

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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ISSUE 07
19th DECEMBER 2025

Message from Headteacher:

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final newsletter of the Autumn term and a well-deserved break, I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. For many, this term can feel like the most demanding of the year, with the change in seasons, shorter days and the long stretch of weeks taking their toll. Despite this, the Autumn term is always filled with energy and memorable events, providing a positive sense of momentum as we move closer to Christmas.

FOGS Christmas Fair – The recent Christmas Fair was a tremendous success, with a fantastic turnout from our school community. We are delighted to share that the event raised over £15,000, significantly surpassing last year's total. This remarkable achievement is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, from the FOGS volunteers to the families who attended. The fair was full of festive cheer and offered something for everyone, and it was lovely to see so many families come together in support of the school. Thank you to all who helped make this event such a wonderful success.

As part of this year's Christmas Fair, we were pleased to welcome back the annual Year 6 Enterprise Challenge, titled 'Be Your Own Boss'. Once again, our students exceeded expectations, demonstrating exceptional dedication, organisation and determination. As a result, they collectively raised an impressive £3,400, the highest amount ever achieved by a Year 6 cohort.

We were also honoured to welcome the Mayor of Harrow, Councillor Anjana Patel, who visited the fair and each 'Be Your Own Boss' stall. She spoke very positively about how the challenge provided students with a valuable opportunity to experience how a business operates, while developing key skills such as planning, communication and teamwork. She was particularly impressed by their creativity and entrepreneurial skills, making this an invaluable experience for all involved.



If you would be interested in supporting FOGS with future events or volunteering in any way, please contact FOGS at fogs.events@gmail.com. Without the support of volunteers, events such as these would not be possible.

Christmas Pantomime - Our recent trip to the Harrow Arts Centre to watch Dick Whittington was a truly magical experience for the students. Excitement was evident in the lead up to the visit and continued on arrival at the venue, with enthusiastic audience participation that is expected from a classic pantomime. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to enjoy a performance in such a historic setting and experience live theatre in a memorable way.

A huge thank you to FOGS for their continued support in making this trip possible, and to parents for ensuring pupils arrived promptly so we could depart smoothly. The day was filled with laughter and has created lasting memories for everyone involved.

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HEADTEACHER cont....

Christmas Performances - Reflecting on the past two weeks, it is clear that the school has been filled with Christmas cheer. The recent EYFS and Infant School performances perfectly captured the festive spirit and brought the true essence of Christmas into our school community. These delightful showcases not only created a warm and joyful atmosphere but also highlighted just how much confidence our youngest students have developed since starting school in September or since last year.

What the students presented was nothing short of remarkable. The confidence shown by every child, whether delivering lines, singing or remembering cues, was truly impressive. A huge thank you to the staff who worked tirelessly to bring these performances to life, and to parents for their invaluable support with costumes and practice at home. The result was a joyful experience that brought joy to all who attended.

Junior School Carol Concert – Held on Friday 12th December, the Junior School Carol Concert was a heart-warming celebration of the season, featuring special moments, singing and thoughtful readings shared by our junior school students. As always, Year 6 parents were invited to attend, making the occasion particularly poignant as it marked their children’s final Carol Concert before moving on to high school.

The event was beautifully presented within the historic walls of St Anselm’s Church and showcased the incredible talent of students from Year 3 to Year 6 as well as our dedicated junior school choir. Each class delivered captivating songs and readings that filled the church with festive cheer. The performances, from lively carols to reflective readings, were a true testament to the student’s hard work and enthusiasm. It was a morning that perfectly captured joy, reflection and community spirit, leaving everyone with cherished memories of this important milestone.

Christmas Charity – Beyond the festive celebrations, this year’s performances have also provided a valuable platform for our Student Council to lead the annual Christmas Charity initiative. This year, we are proud to support the Arts for Life Project, a UK based charity that aims to support challenged young people by transforming lives through the therapeutic value of the creative arts.

Thanks to the generosity and kindness of our school community, a total of £440.34 has been raised. A heartfelt thank you to all parents and families who have contributed to this cause. Your support is making a meaningful difference and helping to positively impact the important work of this charity.



Royal British Legion - We are also pleased to share that £117.18 was raised in support of the Royal British Legion during our Poppy Appeal, and we thank our school community for their continued generosity.

Attendance – So the results are final in. With the lead class changing a number of times over the course of the half term I would finally congratulate **2E** for achieving the top attendance percentage for Autumn 2. They have of course won an “Afternoon Tea with Mrs Bhudia” of which we will schedule in for when we return in the Spring term.



First Place – **2E** – 98.81%

Second Place – **5BM** - 97.75%

Third Place – **6M** – 97.6%

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HEADTEACHER cont....

As we return at the beginning of the Spring term the race for “Afternoon Tea with Mrs Bhudia” for the first half of the spring term will begin again. The only way to win this is to demonstrate commitment to attending school and making the most of the opportunities presented through the curriculum.

Online Safety - The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending quality time with loved ones. While we hope this period is peaceful and joyful, it is also important to remember that there are simple steps we can all take to help ensure a safe environment for the young people in our care.

Staying safe during the festive period may not always be immediately obvious, but taking a few sensible precautions can help make this time of year even more enjoyable. We have included a free guide containing expert advice on how to navigate the winter break safely, while keeping the wellbeing of children and young people at the forefront of our celebrations.

We encourage all families to take a moment to review the guidance and help make this holiday season both safe and memorable for everyone.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe, restful and festive Christmas period. I hope you are able to enjoy time with loved ones and that our students return refreshed and ready for the Spring term. Please remember that the first day of the new term is a staff training day, with the school gates opening at 8.30am on Tuesday 6th January.



Kind regards
Mrs Bhudia



Thank you



EARLY HELP
WEALDSTONE HUB YOUTH CHRISTMAS OFFER
Ages:9 – 19/25 SEN

<p>Monday 22nd December</p>	<p>Christmas Arts & Crafts Card Making / Jewellery</p> <p>11:00 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>Christmas Arts and Crafts</p> <p>1:30 PM -3:30 PM</p>
<p>Tuesday 23rd December</p>	<p>Christmas Bubble Tea Making/ cookie Decorating</p> <p>11:00 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>Christmas Movie With popcorn</p> <p>1:30 PM -3:30 PM</p>
<p>Wednesday 24th December</p>	<p>Christmas Sleigh - Gaming</p> <p>11:00 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	
<p>Friday 2nd January</p>	<p>New Year Arts & Crafts Vision Boards</p> <p>11:00 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>New Year portrait</p> <p>1:30 PM -3:30 PM</p>



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SWIMMING CRASH COURSES

Just
£27.50
Per
Course

Hatch End Christmas Crash Courses

£27.50 for a 5-day from 09:00-11:00

Saturday 20th December to Wednesday 24th December 2024

Bookings can be made at reception or

email Hatchendswim@everyoneactive.com or call 020 8428 8041

- 09:00 – Stage 3
- 09:30 – Stage 2
- 10:00 – Stage 1
- 10:30 – Stage 1

EVERYONE LOVES TO LEARN A LIFE SKILL



GRIMSDYKE PARENTS FORUM

YOUR IDEAS SHAPING YOUR SCHOOL

Working Collaboratively 1

Previous ideas 3

- Milk in school
- Newsletter - Curriculum in Action
- Home Learning Menus
- Variety of external clubs

2 **New Ideas Improving our School**

To attend or submit an agenda item please complete:

[Google Form](#) or



4 **Please read the Terms of Reference**

Would you like to volunteer as a chairperson?

1st Meeting
9am - Friday 9th January 2026

CURRICULUM IN ACTION

RECEPTION

Last week we wrote a letter to Father Christmas and then had a lovely walk to post our letters in the post box.



The children enjoyed watching the Year 1 and Year 2 performances as well as the Pantomime. This week the children made reindeer food, mince pies and enjoyed completing a range of Christmas activities.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

YEAR 1

Thank you for coming to see the children in their Christmas Performance 'That's not my Nose'. We are so proud of all the children. The singing, acting, dancing and loud clear narration was really impressive. Thank you to the parents for all their support. We couldn't have done it without you.



In DT, children made vegetable kebabs that they have been planning and preparing for. They had previously designed how they wanted their vegetable kebabs to look and also practised cutting skills.



We have been writing invitations and letters and learning about important features such as; To/From, greetings, information, extending sentences with conjunctions, questions and goodbyes. We are seeing some great progress.



Imaan IK



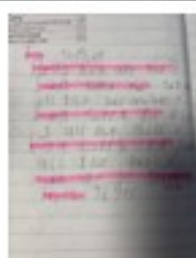
Mahi IK



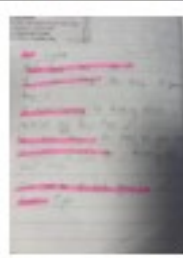
Ava IK



Rishiv ID



Nehmat ID



Akshaya ID



Parthi IM



Arjun IM



Jenil IM

***We wish you all a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Thank you for all your support during this term.***

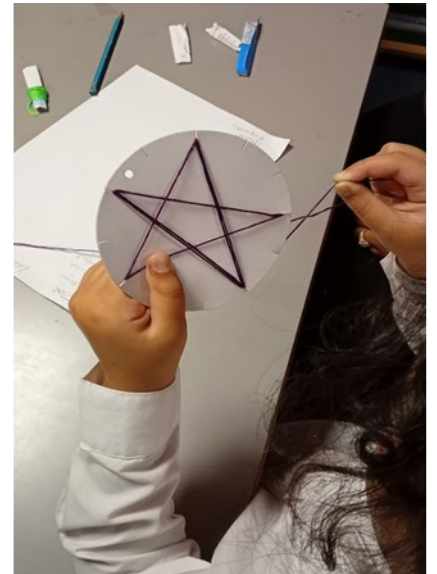
YEAR 2

It has been a busy end of the term for Year 2. We had a wonderful time performing 'Santa's Big Holiday'. The children did so well with the singing, acting and dancing. Thank you with all your support with costumes and learning lines.

We have also had so much fun making some Christmas crafts. In English, the children have finished their learning about the Great Fire of London. They wrote a recount of the event, using what they had learned in history, and spent time editing and improving their writing. We were very impressed with how carefully they checked their work and made thoughtful improvements.

In Mathematics, the children have completed their unit on shape. They explored 2D and 3D shapes, learning to identify their properties and describe them using mathematical vocabulary. The children have also completed a number of assessments across different subjects. These help us to see what they are confident with and where they may need extra support, so we can plan the next steps in their learning. As always, thank you for your continued support. The children should be very proud of their efforts over this first term in year 2.

We hope you have an amazing restful break over the next two weeks and look forward to seeing you all in January.



Year 3 Curriculum in Action

Here is what Year 3 has been learning about this past fortnight...

As we approach the end of a busy and successful Autumn term, all the Year 3 team wish you a very merry, peaceful and restful holiday. See you in 2026!

For the past fortnight, year 3 children have been very hard at work producing their hand-sewn bookmarks in their DT lessons. Would they meet the design criteria of using applique, at least two types of stitch, being able to use it as a bookmark and for it to be attractive to KS2 children? Below are 3T's final efforts. We think they have done a fantastic job and can't wait to see them being used every day in 2026!



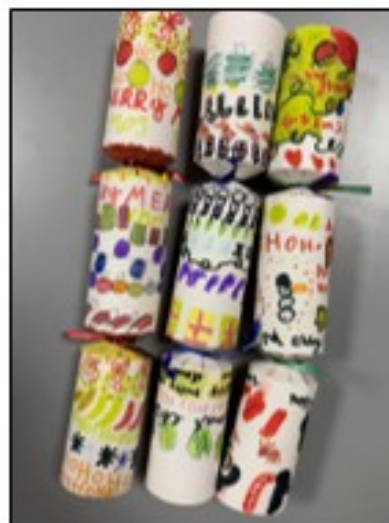
Year 3 children enjoyed a practical Science lesson this week. They conducted an investigation to see if there is a connection between the length of our femur bones and how far we can jump. The results weren't as conclusive as we were expecting. Above are 3R measuring the results of their jumps.

YEAR 3 cont.....

With much anticipation, year 3 children finally produced their end of topic stop-frame animations this week. This time, using plasticine, they carefully pieced together a sequence of 15-20 pictures to create the illusion of a moving picture.



Of course, we have filled our final few days of term with plenty of festive cheer, music and Christmas craft activities. From Christmas cards to crackers and scratch art, we have enjoyed it all!



Year 4 - Tower Bridge

Year 4 had a fantastic day visiting the iconic Tower Bridge as part of their learning about London Landmarks. The children explored the famous glass walkways, where they enjoyed spotting boats and traffic passing beneath their feet, and learned all about how the bridge was built and how it still operates today. They were especially fascinated by the Victorian engine rooms and the huge machinery that once powered the bridge lifts. The children represented the school brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions and showing great enthusiasm throughout the day. It was a memorable and enriching experience that brought their classroom learning to life.



Year 4 - Christmas Activities!

Year 4 enjoyed a fun-filled week of Christmas activities to celebrate the end of term. The children took part in a festive Christmas quiz, working together and showing excellent teamwork and enthusiasm. They also enjoyed coming to school in their Christmas jumpers, which brought lots of colour, smiles and festive cheer to the classroom. We have been busy wrapping up the end of our topics and filling our afternoons with winter craft.



The Year 4 team would like to wish all our families a very happy, peaceful and restful holiday. We look forward to seeing you in 2026!



Victorian day



Our Victorian Day was a wonderful step back in time! The children looked fantastic dressed as Victorians and fully embraced the experience of life in the past. They had the luxury of tasting Victorian food — including some rather *disgusting* gruel, which certainly sparked plenty of reactions!

The children also enjoyed making Victorian peg dolls, showing great care and creativity in their designs. The teachers had fun staying in character throughout the day, helping to bring history to life and making the experience even more memorable. The children thoroughly enjoyed a trip back into the past.

DT - Building bridges



[This week the children were getting stuck into a bridge building, applying their knowledge from DT, problem-solving, and creative skills to the test. Working together, they planned, designed, and built bridges with the aim of making them as steady and strong as possible.

There was lots of discussion, trial and error, and teamwork as the children refined their ideas and overcame challenges along the way. The activity encouraged resilience, cooperation, and imaginative thinking, and the final bridges were a fantastic showcase of the children's hard work and determination.

In art, Year 6 children printed their World Wars inspired lino prints. Taking ideas from their mood boards, the children drew their final designs and then transferred them onto linoleum. They used a lino cutter to carefully carve the areas of the linoleum that they wanted to remain white in the print. Next, they applied a thin layer of paint to the carved surface using a roller. They then placed a piece of paper on top of the inked lino and pressed down firmly.



In English, Year 6 created double page spreads following their reading of the novel *Letters from a Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll. The narrative, set against the backdrop of World War II, follows the journey of two siblings, Olive and her brother, as they uncover secrets through letters linked to a mysterious lighthouse. The double-page spreads encapsulated key characters, including the enigmatic lighthouse keeper and the resilient Olive. The children included their understanding of the plot along with their opinions of the novel.



In computing, children have been learning all about spreadsheets. They learnt all about organising data into columns and rows to create their own data set. They learnt the importance of formatting data to support calculations and formulas and how they can be used to produce calculated data. They were able to apply formulas to multiple cells by duplicating them. With this learning they used spreadsheets to plan a party and answer questions. Finally, they created charts and evaluated their results in comparison to questions asked.



YEAR 6 cont...

Year 6 children enjoyed the World War 2 activity day which included a workshop and different activities. The workshop took the children on a journey to the Home Front and back; showing just how the battles of World War 2 was won by the people at home and by the people of the Commonwealth as well. In one activity the children were introduced to the enigma code and learnt how to decode. Another activity involved children baking shortbread biscuits- using a war-time recipe.



Year 6 children had the opportunity to attend a performance of the pantomime Dick Whittington (kindly funded by the FOGS). They enjoyed the vibrant costumes, lively music, and the singing.



GRIMSDYKE CALENDAR

Autumn Term

Fri 19th Dec	School closes at 2:30pm—no clubs running.
22nd Dec—5th Jan	Christmas Break
Mon 5th Jan	Professional Development Day (children NOT in school)
Tues 6th Jan	Back to school
Fri 9th Jan	Parent Forum—9am (complete google form to attend)
Tues 13th Jan	Y3/4 Girls Football Tournament
Thurs 15th Jan	Pupil Census (Pls encourage your child to have a sch meal)
Fri 16th Jan	Y5/6 Girls Football
Tues 20th Jan	6G visiting Wallace Collection Y6 Netball Tournament
Thurs 22nd Jan	6M visiting Wallace Collection Y1 CREW—Toys
Fri 23rd Jan	6R visiting Wallace Collection Y5/6 Boys Football
Parent Trip Training	
Tues 27th Jan	Y5/6 Flag Tournament
Thurs 29th Jan	Reception & Y6 Height & Weight Check
Mon 2nd Feb	6M visiting British Library
Tues 3rd Feb	6G visiting British Library Y5 visiting Whipsnade Y6 Netball Development Tournament
Tues 10th Feb	Y5/6 Cross Country Safer Internet Day
Thurs 12th Feb	Chinese New Year Menu
Fri 13th Feb	6R visiting British Library
16-20th Feb	Half Term Break
Mon 23rd Feb	Back to school
Tues 24th Feb	Y3 visiting Verulamium Museum

2025—2026 TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2025

Term time: Mon 3 Nov - Fri 19 Dec

Spring Term 2026

Term time: Mon 5 Jan - Fri 13 Feb

1/2 term break: Mon 16 Feb - Fri 20 Feb

Term time: Mon 23 Feb - Fri 27 Mar

Summer Term 2026

Term time: Mon 13 Apr—Fri 22 May

1/2 term break: Mon 25 May—Fri 29 May

Term time: Mon 1 Jun—Mon 20 Jul

PDD dates

Mon 5th Jan 2025

Fri 17th Jul 26 Mon 20th Jul 26

SAVE THE DATE

FOGS

Christmas Fair

Saturday

6th December



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