

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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ISSUE 10
9th FEBRUARY 2024

Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope the final newsletter of this half term finds you well. It's hard to believe that the half term break is already upon us. I would like to say that it appears the weather has turned a corner but perhaps I might need to hold off on that, at least it appears both brighter in the mornings and evenings, which is a good sign that longer days are coming our way.



This week we celebrated Safer Internet Day 2024 (SID 2024), SID is an internationally recognised awareness day that promotes the safe use of the internet. The theme for this year was "Inspiring Change". We discussed the different aspects of internet safety as part of our Computing Curriculum so it is wonderful to see the level of understanding the students have when talking about their "lives online". For that reason, we need to make sure that they are as prepared as possible for all of the different things that they might encounter. Interestingly when talking with the students in both Lower and Upper Key Stage Two it dawned on me the difference between my early experience with the internet

and theirs. Many of us never had the internet when we were growing up whereas our children have not known life without it.

For those parents who feel they might not be up to speed with some of the technology that our children are interacting with, the [National College](#) produce some wonderful guides that highlight a range of safety tips for various elements of technology including; Smartphones, Location Tracking, various online games and being kind online. For reference, I have attached an example of one of these to the newsletter about "Respect Online" as well as the SMART Rules that we promote in school through the Computing Curriculum.

With Safer Internet Day in mind and the impact that technology has on our day to day lives, I have a favour to ask the parents. We are in the process of designing some wall art for our new Computing Suite, we are looking to create a timeline of key events in the development of technology. Anything from the birth of the internet to the release of the first Mario Brothers game. We are even looking to include ideas of developments in technology that are not yet fully released but are potentially on the horizon or are currently being developed. If you have any suggestions please click on the link below to put forward any ideas for consideration.



[Suggestions for Computing Suite Wall Art](#)



Today, your child will be bringing home their World Book Day voucher, which will allow them to spend it on one of the amazing titles available for the upcoming World Book Day - www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/. We are planning to celebrate this in school as we do every year, the date for the school celebration of this is the 7th March.

This year we will be focusing on poetry with different phases across the school choosing a specific theme for their own "Vocabulary Parade". I am very much looking forward to all of the words that the students choose that reflect their theme and the imaginative costumes that will be part of this.

Continued overleaf...

HEADTEACHERS MESSAGE cont..

In a recent communication from the school we shared with you the upcoming INSET Days (PDD) for the 2024-25 school year. INSET Days are set aside by the DfE for the school to decide when and how these should be used to support not only the strategic development of the school but also the professional development of the staff.

Typically, we try to attach them to end of term or half term breaks. This upcoming year we had set a date of the 16th September, as we had booked for an external speaking to work with the staff. Unfortunately due to a mistake on their end this has had to be cancelled so we are adjusting the INSET Days for the Autumn term to the **2nd and 3rd September** instead of the previously shared 2nd and 16th September.

Attendance has always held high priority here at Grimsdyke School, as well as the day to day monitoring of attendance through the Medical Room we conduct half termly attendance monitoring exercises. It is wonderful to see that many of the year groups have increased their attendance percentage in comparison to the second half of the Autumn term and over half of the year groups are meeting or exceeding the DfE expectation of 95%. Additional information about both attendance at school and punctuality can be found inside the newsletter.

Attendance Comparison – Autumn 2 vs Spring 1

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Autumn 2	91%	93.4%	93.6%	96.4%	96%	95.4%	94.1%
Spring 1	94%	94%	94.4%	95.5%	96.8%	95.1%	96.1%

In looking at specific classes I can see that quite a number of classes across each of the phases (EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2) are challenging for the top spot in having the best attendance by the end of the Spring term. Lets keep up the great work with this.

Finally, as we make our way into the half term break I want to share on behalf of the staff, students and parents our best wishes to Miss Cresswell as she starts her maternity. We look forward to meeting the newest member of the Grimsdyke family when the time comes. I hope that everyone has a restful and relaxing half term break. I look forward to seeing everyone again as we start Spring 2.

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.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

As you may be aware this week is 'Children's Mental Health Week' with the theme '**Your Voice**

Matters' / 'How do we Listen' with the view that all children should be empowered to speak up and also share how they are feeling. Please see below for a link to the Place2Be website and resources for this as well as some top tips for parents and carers which you might find useful.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

To acknowledge and support our children throughout this week, each class has worked on a 'Poetree' session that relates to the theme '**How do we listen**'. We've long known that a love of reading and writing can help children flourish at school and go on to succeed at work and other ventures in life. But we now know that reading and writing for enjoyment can also play a vital role in helping children lead happy and healthy lives (National Literacy Trust). Keep an eye out for our 'Poetree' display with some of the fantastic poems from this week and please do talk to your children about their poems.

We have also been very lucky for some of our KS2 children to receive some Mental Health resources from the **Molly Rose Foundation**. <https://mollyrosefoundation.org/>

There are some excellent tips and resources on their website to support children and young people.



"Finding your voice and purpose in life is one thing, but, very often, when it is time to use that voice and make a change, you will need a bit of teamwork to make things happen."

Marcus Rashford

(from *You Can Do It; How to find your voice and make a difference*, 2022)

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!



SPORT

In January, our ever growing partnership with the NFL UK continued as they visited us on a chilly Monday morning. We were asked if we would like to help out with filming a social media video, which will be used as part of their promo for the NFL International Games which will take place in London later this year. 15 children from Y6 were asked to help and they took on various roles as NFL players to 'recreate' famous past moments from both regular season games and London games. The shoot took around 2 hours and the children are very excited to see what the final project will look like, when it is uploaded to the NFLUK Youtube.

At the end of January, 19 children from Y5/6 competed in the X-Country festival being hosted at Shaftesbury Playing Fields. The children had to complete two laps each around the whole park. In Y5, Annabel managed a super 2nd place to qualify for Finals Day. Jessie was hampered by losing her shoe to the mud on a couple of occasions, but she finished strongly alongside Sukhrit. The boys in Y5 put in a strong performance, which Aahad, Avi, Jayden, Atharv and Arman all finished inside the top 15. Moving on to Y6 and Otilie led the girl's race from start to finish, whilst Alara also cracked the top 10. Sareena, Laura and Kamila followed shortly after to ensure the Y6 girls team qualified for finals day. The Y6 boys were last to go on what was now a very muddy and slippery field. Lewis led for the majority of the race but was pipped in the home straight, to finish an amazing 2nd place. Kiaan, Charlie, Sebastian, Aarush and Shradan all completed it without any stoppages and ensured that the Y6 boys team also qualified for the finals day.

Well done team!



CURRICULUM IN ACTION

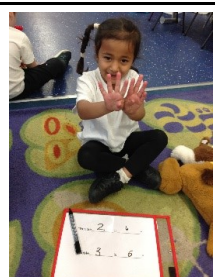
RECEPTION

We have had an exciting few weeks in Reception! As we come to the end of our topic 'To Infinity and Beyond!', we have read 'Aliens Love Underpants'. You may have heard the news that some aliens took our pants from Reception. We spent the day investigating and looking for clues around school. Thankfully all the pants were returned the following day.

This week we have read the book 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon. Inspired by the character's interest in a meteor shower, we learnt about how some stars form constellations and tried making some of our own. In maths we learnt about odd and even numbers and doubling numbers to 5. The children explored these maths concepts using practical activities and how they are found in everyday life including ladybirds, butterflies, dominoes.

Thank you for those who were able to join us in celebrating 'National Story Telling Week'. It was such a treat to have such a variety of stories read by different adults and the children loved seeing some of their family members in class.

The children have loved learning about space and we've had a fantastic time rounding it off with our theme day. It has been great to see all the different costumes and home it is a day they will remember. Thank you for all your continued support with the children's learning and we wish you all a happy and safe half term break.

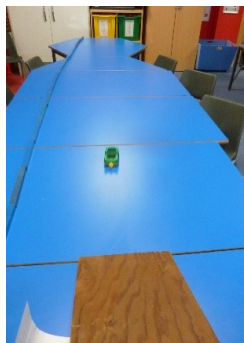
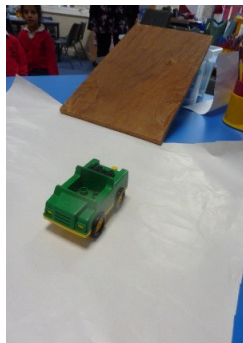


YEAR 1

Last week we visited Kol Chai Synagogue in Hatch End. It was nice to see all the things we had previously learnt about in our R.E lessons about Judaism. We even got to taste some of the items!



In science we have continued our unit on materials and now applying our knowledge to various investigations. Last week our aim was to find out which material was best for driving a toy car on. We found out that the best was 'wood'. It was the smoothest and strongest.



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

YEAR 2

We cannot believe that we are half way through year 2!
The children have done so well and we are proud of all of their progress.

Over the last 2 weeks, we have been learning about multiplication in maths, learning how to retell the Willow Pattern story using lots of description in English and thoroughly enjoyed creating our own Willow Pattern Plate in art. The children have been continuing their gymnastics lessons and have been learning how to cartwheel and do forward and backward rolls.

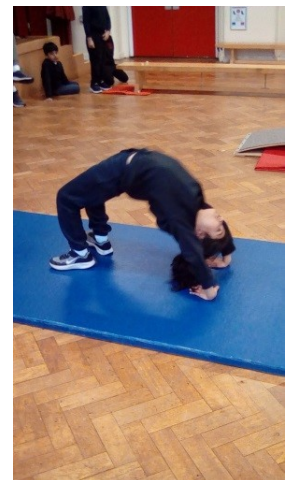
We are also so impressed with their shoebox habitats, thank you for all of your efforts with these.

Enjoy your half term break and we will see you for Spring 2.



2C

2GK



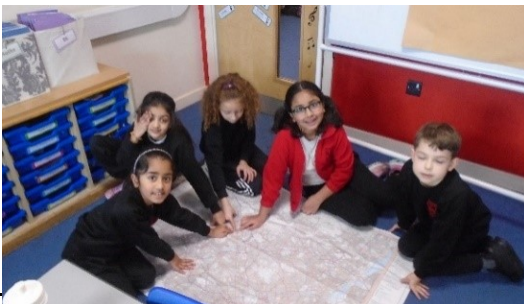
2E

YEAR 3

Year III have continued their immersive learning about Romans this past fortnight...



The children have had great fun creating their very own Roman shields. After looking at some real-life examples, the children first came up with their design using typical Roman decorative elements as well as adding their own personal touches. We then transferred the designs to a larger template and painted them using block colour technique.



In Geography, we took a detailed look at an OS map of our local area, to see if we could find evidence that the Romans had been here before us! The famously long and straight Watling Street, was easy to spot: starting in Dover and passing through Londinium to Wroxeter.

YEAR 4

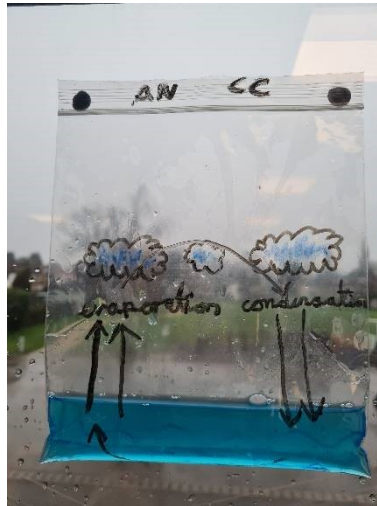
Science – Water Cycle

In Science, we have been learning about the different States of matter! The children spent the first number of lessons looking at what solids, liquids and gases are and their properties. We took a closer look this week at evaporation and condensation including the heating and cooling points that affect these changes in water and naming the different stages of the water cycle. We made mini water cycle bags to demonstrate this and the children have enjoyed coming into the classroom daily to see the changes to their water cycles.

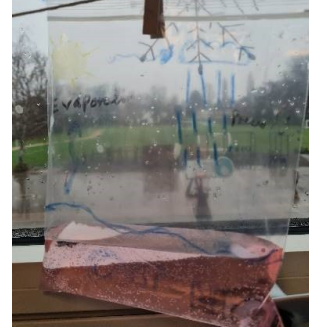
Casey 4C



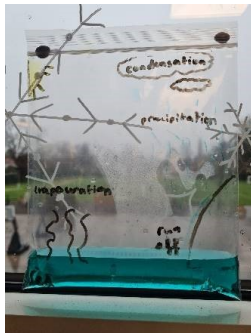
**Teamwork
Christian and Aaron 4H**



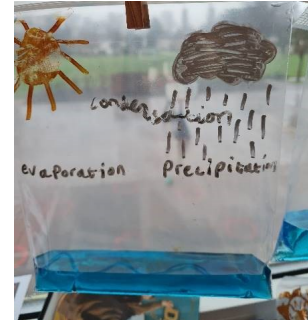
Simar 4M



Eleanor 4C



Ayden 4M



History – Canopic jars

In History we are continuing our learning journey in Ancient Egypt, learning about mummification. In this process, the lungs, liver and stomach were placed in Canopic jars. The children got be dirty and creative while having fun to create their very own Canopic jar. They had to Paper Mache a tub with tissue paper and make an Egyptian Head of their choice out of clay. It was really exciting to see everyone enjoy this activity and push themselves in the skill of sculpting.

Vian 4C



Mazin 4H



Amelie 4M



Sarah 4C



Abdullahi 4H



Julia 4M

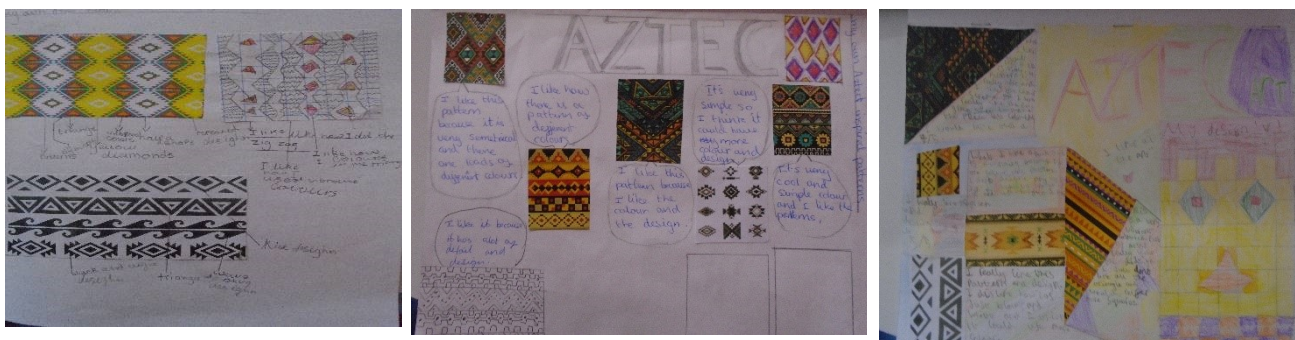


Moving to the beat: African drumming



As part of our music curriculum, for the past few weeks the children have been learning all about the origins of African drumming. Drums play an important role in every aspect of African life, including the physical, emotional and spiritual. African hand drums are played to communicate, celebrate, mourn and inspire. The children have been immersed in learning song, beats and the art of playing the drum!

Amazing Aztec Art



The Aztecs created many forms of art, including jewellery, knives, pottery, statues and mosaics. Mosaics are pictures, or patterns, created from small pieces of materials. The Aztecs used a sacred mineral called turquoise to make their mosaics and the children have been creating their own patterns using vibrant colours to create mood boards whilst annotating what they have observed.

Traffic and parking is everyones responsibility.
Do the right thing!

YEAR 6

Year 6 children used the technique of hot seating to step into the shoes of the legendary Rosa Parks during her bus journey that changed history. Through this thought-provoking activity, children explored Rosa's feelings, experiences, and motives, enabling them to empathise with the struggles she faced during that momentous day. They delved into Rosa's bravery, determination, and unwavering spirit as she made history by refusing to give up her seat.



Through hands-on activities and engaging discussions, Year 6 children used fossils to unlock the secrets of how living things have evolved over millions of years. Year 6 students followed Fossil collector Mary Anning's footsteps, examining her findings and drawing parallels to their own fossil discoveries.



In Re, Year 6 created a leaflet explaining humanist beliefs. The leaflets covered topics, including humanist principles, the importance of critical thinking, and the celebration of human potential. The children used their research and communication skills, ensuring it was an informative and eye-catching read.



GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

Spring 2024

Fri 9th Feb	Y5 visiting Whipsnade Zoo
	End of Spring 1
Mon 19th Feb	Back to school
Mon 26th Feb	Y6 Harrow Citizenship (6R and 6G)
	SSD Parent Consultations
Tues 27th Feb	Y6 Harrow Citizenship (6D)
	SSD Parent Consultations
Wed 28th Feb	SSD Parent Consultations
Thurs 29th Feb	Y4 visiting the British Museum
	Y5 Road Safety Workshop (onsite)
Fri 1st Feb	Parent Forum (2:30pm)
Tues 5th Mar	Y3 visiting Roald Dahl (3D)
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
Thurs 21st Mar	6R visiting Wallace Collection
Fri 22nd Mar	6G visiting Wallace Collection
Mon 25th Mar	VR Workshop (Y4 and Y5)
Tues 26th Mar	VR Workshop (Y3 and Y6)
	Y4 Performance (10am and 2pm)
	3R visiting Roald Dahl
Wed 27th Mar	3T visiting Roald Dahl

2023—2024 TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2024

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

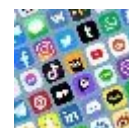
Term time: Tuesday 22 Apr - Friday 23 May
Half term break: Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May
Term time: Monday 2 Jun - Tuesday 22 Jul

PDD dates

Mon 2nd Sept 24
Tues 3rd 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