

# GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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ISSUE 13  
28th MARCH 2024

## Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parent/Carer,

The arrival of the Summer term is just around the corner, we have a lot of things to look forward to during the summer months for example the annual Summer Carnival. Make sure you save the dates for this as it will be around the corner before you know it. You will find a number of the events on the newsletter and the school website.

As the weather starts to get warmer, students are encouraged to wear the Summer Uniform, information on this can be found inside the newsletter. It is also extremely important that the students bring to school, on a daily basis, a freshly filled water bottle. Having this in class means the students have the opportunity to maintain their water intake and refresh themselves on a more regular basis.

We recently took part in Comic Relief's Red Nose Day fundraiser by organizing a Pyjama Day. While the array of pyjamas worn by the students that day was certainly entertaining, the real highlight lies in the story behind our participation.

Each year, our Student Council plays a pivotal role in choosing the charities we support across three terms. During one of our meetings, the topic of Red Nose Day emerged on the agenda. Rather than marking the day with a range of different events, the Student Council opted to just sell Red Noses as a means of support. However, in returning to their classes to feedback from the meeting, the Student Councillors realised that they had made a mistake in not adding additional activities. At this point an emergency meeting was called, culminating in a decision to add our memorable Pyjama Day as part of this fundraiser. This was definitely "pupil voice" in action and was great to see the influence that the Student Council has at school.



Over the past fortnight I have had the pleasure of immersing myself in the Spring Showcases presented by both Year 3 and Year 4, alongside a dynamic and spirited African Drumming Performance by Year 5. These performances, which are regular highlights on our school calendar, offer students valuable opportunities to enhance a range of different skills, eg public speaking. However, the journey to these showcases involves much more, encompassing the learning undertaken throughout the term to lay the foundations and understanding of the content presented, as well as the dedicated rehearsal aimed at perfecting their cues, the use of props and delivery of lines.



All three showcases fulfilled their purpose admirably by effectively sharing the learning developed over the term. I congratulate not only the students for their outstanding efforts but also the staff for their tireless support of the students. A heartfelt thank you extends to the parents who joined us in the school, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

Continued overleaf.....

## HEADTEACHERS MESSAGE cont..

In a recent curriculum experience students in Year 3 through Year 6 were offered a remarkable opportunity to delve into another era using virtual reality (VR) headsets. This innovative endeavour marked a new frontier for us, and the experience was nothing short of extraordinary! I had the privilege of accompanying one of the Year 3 classes on Monday afternoon as they embarked on a journey to explore daily life in Ancient Rome. The immersion was truly astounding – standing amidst the bustling streets of a Roman market felt surreal yet captivating. It was an experience akin to being transported back in time, vividly enhancing the classroom learning and breathing life into historical concepts like never before. While Y3's experienced Ancient Rome, Y4 were immersed in Ancient Greece, Y5 were introduced to the Mayans and Y6 were challenged with Climate Change and Environmental Studies.

As we begin the Summer term a revised series of curriculum documents will be made available to the parents on the school website. Within these documents you will be able to see the plan for the curriculum across the summer term allowing you to discuss and talk with your child about the learning that is taking place in class. Please click on the [Curriculum](#) tab on the website and select your child's year group to read more. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Mrs Bhudia who is responsible for both Teaching and Learning and the Curriculum – via her email address [bbhudia@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:bbhudia@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk)

Attendance over the course of the term continues to remain relatively steady, even with some of the terribly wet weather we have had and nasty virus' floating around. Let's aim to break through the 96% barrier by the end of the year. As we return at the beginning of the Summer term I will be completing the attendance monitoring for the Spring term and awarding classes with attendance certificates to celebrate

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	School
94.9%	94.3%	94.7%	96.1%	96.3%	96.3%	95%	95.3%

Finally a quick mention about collection at the end of the day after clubs that have been hosted on school site, I have had a few close calls shared with me involving cars and students. Please make sure that you are ever mindful and that your children are aware of the dangers that exists at this time. The restrictions on Sylvia Ave at the end of the day do not completely pedestrianise this road, the same care needs to be applied to the private road leading up to the school. Cars moving in and out of the front gates are slightly obscured by the parked cars on the side so due care needs to be taken by all.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish all of the parents and children a happy and safe Easter Break as well as Ramadan Mubarak for those currently in the middle of Ramadan. We all look forward to seeing you on the 15<sup>th</sup> April for the beginning of the Summer Term. The side gates will open at 8.30am with the bell for the beginning of the day going at 8.45am.

Kind regards

Mr I Sutherland  
Headteacher

**COMIC  
RELIEF**

Even though the Student Council had an emergency meeting, the collection for Comic Relief was quite substantial.

We were able to sell 200 red noses, have a collection for pyjama day, have collections at the Y3 and Y4 Showcases and another collection at the Y5 African Drumming Performance.

At present we have managed to raise just over £700. The ticket on Arbor shop is still open, should you wish to make a last minute donation.

**£700**

# CURRICULUM IN ACTION

## RECEPTION

Over the last few weeks we have continued to be inspired by traditional tales focusing on 'The Gingerbread Man', 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The children enjoyed decorating their own gingerbread men, both as biscuits and on paper, and enjoyed retelling the story using repeated phrases. While reading The Three Little Pigs we made our own houses out of different materials, printed with pigs and helped clean a few too! The children learnt the importance of not speaking to strangers when reading 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The children enjoyed making cakes for Granny.

In Maths we have learning about number bonds to 10 using the language including 'part, part, whole'. We have focused on doubling 6,7, 8, 9 and 10 and developing our knowledge of odd and even numbers. We have been learning the names of 3D shapes and made repeating patterns.

Like the rest of the school, we celebrated World Book Day and Science Week. Reception children were lucky enough to be read to by Year 5 on World Book Day as well as joining Key Stage 1 for an assembly to share our fantastic costumes. We have been exploring shadows as part of Science Week. We created our own 'big bad wolf' shadow puppets and investigated how to make the shadows taller or shorter.

As the days become brighter, we have taken time to think about entering Spring. We went for a 'Spring Walk' around school looking for signs in nature and have spent time creating Spring flowers.

It has been another busy half term and we are very proud of how engaged the children have been with our 'Once Upon a Time' topic. Wishing you all a wonderful Easter holidays!





# YEAR 1

## Year 1 – Curriculum In Action

### SCIENCE

For the past couple of weeks we have been observing the growth of plants that have been placed in different places around the classroom.

We found out that sunlight and water were important to grow a healthy plant however a plant without sun would still grow but would not be green.



**ART:** We have spent this half term exploring how artists use colour, texture and pattern in both paintings and sculpture. This week we finished painting our clay sculptures of flowers and plants using primary and mixing to create secondary colours.



Our summer 1 topic is titled 'Africa is not a country' where we will be focusing on the continent of Africa, its weather, landscapes, landmarks and animals.

**We wish you a happy and restful Easter break.**

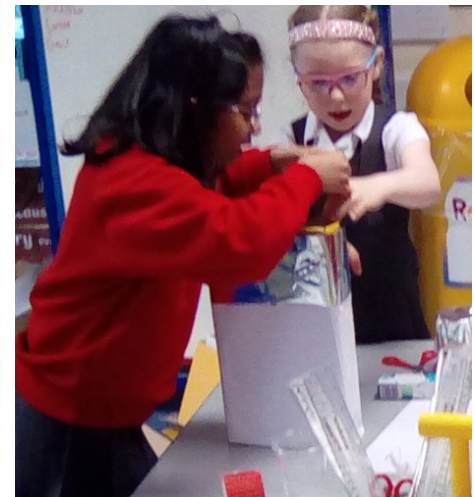


## YEAR 2

I cannot believe that we are at the end of another term. It has certainly been a busy one for Year 2. We finished our topic on Monarchs and designed some amazing castles. We have been looking at making pictograms in Computing and have enjoyed using the ICT room this term. The children enjoyed writing their stories about the king's lost hat and in Science have been looking at plants, whilst in Maths the children have been looking at measuring Mass in Grams and Kilograms.

I hope that you all have a very Happy Easter and are ready for the busy Summer term we have ahead.

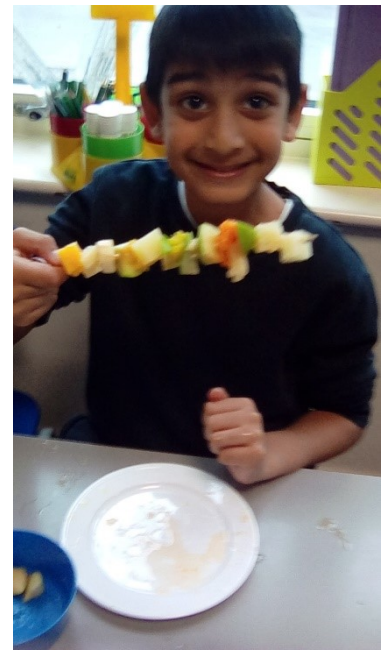
2C





# YEAR 2

2E



2GK





## YEAR 3

Year 3 has had an incredibly busy end to our Spring term, jam-packed with fun activities including cooking pizzas, showcasing our Roman learning and even a virtual trip to Rome! **The Year 3 team wishes you all a healthy, happy and restful break over the Easter holidays.**



Year 3 completed their DT topic after researching, designing, making and evaluating their 'perfect pizzas'. They thought carefully about food hygiene during preparation. The children also practised their mixing, kneading and cutting skills. A special thank you to the school kitchen for assisting the cooking of our pizzas!



Last week saw year 3 deliver their Showcase to parents / guardians, where we showed how much we had learnt about the Ancient Roman civilisation this past term. We debated whether Grimsdyke School would be better off run by the Romans and concluded that it would!



## YEAR 3



It was 3R and 3T's turn to visit The Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden this week. Both classes enjoyed exploring the galleries and taking part in a workshop to learn more about Roald Dahl's childhood and adult life. Some of us even had the chance to sit in a replica of his writing chair!



Year 3 were lucky enough to be given an unforgettable experience using VR Headsets! We were given the chance to explore modern day Rome from the air, before being taken back in time to view the Colosseum and ancient Roman forum. It was so much fun, even Mr Sutherland took part!



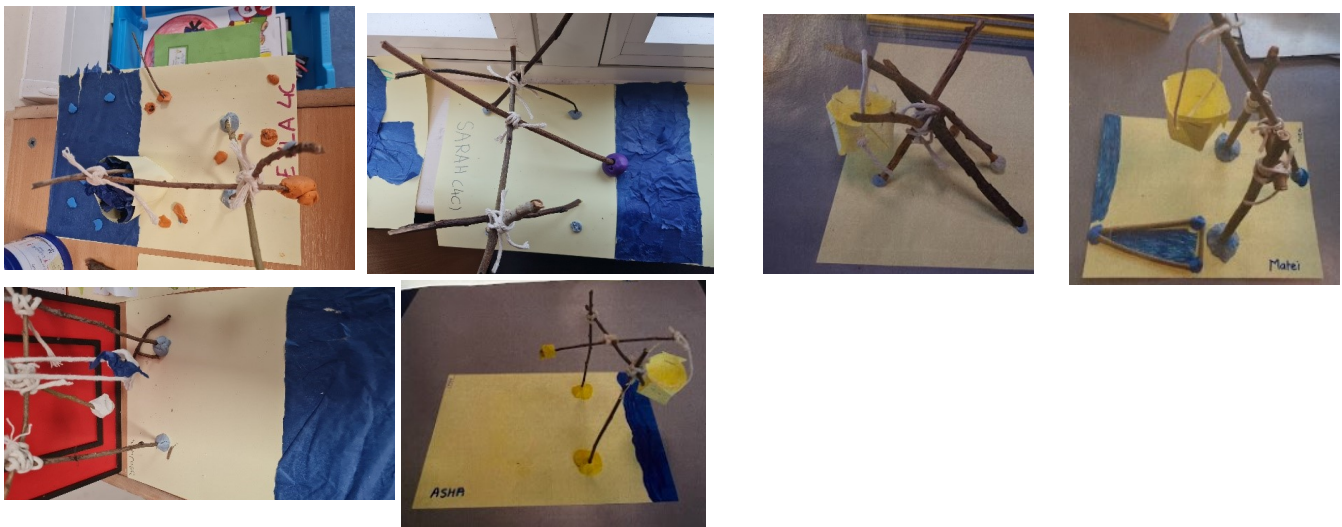
## YEAR 4

### Design Technology – Shaduf

In DT, we have been learning about how the Egyptians created and built a moving mechanism called a shaduf. A shaduf is an irrigation tool that is used to lift water from a water source onto land or into another waterway or basin and is highly efficient. The mechanism of a shaduf includes a long counterbalanced pole on a pivot, with a bucket attached to the end of it. We have had fun building our own functioning shaduf in class using sticks, string and modelling clay.

Here are some close ups of the shaduf.

**AMAZING!**



### History – Benin Bronze

In History, we have been on an amazing learning journey discovery all there is to know about Ancient Benin. We have learnt a great deal about the Creation of Benin leading to the Benin Artefacts we see in our British museum today. One of the most significant artefacts are the Benin Bronzes which once decorated the Benin royal palace and which provide an important historical record of the Kingdom of Benin.

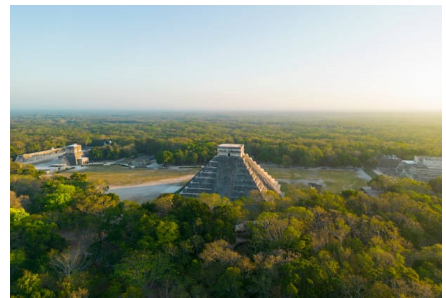
Here are some examples of the Bronzes.

**WELL DONE!**



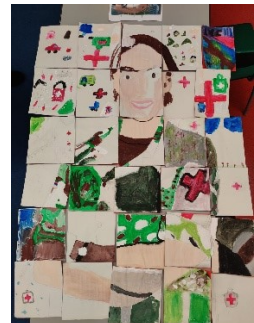


### Prime VR – Ancient Maya



Yesterday the children enjoyed using the VR headsets to visit the temples of the Ancient Maya and were able to see the temple ruins. We discussed the learning from our English and history topics whilst moving around the buildings and even studied the stars and solar system, just as the Mayan people would have done.

### 'International Women's Day' art project



To celebrate 'International Women's Day' the children of year five have started a collaborative art project creating a painting mosaic of three inspiration women for displays in our corridor. Our chosen ladies this year were **Sky Brown, Kellie Gerardi** and **Harpreet Kaur Chandi MBE**. These ladies were selected as they were all recently featured on 'Newsround' and have made inspirational personal achievements.

**Traffic and parking is everyone's responsibility.**  
**Do the right thing!**



# YEAR 6

During a visit to the Wallace Collection, Year 6 children explored the outdoors through landscape and seascape paintings. They learnt about the principles of composition and the use of perspective. Working with an artist, they developed new vocabulary to understand and discuss landscape as a genre of painting. Inspired by artists such as Rubens, Canaletto and Salvator Rosa, they created their own drawings.

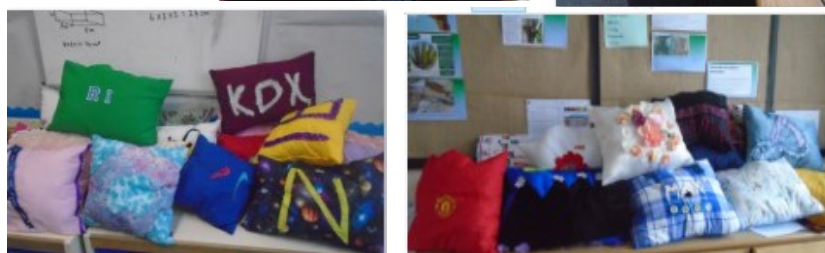
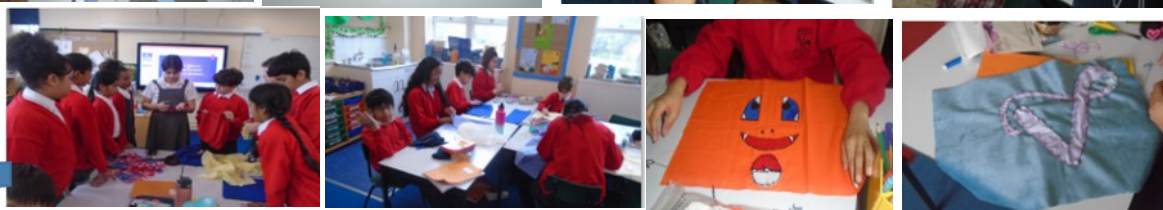
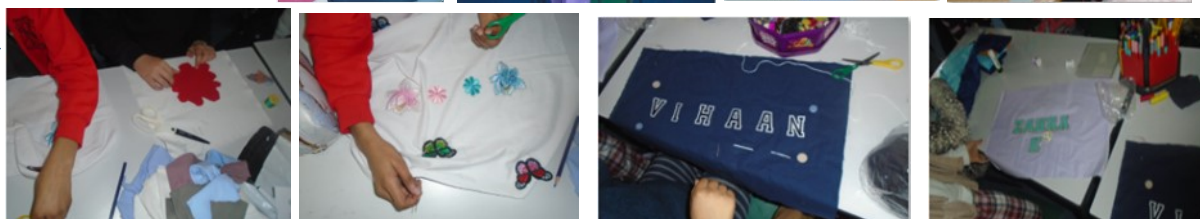




## YEAR 6

During their D.T. lessons, Year 6 children investigated cushions, created mood boards, and honed their sewing skills to embellish and personalize their very own cushions! They went through a step-by-step process to bring their creative visions to life. They began by exploring different types of cushions and materials, discovering how colours and patterns can influence mood and style.

With these inspirations in mind, they then created mood boards, carefully selecting fabrics, patterns, and textures to perfectly match their design ideas. They acquired practical skills essential for embellishing their cushions, using a sewing machine to stitch their chosen fabrics together. Alongside the stitching techniques, they explored different ways to add style and flair to their cushions, including decorative buttons, ribbons, and even embroidery!



The Year 6 team would like to wish you all a Happy Easter.



# GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

## Spring Term

School closes at 2:30pm

Fri 29th Mar

Easter Break starts

## Summer Term

Mon 15th Apr

Back to school

Thurs 18th Apr

Y2/3 Music Event (from 3.30pm)

Fri 19th Apr

Healthy Mind Coffee Morning (8.30am—10am)

Mon 22nd Apr

Quadkids Challenge

Wed 24th Apr

Y5/6 Tag Rugby

Thurs 25th Apr

Family learning hub—parenting programme

Tues 30th Apr

Reception visit from Ranger Stu

Wed 1st May

Parent Forum (2.30pm)

Y5 visit from Father David

Thurs 2nd May

Y1 visit from Ranger Stu

Family learning hub—parenting programme

Mon 6th May

Bank Holiday (children not in school)

Thurs 9th May

Family learning hub—parenting programme

Mon 13th May

Y6 SATS Weeks starts

Thurs 16th May

Summer Pupil Census

Fri 17th May

Y2 visiting Whipsnade Zoo

Mon 20th May

Y6 Bikeability

Tues 21st May

Class Photos

Y5/6 Quadkids Qualifiers

Wed 22nd May

Y1 visiting Hertfordshire Zoo

Thurs 23rd May

Rec visit from T-Rex

Y5/6 Boys Cricket Qualifiers

Fri 24th May

Y1 Amazing Africa Theme Day

## 2023—2024 TERM DATES

### 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: Tues 22 Apr - Fri 23 May

Half term break: Mon 26 May - Fri 30 May

Term time: Mon 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