask.

Interestingly, the new push notification app which links to the school website has been downloaded 238 times. It is a great feature of the new system and also gives parents access to the twitter feed and an up to date school calendar. The app is called SchoolNews and can be found in both the iTunes and Play Store.

As well as the new school website we are currently trialling a new Medical Room system which will streamline a number of internal processes from the Medical Room e.g. phasing out the "head bump" letter to an email. This will hopefully eliminate times where letters are lost in transition. Should we move towards full installation of this system there will be other aspects that will benefit the overall organisation.

One of the other items I am required to report on to the Governing Body is Whole School Attendance. Pleasingly, at this time of year, the whole school average attendance is slightly above 96% which is fantastic news. However lateness/punctuality and unauthorised absence is still of concern. To support the school we are addressing these concerns via 2 information posters, which have been attached in order to explain the importance this has on your child's education. If your child is absent from school on any particular day then you must email the school providing clear reasons for the absence. This can be done via emailing attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk. If you are applying for exceptional leave, you must, where possible, submit the form at least two weeks prior to the event. Please ensure that you provide supporting documents for this application.

To develop better punctuality we will now be electronically recording those students who arrive late to School. The playground gates close at 8.45am, all students should be in the playground by this time. Once the gates are closed they will be required to enter through the main doors. From a designated time, parents will be required to sign their children in by using the Inventory system. This information will automatically be updated on to the School Register where it is used as a health and safety measure and may be shared with the Local Authority if there is a concern over attendance or lateness.

Finally a quick safeguarding reminder for parents, if you wish to speak with a member of staff regarding a query then please either speak to them in the playground or make an appointment at the School Office. Parents should not enter the school building to look for someone or something, members of staff will challenge the reasons as to why you are inside. Thank you as always for your continued support and encouragement in all school matters.

Kind regards

Iain Sutherland
Headteacher

WHOLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM UPDATE

RECEPTION

In maths last week our focus was on subtraction, the children answered questions that we gave them; using resources and some had a go at writing their own subtraction number sentences, which they solved themselves. This week we have been learning about number bonds, the children have been working hard with number bonds to 5, 10 and 20.

This week our Literacy focus is fact writing about the planets. The children have enjoyed doing some non-fiction writing and learning about all the different planets. Next week our literacy focus will be the story 'Aliens love underpants'. The children will have a go at designing and describing a pair of underpants. In maths our focus will be positional language. For international week reception are going to be looking at France, we will be learning about the language, the flag and the culture as well as tasting some croissants.

On Thursday 13th it is international dress up day, the children can come dressed representing a country of their choice they can wear traditional dress or colours/flags of their chosen country. We look forward to seeing all the amazing outfits!

YEAR 1

English

Last week we read the story 'Traction Man' by Mini Grey. The children were using their expanded nouns to describe a new sea creature character. Some were also using plurals and conjunctions.

This week we will be continuing to work on 'Traction Man' but this time the children will be focusing on writing their own adventure using last weeks sea creature.

Maths

Last week the children were subtracting crossing ten by crossing out using tens frames.

*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*

*	*			
*				

$$13-5=$$

This week the children will be looking at subtraction and addition and the related number facts.

13	
8	5

$$8+5=13$$

$$5+8=13$$

$$13-8=5$$

$$13-5=8$$

YEAR 2

This week in English we have been continuing to look at The Willow Pattern Plate story. The children practised writing statement and exclamation sentences for different parts of the story. They finished the week by writing an extract from the story using their sentence types. We have also linked our art to the story and the children have created their own Willow pattern plates, which have turned out beautifully and have made a lovely corridor display!

Next week children will be looking at non-chronological reports. We will begin the week by looking at a range of different reports and the children will pick out the features they can see. We will end the week by writing our own non-chronological report on China.

This week in Maths the children have continued their learning of column addition. Most children are now able to set out a simple column addition and complete word problems. We found that some children got a little confused when deciding whether they need to carry over the tens and to add the remainder, so please continue to remind your child.

Next week we will move onto column subtraction where we will look at how to set out a simple column subtraction and then move onto word problems towards the end of the week.



YEAR 2 continued



Finally, the children had a fantastic visit to Kidzania this Wednesday. They experienced a range of jobs such as: firefighters, news reporters, dentists, radio broadcasters, shop assistants and more! It was a wonderful learning experience for all!



YEAR 3

In maths, we introduced right angles to the children and how to recognise one in different 2D shapes. They have also been introduced to obtuse, acute and reflex angles and enjoy spotting them!

In English, we have continued our topic of big cats and discussed what we know about endangered big cats. The children completed instruction writing to go along with this. In art, we have been looking at shading and creating different tones in preparation for sketching a big cat.

In history, we are continuing to investigate our Roman topic and learning more about the Romans way of living. On the 12th of February, we will have our Roman Crew shop visit where the children will engage in role-play activities with crew and continue to expand their knowledge of the Romans!

Finally, on Thursday 13th February, we as a school will be celebrating 'International Week'. We ask that the children come in dressed up representing a country of their choice. This is a way to celebrate different backgrounds and countries where we either have come from or have interest in. In year 3, we will also be having a morning sharing different foods from our cultures that we ask the children to bring in a dish or snack to share with the class (a letter will go out with homework this week with more information). If the children are unsure of what to wear, we have told them to think of something Italian to dress up as (A Roman; famous Italian artist) as we are studying the Romans and Italy as our History and Geography Spring Term unit.

YEAR 4

This week has been another fantastic week for year four! The Wembley trips have now come to an end. The children had a brilliant time creating their London Landmarks and can't wait to share them with you when they are finished decorating them.

In English the children have been reading *Arthur and the Golden Rope* and writing persuasive letters from the perspective of Arthur, who would like to go and find the land of the vikings. This has linked to our History lessons where we have been learning about the vikings and where they came from. In maths the children have developed their knowledge of fractions, finding fractions of amounts and converting them into decimals and percentages.

Next week the children will be investigating Anglo Saxon artefacts, predicting what they think they are and what they might have been used for. In maths we will start our new topic of time. Carrying on with our text in English, *Arthur and the Golden Rope*, the children will be writing instructions for Arthur's journey.

YEAR 5

In year 5 we were privileged to be part of a very informative discussion and talk about the different birds found in the British Isles and in particular close to Hatch End. We learnt how to identify the different types of birds by their markings, birdsong and if we are able to determine whether the bird is male or female. We would like to thank Mr Hardman of Haberdashers' Boys' School for his time while also offering a big thank you to his sixth form pupils for providing us with the bird boxes which were awarded as prizes to ten pupils in the year. More information can be found on the school twitter account.

In English, we have looked at the features of written instructions and have produced clear instructions linked to *Danny the Champion of the World* as well as another skill that we feel comfortable advising others on. We will be looking closely at punctuating speech in our written work in the coming weeks.

History has also been the inspiration for our writing this week as we have been describing what happened in the Battle of Hastings from the view of a Norman archer. The children have been able to show off their knowledge of this important event as well as experimenting with figurative language to describe the battle scene itself.

On Monday we will be visiting the Science Museum as part of our study on space so remember to bring a packed lunch and pick up from Rayners Lane station.

YEAR 6

The children have loved D.T over the last few weeks, designing and beginning to make their own cushions. They have got such creative ideas and it has been brilliant to watch them coming to life. Many thanks to all the parents who helped the children pick out and buy their fabric. We can't wait to see the finished product.

In English, we had our creative juices flowing when we got to invent our very own fantastic beast called a miptor. The children managed to come up with some weird and wonderful creatures and described them brilliantly.

We had a fantastic day in Baker Street yesterday, visiting the Wallace Collection. The children had an insight into the lives of some artists and why they chose to use certain colours and objects in their paintings. We had time to learn some tips and practise our own portraits as well as using lots of different colours to create beautiful landscapes.



In science this term, Mr J has been teaching the topic of evolution. This week, they have focused on characteristics and variation and even got to create their own Mr Man character based on the characteristics of the parents.

TEAMWORK CITIZENSHIP AND LEARNING AWARDS

BRONZE AWARD

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



Congratulations to the 524 students, (87%) who have already earned 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 273 students, (46%) who have already earned their Silver Award

GOLD AWARD

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

Congratulations to 8 children who have achieved their GOLD Award

NEW PLAYGROUND



International Day



As you all know it is “**Grimsdyke International Day**” on Thursday 13th February. All the teachers have been very busy planning fun activities for the children. Each year group will be specifically focussing on a country. These countries are:

Reception- France Year 1- Australia Year 2- China Year 6- Japan
Year 3- Italy Year 4- Mexico Year 5- France

On **Thursday 13th February** we would like all the children to come into school dressed representing a country of their choice. They can wear traditional dress, themed fancy dress or colours/flags of their chosen country.

POSTER DESIGN

Please encourage your child to enter our competition. Design a poster celebrating the wonderful diversity of our school. Prizes will be given for best entries. Closing date- **Monday 10th February**.

SPORTS

Y6 Badminton Tournament

Tuesday 21st January

Well done to **Ela, Olivia, Noor, Lily, Arya, Cornelis, Shane and Charlie** who participated in the Y6 Badminton Tournament at Harrow Leisure Centre. They played xx games .

Y6 Boys Football Tournament

Friday 24th January

The boys football team took part in 5 league matches in the last two weeks. There were three narrow defeats, all by one goal vs St Josephs, Marlborough and Camrose and two wins against St Bernadette’s and Glebe. Well done to Riyan, Caan, Charlie, Shaurya, George, Shreyas, Arya, Elias, Esa, Shane and Neil.

Y6 Hockey Tournament

Tuesday 28th January

Two Y6 hockey teams took part in the Borough competition this week. The format was quicksticks and both teams did really well. Grimsdyke ‘A’ managed came to in 3rd place. Well done to Phoebe, Ashmitha, Lily, Matilda, Esa, Shane, George, Arya, Cornelis, Ela, Amaya and Freddy.

WELL DONE YEAR 6

PARKING

As you can see from the photo of our private road, several cars are parked illegally.

I can not stress how inconsiderate and dangerous this parking is especially at this time of the evening. Not only can staff not exit the premises, but the emergency services would not be able to get on site in an emergency. This puts your children and my staff at risk!



GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

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 included 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)
27th February	Reception visit from the Space Dome
28th February	Y6 Bikeability—Dr Bike on site to service Y6 bikes only
2nd March	Y6 Bikability (3 days) YB & 3C visiting Roald Dahl Museum
3rd March	Y5/6 Table Tennis Tournament (selected only) Free Parent Workshop—reading at home
4th March	Y5/6 Girls Football (selected only)
5th March	World Book Day
6th March	3S visiting Roald Dahl Museum Y6—visit from Dr Bike Parent Forum
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	3B visiting Houses of Parliament
23rd March	String Festival
24th March	Virtual Reality Talk
25th March	3C & 3S visiting Houses of Parliament 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
3rd April	Professional Development Day—children not in sch
6th— 17th April	Easter Break
20th April	First day back—in line for 8.45am
21st April	Landscape Painting Talk
23rd April	Reception and Y1 visit from Ranger Stu Y1/2 Mini Football (selected only)

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

Attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Other important 2020 dates

19th Jun

Summer Carnival

23rd Jun

Sports Day (EYFS/KS1/KS2)

30th Jun

Y3 Performance—6.30pm

2nd Jul

Y4 Performance—6.30pm

9th Jul

Y5 Performance—6.30pm

16th Jul

Y6 Performance