

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL, SYLVIA AVENUE, HA5 4QE
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@GRIMSDYKESCHOOL



ISSUE 09
26th JANUARY 2024

Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another fantastic week at Grimsdyke School with a wide range of learning experiences being presented to the students across the school. Since the beginning of the term we had maths quizzes, Barnet FC on site, a trip to a WW2 Bunker, NFL Filming, the return of African Drumming, a mixed cricket tournament, Junior Choir, UNO and Chess Clubs, CREW on site, a meeting for Eco Monitors and Interschool Cross Country. Even though it is a short term there is plenty more to come that will support the wider development of the students including a HMS Guitar Festival, Interschool Netball Tournament, 2nd round of the Primary Maths Challenge, Girls Football, Whipsnade Zoo visit, World Book Day, British Museum Visit, Junior Citizenship trip and Science Week to name a few.

In the week prior to the half term we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health week. The theme this year is "My Voice Matters" It is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves because when we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference, have a greater sense of community and self-esteem.



With this in mind it is important to share with you that Mrs White and I presented a strategy plan for Mental Health and Wellbeing at Grimsdyke School to the Governing Body this week. This is a whole school offer that we intend implementing as our contract with Place2Be comes to an end. It looks at a range of different provisions that will come in three separate waves of support. We are excited to get this provision in place as a way to support the mental health and wellbeing needs of our students and I look forward to sharing it with you in due course.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

School attendance is not only important for your child's progress and attainment, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and their mental health. In reviewing the attendance for the Autumn term and meeting with a range of parents across the course of the week it is evident to see that illness was the biggest factor impacting attendance at school. As a parent myself I appreciate and understand that it can be difficult to decide when to send your child into school if they are feeling unwell.

If you think your child is slightly unwell, please remember that it is usually safe for your child to attend school with a mild illness such as a cough, cold and runny noses. However if your child has a temperature of 38 degrees or above then they should stay at home. The [NHS has produced some guidance](#) on this for parents.

When you register your child at school you have a legal obligation to ensure that your child attends school on a regular basis. This means that your child must attend school every day it is open unless they are too ill to attend. If this is the case then it is important that you share the reason for absence with the school through the attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk email address.

Next half term we will be hosting the second of our two Parent Consultation evenings, the focus for these will centre around your child's progress, current attainment, next steps and attitude to learning. As previously, the bookings for this will be made available through Arbor. You will be notified in advance of when these will be open. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity to hear about your child's progress

Continued overleaf...

HEADTEACHERS MESSAGE cont..

Finally and following on from the Governing Body Meeting this week I am pleased to announce that we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you would like to be part of the Governing Body and assist in the strategic direction of the school then please review the documents that are attached to this communication email. If you seek further clarification or would just like to ask a few questions please do come and catch me at the beginning or end of the day.



Kind regards

Mr I Sutherland
Headteacher



PARENT SUPPORT



Your thoughts are appreciated.

Computing Suite Wall Art

We are currently planning for the installation of a new piece of wall art in our Computing Suite and would like your thoughts on what we can include in it. The plan for this is to create a timeline of key moment, developments or inventions in technology. The idea for this is to create a visual representation of how technology has changed and impacted / influenced our lives for the better. Please use the attached form to make your suggestions about thing you think we could include on the wall art.

We look forward to seeing all of your amazing suggestions.

[Google form for suggestions](#)

The Computing Team.



OFSTED NOTIFICATION

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Textphone 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ofsted



15 January 2024

Sir Martyn Oliver
His Majesty's Chief Inspector

Mr Iain Sutherland
Headteacher
Grimsdyke School
Sylvia Avenue
Hatch End
Pinner
HA5 4QE

Our ref: 502425

Dear Mr Sutherland

I am writing to say how pleased I am that Grimsdyke School has retained its outstanding judgement following its most recent Ofsted inspection.

The inspection framework sets a high bar for being judged outstanding, which makes it a challenging and exacting standard to achieve. I would therefore like to commend you and your team on your exceptional work. I hope that you and your whole school community are very proud.

I wish you every success in the months and years ahead.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Oliver', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sir Martyn Oliver
His Majesty's Chief Inspector

EVERYONE CAN LEARN TO SWIM

*Half Term Crash Courses
available to book now!*

Hatch End Swimming Pool

Monday 12th – Thursday 15th February

9am – 11.30am

4-day crash course £34

Stage 3 at 9am

Stage 2 at 9:30am

Stage 1 at 10am

Stage 4 at 10:30am

Stage 5 at 11am

Sign up at Hatch End swimming Pool reception today or call
us on 020 8428 8041 to book your space on our crash
courses!



RECEPTION

This week we have been reading 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. The children have imagined going to the moon and have written lists of things they would pack for their journey.

In maths we revisited number bonds and practised writing addition number sentences using the correct symbols.

This week we moved onto Mass and Capacity. The children have been practically exploring the weight and volume of objects in a range of different activities. Thank you for bringing in junk modelling materials. The children have had a great time building rockets and space buggies too!

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YEAR 1

In our history lesson this week, Thomas Aker, the Toy maker, visited Year 1 and shared lots of information about Victorian toys. We explored and tried out a range of toys, finding out how they worked and what materials they were made from. It was great to interact with all the toys we have been learning about in history.



YEAR 2

Year 2

Over the last few weeks, we have been doing lots of great learning! In our topic 'The Far East' the children have continued to look at what life is like in China and compared their own school life to a child's in China. In maths, the children have continued to work on money by looking at different word problems where they had to work out how much change they would get.

In English, we started our new book called 'Willow Pattern story' and the children have been looking at settings. In Art, we finished our work on the artist 'Yayoi Kusama' and created our own versions of her pumpkin artwork inspired by her love of polka dots and bright colours. We then started to look at Japanese art and created some 'Japanese cherry blossom tree' pieces.

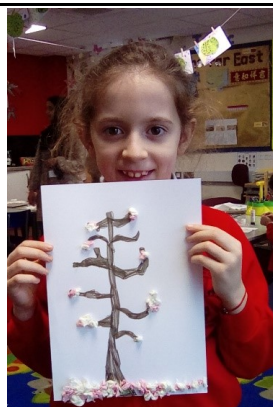
In computing, the children continued their work on programming and got to use their command skills by using Beebot's to follow different algorithms.

Below are a selection of pictures from this week's learning.

2GK



2E



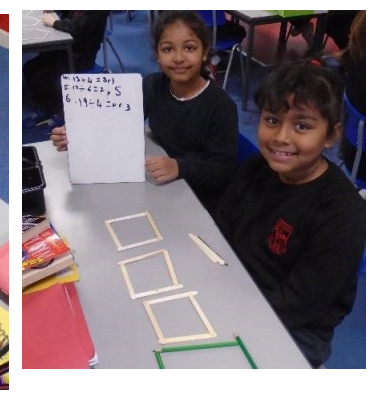
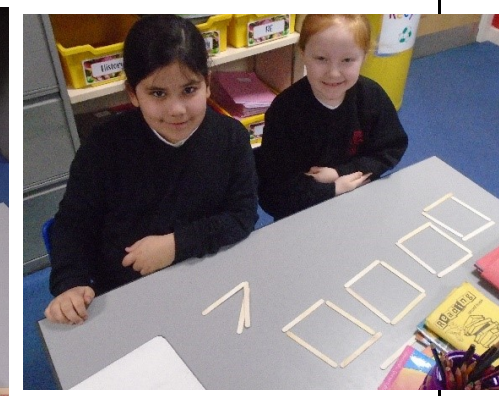
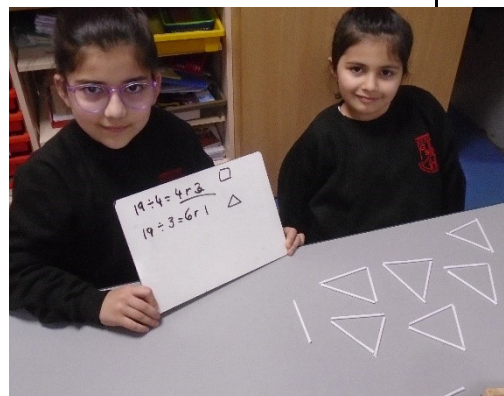
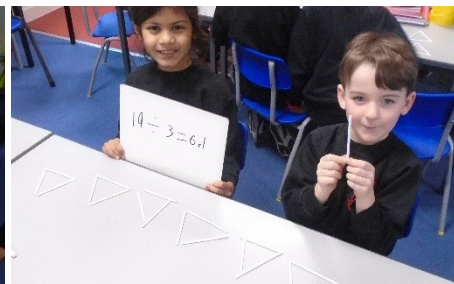
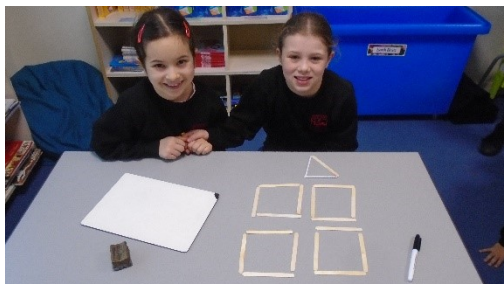
2C

YEAR 3

Here is just a small sample of what Year 3 have been learning about this past fortnight...



The children continued their science topic of Magnets and Forces. Developing our knowledge of non-contact forces, we first predicted what would happen when similar or opposite poles of a magnet are brought together before testing our theory. Some children had never experienced the push or pull of a magnet before and had a lot of fun feeling its effects!



During the children's practical maths lesson this week, we used lollipop sticks and straws to understand how remainders are created when dividing. The children were then able to write the number sentences to match the arrangements they had created.

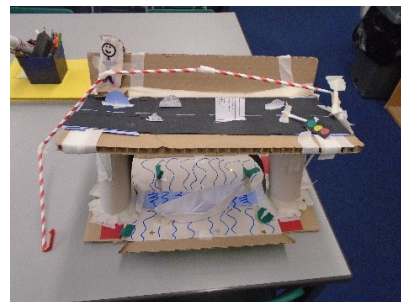
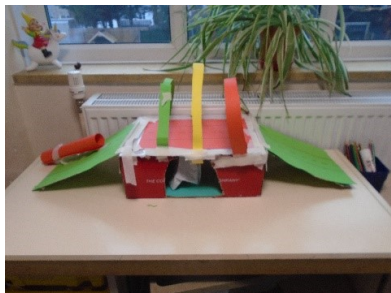
Art – Egyptian Art

This week, we have been exploring different techniques with oil pastels and using these to create a pharaoh in our own image. This has linked with other areas of curriculum, most notably, English and history. Within English, we have been exploring the book 'Secrets of a Sun King' by Emma Carroll. Watch this space for fantastic narrative pieces!



YEAR 5

Building brilliant bridges!

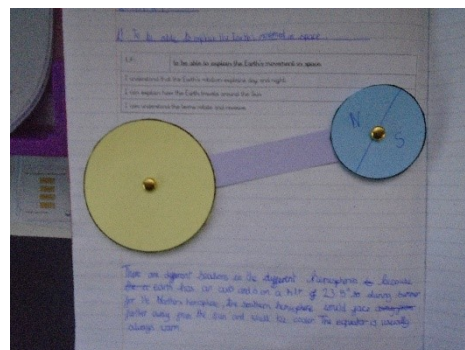
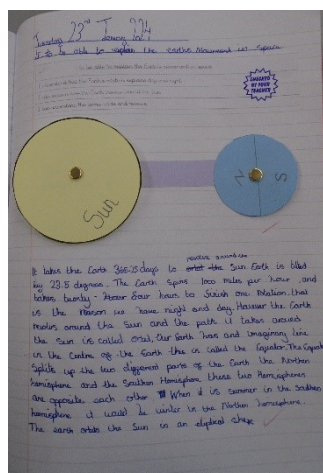
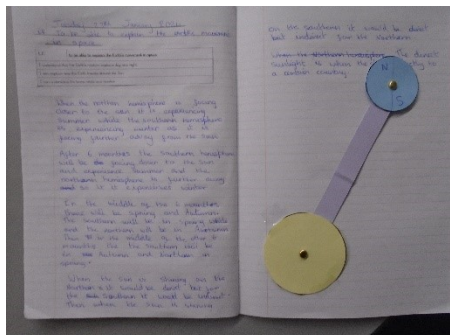


The children have been collaborating over the last few weeks in their teams to design and build their very own bridges. They have been learning about the history of bridges, materials-how these have evolved over time as well as construction and uses. By working to a design brief teams then designed a bridge to ensure:

- It must allow traffic to pass in both directions
- It must be strong
- It must be attractive
- Should allow on the river boats to pass through underneath
- Will it allow pedestrians to walk across?
- What type of bridge will it be?

The final designs were fantastic and the children all really enjoyed their learning!

How does the Earth move in the Solar System?



This week the children have been investigating the Earth's movements in the Solar System. They create a model to demonstrate not only how the Earth rotates but also revolves around the sun. Children also research extra details such as how we get the seasons and important invisible lines such as the axis and Equator.

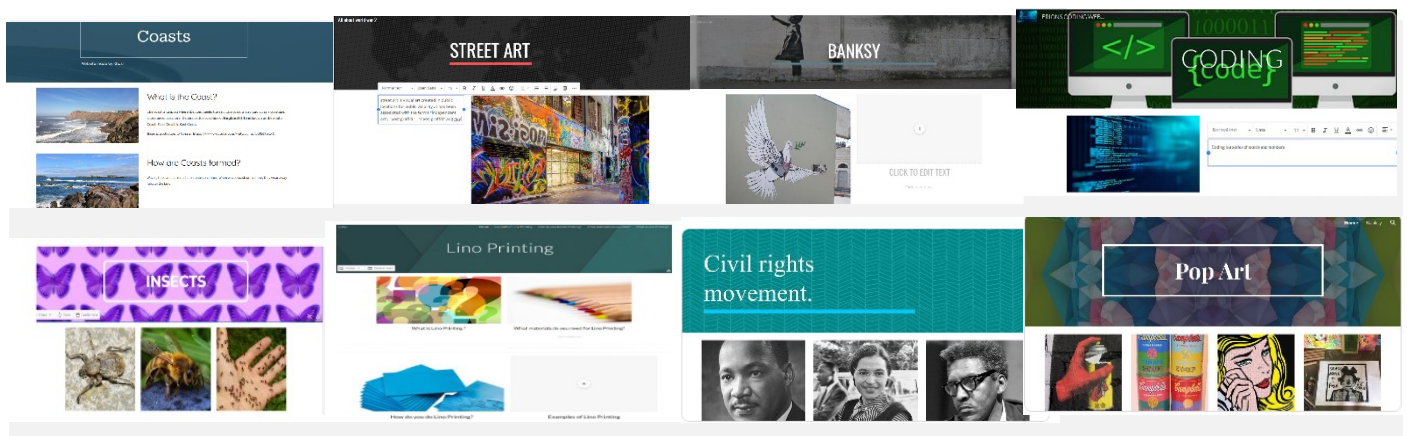
"I'll be just two minutes"
Is not a good enough reason to block a driveway!

YEAR 6

In art, Year 6 children evaluated and analysed some of Jean Michel Basquiat's and Banksy's artwork. Followed by designing a mood board to help them create their own Banksy inspired art.



In computing, Year 6 children will be creating websites based on curriculum topics. They will identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own websites using Google Sites. Throughout the process children will pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths. Here are some examples of their websites so far.



In PE, Year 6 children have started a football unit; the young players are developing their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills, with a strong emphasis on teamwork. This unit promises to be the ultimate goal-scoring adventure!



GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

Spring 2024

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Tues 30th Jan | Guitar Festival |
| Thurs 1st Feb | Y6 SATS meeting for Parents only (9am) |
| | Y5 visiting Hatch End High School Performance |
| | Y6 Netball (selected only) |
| Fri 2nd Feb | Y1 visiting Kol Chai |
| Mon 5th Feb | Reception Vision Check |
| Tues 6th Feb | Reception Vision Check |
| | Y5/6 Athletics (selected only) |
| Wed 7th Feb | Reception Vision Check |
| | Y6 Girls Football (selected only) |
| Thurs 8th Feb | Reception Theme Day—Space |
| Fri 9th Feb | Y5 visiting Whipsnade Zoo |
| | End of Spring 1 |
| Mon 19th Feb | Back to school |
| Mon 26th Feb | Y6 Harrow Citizenship (2 classes) |
| Tues 27th Feb | Y6 Harrow Citizenship (1 class) |
| Thurs 29th Feb | Y4 visiting the British Museum |
| Fri 1st Feb | Parent Forum (2:30pm) |
| Tues 5th Mar | Y3 visiting Roald Dahl (1 class) |
| Thurs 7th Mar | World Book Day |
| Tues 12th Mar | Parent Consultations |
| Wed 13th Mar | Dfe Lunch Survey |
| Thurs 14th Mar | Parent Consultations |
| Tues 19th Mar | 6D visiting Wallace Collection |
| | Y3 Performance (10am and 2pm) |
| Wed 20th Mar | String Festival |

2023—2024 TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2024

Mon 8th Jan to Fri 9th Feb

Half Term : Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb
Mon 19th Feb to Thurs 28th Mar

SUMMER TERM 2024

Mon 15 Apr to Fri 24th May

Half Term: Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May
Mon 3rd Jun to Wed 24th Jul

PDD Dates:

- Mon 3rd Jun Wed 24th Jul

2024—2025 TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2024

Term time: Mon 2 Sep - Fri 25 Oct

1/2 term break: Mon 28 Oct - Fri 1 Nov

Term time: Mon 4 Nov - Fri 20 Dec

Spring Term 2025

Term time: Mon 6 Jan - Fri 14 Feb

1/2 term break: Mon 17 Feb - Fri 21 Feb

Term time: Mon 24 Feb - Fri 4 Apr

Summer Term 2025

Term time: Tuesday 22 Apr - Friday 23 May

Half term break: Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May

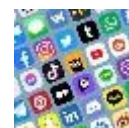
Term time: Monday 2 Jun - Tuesday 22 Jul

PDD dates

Mon 2nd Sept 24
Mon 16th Sept 24
Mon 6th Jan 25
Mon 21st Jul 25
Tues 22nd Jul 25



Online and social media communication @ Grimsdyke School



School will...

Put all essential information for parents onto our website
Send regular communication to the email address parents share with us
Use the school Twitter account to share additional information
Use text alerts to parents where there is something important to share
Deal with any issues parents raise through the appropriate channels e.g. year group email, email to office or Head teacher

School does not...

Use or recommend any other social media platform is used for school related communication e.g. WhatsApp
Share information or monitor communication via these platforms
Give information to parents to be shared through year group or class parent social media accounts e.g. WhatsApp groups
Allow images or content from school to be used in private social media accounts

School recommends...

Parents share any concerns or queries directly with school staff or via school email accounts
Parents use any social media accounts related to school for networking and support
Parents model good and responsible social media use for their children
Parents monitor their children's use of social media across all platforms including those related to games they might play online