

GRIMSDYKE NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM MRS BHUDIA

Welcome to the start of the Spring term. I hope you were able to enjoy a restful and relaxing festive period following our long and successful Autumn term.

We are hopeful that the coming weeks will bring longer and brighter days. In the meantime, I would strongly encourage pupils to continue wearing warm coats, as temperatures remain very cold and we have already experienced several wet playtimes and lunchtimes since returning to school.

As always, the Spring term provides an important opportunity to consolidate the progress made so far this year, to extend and deepen learning, and to continue preparing pupils for the challenges of the Summer term ahead. As the focus remains on this, the Spring term is generally a quieter one; however, we are very much looking forward to a number of exciting events. These include the Spring Showcase performances from Year Three and Year Four later in the term, as well as the wonderfully vibrant Year Five African Drumming performance. Details of all upcoming events can be found on the school website calendar and at the back of this newsletter for parents to plan for and attend accordingly.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

As you are all aware, both attendance and punctuality are key to the effective progress and attainment of individuals and groups of pupils. They are also important life skills that support the development of values such as responsibility and commitment.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We will be continuing to monitor attendance in order to present the "Attendance Cup" at the end of the half term for the class with the best attendance. 2E had a lovely afternoon this week for being the top class at in the second half of the Autumn term. Looking back in the Autumn term we were able to maintain a positive whole school attendance percentage exceeding 95%+ which is above the current DfE expectations. Almost every year group was also able to exceeding this. Let's keep up the great work with this.

In addition, the 'On Time Owls' award will continue to be presented to classes with no late arrivals across the whole week. This recognises and celebrates our school values, as attendance and punctuality are firmly embedded within the SCORE values.

**"IN BEFORE 8.45AM MEANS YOU
WILL NOT BE LATE."**

COMPETITION WINNERS

At the start of the week, I was delighted to announce the winners of the Be Your Own Boss challenge, along with the ticket design competition, most raffle tickets sold, and the Jolly Jar competition.

Well done to all pupils who took part.

Please view overleaf.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Ticket Design

EYFS	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
Louie L RH	Aadya D 1M	Aaran S 4B	Anna-Maria O 6M

Jolly Jars

EYFS	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
Lily W - RH	Noah M - 2ON	Eashaan V - 4K	Elissia C - 5CM

Raffle Ticket Seller

EYFS / KS1	KS2
Leena D	Tristan K

PARENT MEETINGS AND INVOLVEMENT

We hosted our first parent forum meeting last week and were pleased with the number of parents who attended. Parents submitted agenda items in advance, leading to positive discussions around assessment, home learning, after school clubs, breakfast club provision, external clubs, and our mental health and wellbeing support. Minutes from this meeting will be shared with all parents, and we look forward to welcoming even more families to future meetings. Please look out for further information in the newsletter and via Arbor communication.

I will also be running another parent trip training session next Friday for parents who are able to volunteer their time to support educational visits. New parents are encouraged to attend, as well as those wishing to renew their training. Without parent support, our school trips would not be possible, and we are extremely grateful for this continued commitment.

Finally, we will be hosting the second round of Parent Consultations later in the term. Please keep an eye out for booking information, as appointment slots fill quickly. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Bhudia

MESSAGE FROM HOUSE CAPTAIN - NAYAN

This week in sports news for Grimsdyke School was the first NFL tag rugby training that took place at the KS2 playground and went well, going on for thirty minutes during the lunch break.

Year 4 and Reception have recently started their gymnastics sessions for this term and Year 4 have just started their Play Pal training. This week, Year 6 and Year 5 football training for both boys and girls was cancelled due to the weather but will probably take place next week on Wednesday.

In the upcoming weeks there is a Year 6 netball tournament and a Year 3 & 4 girls football tournament. There was no Friday challenge or craze of the week this week but there was cross country trials on Thursday going on for half of lunch with over 15 people trying out on the 8th of January. Additionally, for Year 6, Mrs Doherty has commenced netball training again for the netball team this term on Tuesday morning at 8:00am. Written by Nayan house captain for Royston.

YEAR 3-4 FOOTBALL

By: Mr Godfrey

FANTASTIC EFFORT FROM ALL OF THE GIRLS INVOLVED

We sent a team made up of Grace, Demira, Ira, Ami, Tiara and Caitlin to represent Grimsdyke at the Year 3/4 football tournament.

It was a very soggy morning but the girls had great fun and didn't want to come back to school. That was no surprise as they also had great success across the four matches that they played.

Firstly, up against Roxbourne, a tight game ended with us pulling away and winning 4-1.

Next up was a clash with Newton Farm. Tiara and Ami really managed to show off their shooting skills in this game which led us to a 6-1 victory.

Our third match was against Weald Rise and a very close game ended with Weald Rise winning 3-2.

Our final match against Roxeth was again very close but a couple of late goals gave us a 3-1 win. What a fantastic effort from all of the girls involved.



HARROW PRIMARY SCHOOLS LEADERBOARD

HARROW PRIMARY SCHOOLS LEADERBOARD

Season 2 – 15th Oct 2025 to 7th Jan 2026



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 |  | WEALD RISE PRIMARY...
7,381,020 Points |
| 2 |  | ST BERNADETTES...
5,469,255 Points |
| 3 |  | PINNER PARK PRI...
1,867,470 Points |
| 4 |  | GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL
1,261,100 Points |
| 5 |  | ST JOHN FISHER...
1,240,240 Points |

TOGETHER HARROW SCHOOL COMMUNITIES ACHIEVED:

20,768,221 STEPS TAKEN
64474 TAGS COLLECTED
28471 MILES COVERED

THAT DISTANCE IS EQUIVALENT TO WALKING AROUND THE HARROW BOROUGH MANY TIMES OVER.

BY CHOOSING TO WALK MORE AND STAY ACTIVE, YOU COLLECTIVELY HELPED SAVE APPROXIMATELY 11.4 TONNES OF CO₂, WHICH IS THE SAME AS THE ANNUAL CARBON ABSORPTION OF OVER 500 MATURE TREES.

THIS IS A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR BOTH HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.



PLEASE NOTE THAT A SHORT COOL OFF PERIOD IS NOW IN EFFECT. WHILE THE APP REMAINS ACCESSIBLE AND YOU CAN CONTINUE TO MOVE AND TAG FOR FUN, THERE ARE NO PRIZES AVAILABLE DURING THIS PERIOD.

WE WOULD TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK, AS WELL AS ANY QUOTES, PHOTOS, OR SHORT VIDEOS FROM YOUR STREET TAG JOURNEY. THESE HELP US CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPROVE FUTURE SEASONS.

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break.

This half term our topic is 'To Infinity and Beyond', where the children will be learning all about space. We began the topic by exploring the moon. Last week, we read *Whatever Next!* by Jill Murphy, and the children enjoyed imagining a journey to the moon, writing lists of items they would pack for their adventure.

This week, we shared the story *Man on the Moon* by Simon Bartram. The children had great fun sequencing the story and thinking of questions they would like to ask Bob. We also learned about real-life astronauts and watched video clips showing life inside a space station.

In Maths, we have been learning about the number zero and consolidating number bonds to 5. The children have also been solving addition problems and practising how to write addition number sentences using the correct symbols.

It was also very exciting to see some snow last week, along with lots of ice, which certainly added to the winter fun!





We have had a busy start to the spring term!

We have started our new topic 'The Far East' where the children looked at atlases to locate countries in Asia, have been looking at different parts of China in Geography. In art the children have learning about Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and they have been experimenting with colour and pattern.

In maths, the children have begun work on money. They have been adding notes and coins and comparing different amounts. If possible over the weekend let your children explore with money at home, the real deal will look slightly different to our plastic resources at school J .

In English, our new class text is 'The Magic Paintbrush'. The children have been busy creating word banks and turning them into character descriptions using similes.

In science we have started our topic 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. The children have learnt about what animals need to stay alive, and why their habitats suit them.

In computing last week, the children were using positional language to programme each other. Over the next few weeks we will be using this knowledge to work with Beebots.

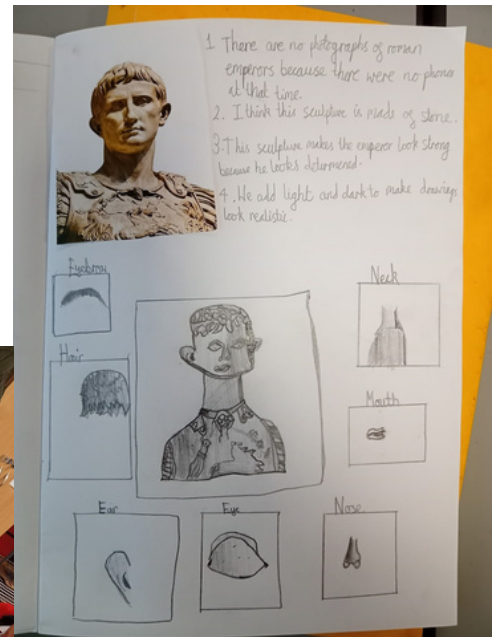
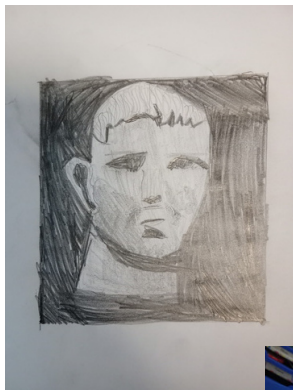
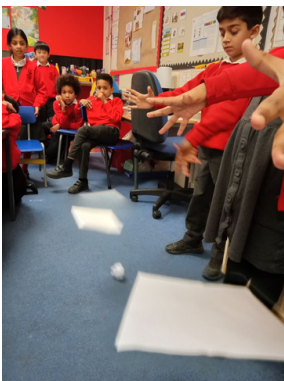


YEAR 3 HAVE STARTED THE SPRING TERM WITH ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM! IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO SEE THE CHILDREN SO ENGAGED AND MOTIVATED DURING THEIR FIRST WEEK BACK TO SCHOOL IN 2026.

This term, year 3 will be studying all things Roman! From Roman Geography to History, English and Art, we will immerse ourselves in the lives of this great ancient civilization.

Last week, we started our new topic: Roman Art. We recapped the importance of shading in order to make things look realistic. Then, using our best observational skills, we looked closely at some sculptures of famous Roman emperors to recreate the 3D look in our Art books.

Here are Ira and Autumn from 3T showing us their fantastic work.



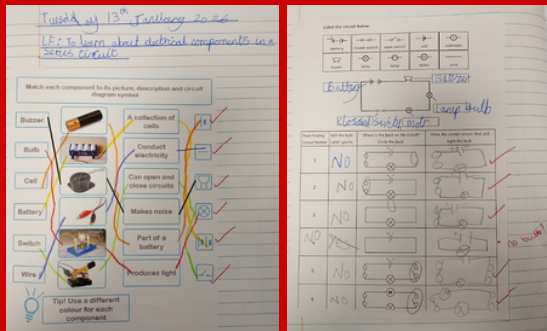
In Science, the children began their new topic of Magnets and Forces. They learnt about contact and non-contact forces which are always a PUSH or a PULL.

We then put some of those forces in to action: tug of war, throwing a ball in the air, dropping some paper to the ground and pushing a wooden block down a ramp. This also led to a discussion of gravity, friction and air resistance.

SCIENCE - ELECTRICITY

Year 4 have begun an exciting new Science topic on Electricity. The children have been learning about how to stay safe when using electrical equipment and why electricity must be handled carefully.

They have also enjoyed building simple circuits using components such as batteries, wires and bulbs, discovering how electricity flows to make things work. This hands-on learning has helped them develop their curiosity and understanding of everyday electrical devices.

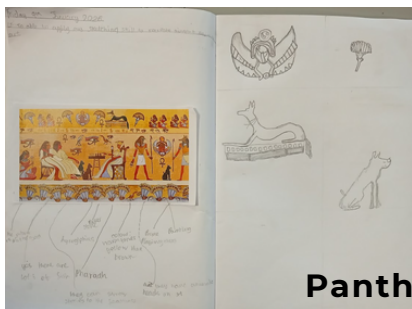


ART - ANCIENT EGYPT

Year 4 have started an exciting new topic in Art, exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Egyptian art. The children have been studying examples of Egyptian artwork and learning about its distinctive style and symbolism.

They have begun sketching, focusing on detailed observations of pharaoh headdresses, carefully looking at shape, pattern and design. This has helped them develop their drawing skills while gaining a deeper appreciation of ancient cultures.

4B



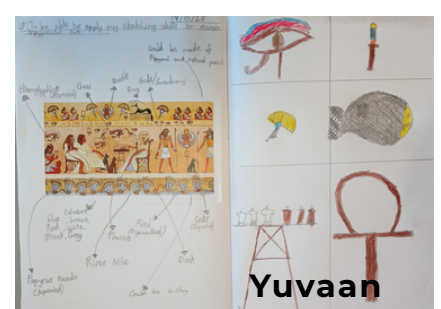
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4A

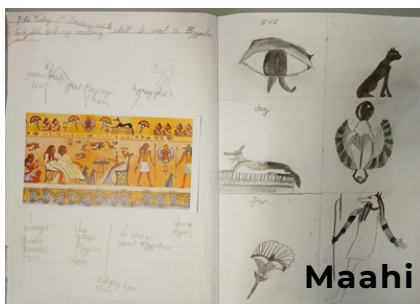


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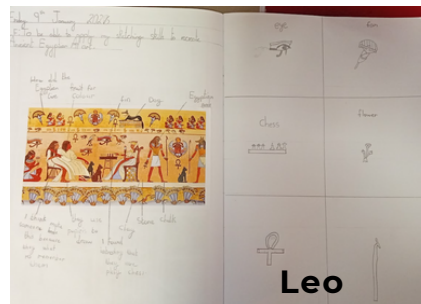
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Yuvaan

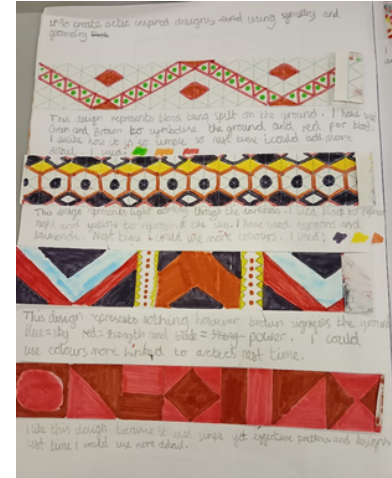
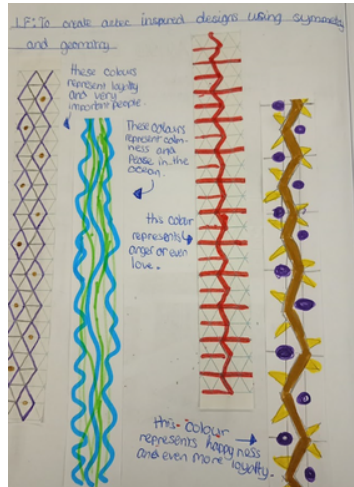
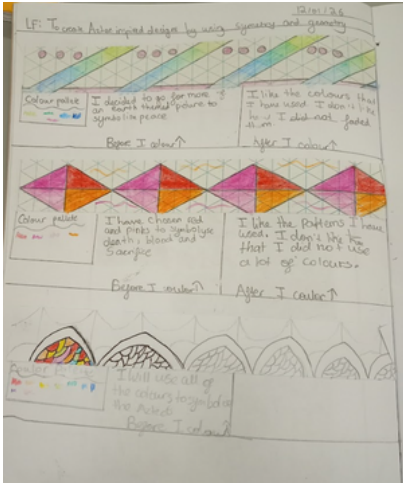


Maahi



Mitaansh

ART - AZTECS

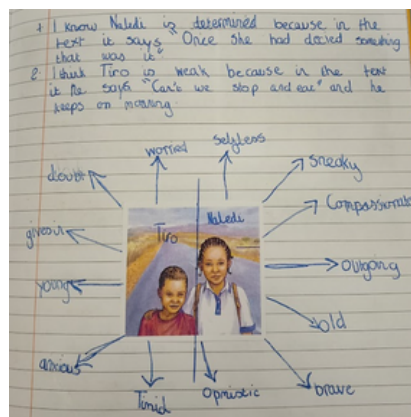
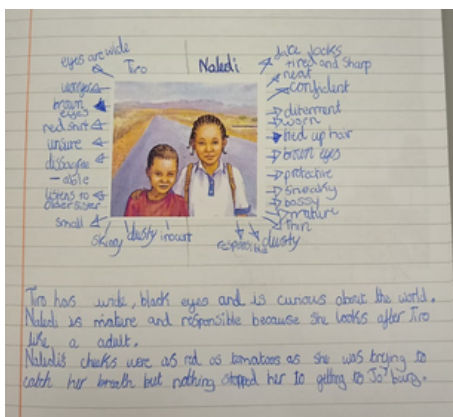


This term in Art, the children have been exploring the fascinating world of Aztec art and culture. They began by learning about the bold patterns, symbols, and colours used by the Aztecs, discussing how art was used to tell stories, represent beliefs, and show status.

The children then created mood boards inspired by traditional Aztec designs, carefully selecting colours, shapes, and imagery that reflected the style and meaning of the artwork they studied. Using these mood boards as inspiration, they went on to design and create their own original Aztec inspired pieces, showing great creativity and attention to detail.

It has been wonderful to see the children experimenting with pattern, symbolism, and colour!

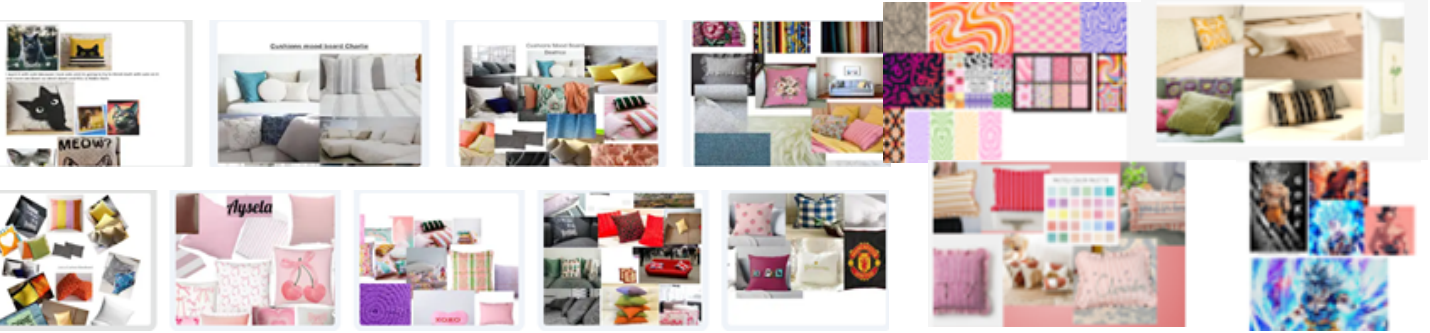
ENGLISH - JOURNEY TO JO'BURG



In English, the children have begun an exciting new text, Journey to Jo'burg. As part of this, they are learning about apartheid in South Africa and exploring the historical context in which the story is set.

The children have been discussing themes such as fairness, inequality, and family, and have shown maturity and curiosity when learning about life in South Africa during this time. Through discussion, reading, and reflection, they are beginning to understand how historical events shape characters' lives and decisions within the story.

The children were very inquisitive and asked many questions. They are excited to see what happens next in Naledi and Tiro's journey.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

In Design Technology lessons, Year 6 children engaged in the creative process by developing mood boards as part of the design cycle to create their own cushions. Mood boards are a visual representation of ideas and concepts, allowing children to explore various materials, colours, and patterns before finalising their designs.



In pe, Year 6 children have started the new unit of Football. They focussed on passing, dribbling and moving skills to keep possession and score. The children applied their prior learning of passing, dribbling, turning and moving, to move the ball up the pitch, creating an attack that resulted in a successful shot.



In computing, the children will be creating websites for a curriculum-based topic. They identified what makes a good web page and will use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process the children will pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the appearance of the site, and navigation paths.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



SPRING TERM 2026

Tues 20 th Jan	6G visiting Wallace Collection Y6 Netball Tournament
Wed 21 st Jan	Y5 visiting HEHS
Thurs 22 nd Jan	6M visiting Wallace Collection Y1 CREW - Toys
Fri 23 rd Jan	6R visiting Wallace Collection Y5/6 Boys Football
Tues 27 th Jan	Y5/6 Flag Tournament
Thurs 29 th Jan	Rec/Y6 Height & Weight Check
Mon 2 nd Feb	6M visiting British Library
Tues 3 rd Feb	6G visiting British Library Y5 visiting Whipsnade Zoo Y6 Netball Development Tournament
Wed 4 th Feb	Guitar Festival
Fri 6 th Feb	Reception 'Space' Day
Tues 10 th Feb	Y5/6 Cross Country Safer Internet Day
Thurs 12 th Feb	Chinese New Year Menu
Fri 13 th Feb	6R visiting British Library
16 th - 20 th Feb	Half Term Break
Tues 24 th Feb	Y3 visiting Verulamium Museum
Fri 27 th Feb	Parent Forum - 9am
Tues 3 rd Mar	Y5 CREW - Space Choir Showcase
Thurs 5 th Mar	World Book Day
Mon 9 th Mar	Y3 and Y5 Visual Reality Workshops
Tues 17 th Mar	Y4 visit from Mr Egypt

TERM DATES

Spring Term
 Mon 5 Jan - Fri 13 Feb
 1/2 term break: Mon 16 Feb - Fri 20 Feb
 Mon 23 Feb - Fri 27 Mar

Summer Term
 Mon 13 Apr—Fri 22 May
 1/2 term break: Mon 25 May—Fri 29 May
 Mon 1 Jun—Mon 20 Jul

PDD dates
 Fri 17th Jul
 Mon 20th Jul