

# GRIMSDYKE NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

## MESSAGE FROM MRS BHUDIA

Dear Parent and Carer,

Welcome back to the second half of the Summer Term. We hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

### Attendance

As you know, regular attendance is essential if children are to make the most of the learning opportunities and experiences available to them at school. We are pleased that our whole-school attendance remains above the Department for Education's expected benchmark of 95%.

Our current attendance figures from the start of the academic year are shown below:

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
94.1%	96.1%	96.4%	96.0%	96.1%	96.6%	95.4%

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that children attend school regularly and arrive ready to learn each day.

### Punctuality Matters

Alongside good attendance, punctuality plays a vital role in supporting children's success at school. Our soft-start period runs from 8:30am to 8:45am, and we expect all children to arrive within this time.

Children who arrive late can miss important morning routines, learning activities and opportunities to settle into the day alongside their classmates. This can leave them feeling unsettled and less confident about the tasks ahead. Due to the busy nature of the classroom at the start of the day, staff may not always be able to revisit instructions or learning that has already taken place.



Establishing positive routines and good punctuality habits from an early age helps children develop important life skills that will support them throughout their education and beyond. We therefore ask all families to make every effort to ensure that children arrive at school on time each day. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.

## Attendance Monitoring

Regular school attendance plays a vital role in supporting children's learning, progress and wellbeing. We continue to work closely with the local authority to promote excellent attendance and ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

We kindly ask parents and carers to report any absence as soon as possible, providing details of the reason for absence and any relevant supporting information. This can be done by emailing [attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk). Timely communication helps us ensure that absences are recorded accurately using the correct attendance codes and enables us to provide appropriate support when your child returns to school.

Please find attached an e-leaflet from the local authority outlining attendance expectations and guidance for families. Further information regarding attendance, leave of absence requests and penalty notices can also be found on Harrow Council's website:

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/schools-learning/school-attendance-guidelines-penalty-notice>

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high levels of attendance across the school.

## RSE Parent Meetings

Before the half-term break, we held a series of parent meetings for Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 families to discuss the upcoming Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum. These sessions provided a valuable opportunity to share information about the programme and answer questions, helping to build understanding and confidence around this important aspect of the curriculum.

This week, we also held our initial RSE consultation and received some thoughtful and constructive feedback. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their views. This feedback will help inform the ongoing development of our RSE curriculum, ensuring that the perspectives of parents, pupils and staff are carefully considered.

We will share the revised proposals with parents before the curriculum is finalised and presented to the Governing Body for approval.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the meetings and to the staff who organised and facilitated them. Your contributions are greatly valued and play an important role in strengthening the partnership between home and school.

## Wake Up Wednesdays

This week's online safety spotlight from the National College focuses on the use of emojis. Emojis are much more than simple digital decorations. Young people often use them as a form of coded communication to express emotions, humour, opinions and experiences. Without the appropriate context, the meaning behind certain emojis can easily be misunderstood, leading to confusion or missed signals.

The growing use of emojis as a communication tool is not unlike the use of text abbreviations and internet slang that have appeared on digital platforms over the years. As online communication continues to evolve, it is important that parents remain informed about the ways young people interact online.

We hope that this week's guide provides useful background information and raises awareness of how emojis are used, helping you to support your children as they navigate an ever-changing digital world.

## Summer Carnival

We are delighted to be preparing for our annual Summer Carnival and look forward to welcoming families and friends for what promises to be another fantastic community event.

Entry Tickets and Tokens - Entry tickets and tokens will be available for purchase during the week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, as well as on the gate and throughout the Carnival itself. **To help reduce queues and speed up entry on the day, we strongly encourage families to purchase their entry tickets in advance wherever possible.**

Programme Cover Design Competition - Over the coming weeks, we will once again be running our popular Summer Carnival Programme Cover Design Competition. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to showcase their creativity and have their artwork featured as part of one of the school's biggest events of the year.

Entries should be submitted to the School Office by **Tuesday 16th June**. Winning entries will be announced before the end of the Summer Term. We look forward to seeing the fantastic designs and creativity from children across the school and wish all entrants the very best of luck!

## Children's Commissioner's "The Big Future" Survey



We would like to encourage our children and families to take part in The Big Future survey, launched by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza.

The survey provides children and young people with an opportunity to share their thoughts, experiences, hopes and ideas for the future. It explores what children enjoy, the challenges they face, what improvements they would like to see in their communities and what they believe makes a happy and successful childhood.

There is also a short introductory video for children and young people, explaining how they can have their voices heard and take part in the survey: <https://youtu.be/ESVZYc6LddI>

This is a wonderful opportunity for children, particularly those in Year 6 as they prepare for their transition to secondary school, to reflect on their time at primary school and have their voices heard and contribute to a national conversation about children's lives and futures.

We would be very grateful if parents and carers could support their child in completing the survey at home.

The survey can be accessed here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>



Thank you for supporting your child in sharing their views and helping to shape future conversations and decisions affecting children and young people across the country.

Kind regards  
Mrs Bhudia

Welcome back to the Summer term. This week we have started our new topic "People Who Help Us". The children have been making lists of different people who help us and have enjoyed getting into role in our new role play areas. We had a visit from the school nurse who talked to the children about ways to keep their teeth healthy.

In maths, we have been learning about sharing and grouping amounts and explored how this changes if the number is odd or even. We have talked about it being 'fair' and 'equal' and counted carefully to make sure they were the same.



1K have been taking part in lots of phonic related activities. Games allow the children to practise their phonics skills in an engaging, purposeful and memorable way.



1K

1D

This week, we have begun our exciting new topic, "Oh, I Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside!" In History, the children explored how life has changed over time by sorting pictures from the past and the present. In Maths, we have been learning about position and direction, using a range of practical activities to develop our understanding.



Rishiv



Zahaa



Virat



Maya



Mihail



Nehmat

# TM

This week in Science, we started learning about the ocean habitat. We began by sorting animals according to where they live. Then we thought of different ways we could sort the animals.

We came up with lots of ideas including sorting animals with legs/no legs, hard shell/no shell, and lots more.



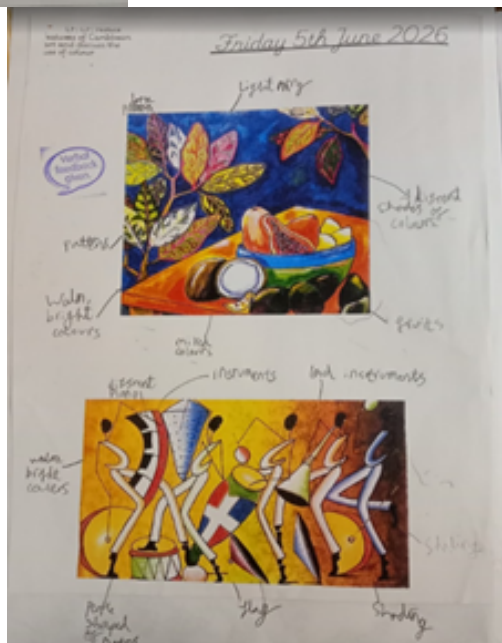
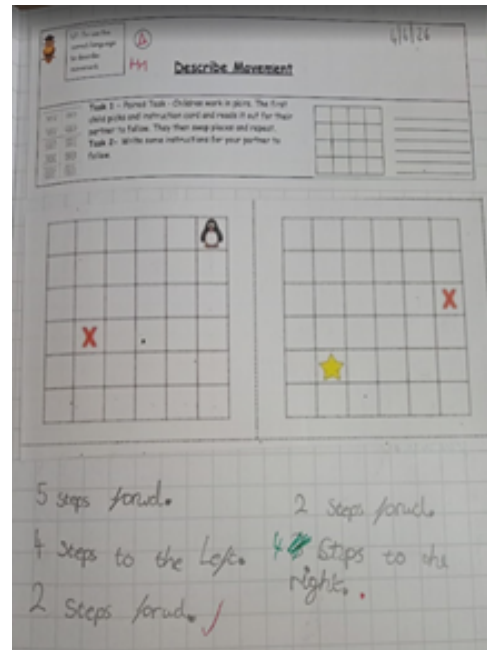
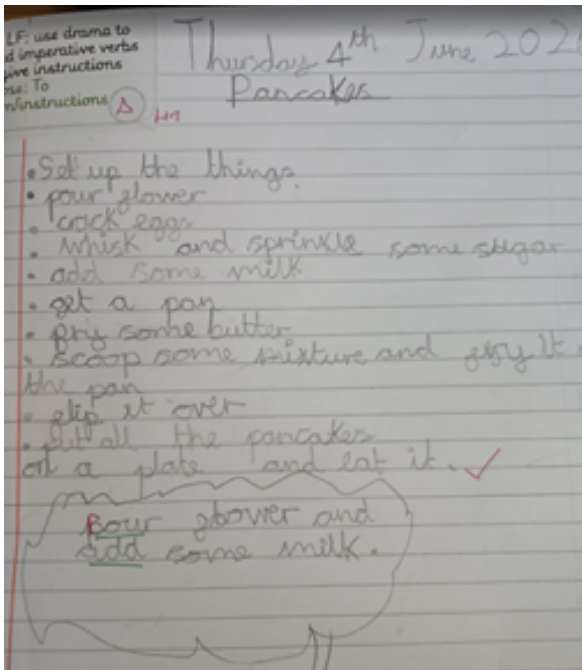
We have had a fantastic start to our final half term of the year in Year 2 and are excited to begin our new topic all about The Caribbean.

In English, we have started reading Faruq and the Wiri Wiri and have been learning about instructions and verbs. The children have also enjoyed taking part in drama activities, acting out their own cooking shows and presenting recipes to the class.

In Maths, the children have been learning about positional language and direction. They have been developing their understanding of how to describe movement and position using mathematical vocabulary.

In Art, we have been exploring and analysing Caribbean artwork, discussing colours, patterns and styles used by different artists. In Music and PE, we have begun preparing for our exciting carnival performances and are looking forward to showcasing our hard work.

In History, the children have been learning about explorers from the past and the important discoveries they made. They have enjoyed finding out how exploration has helped us learn more about the world. We are looking forward to an exciting half term filled with lots of new learning.



We can not believe how fast the year has gone! We welcomed the children back to school this week for their final half-term in year 3...



In History, we have started our exciting new topic on Britain during Shakespeare's time. We learned about The Globe Theatre and explored its importance in Elizabethan England. As part of our learning, we created models of The Globe, with its distinctive features, helping us to understand how it was built and used.

Each year 3 class is very excited to visit The Globe Theatre in a couple of weeks time and experience this famous landmark for ourselves!



In Geography, we have continued our learning about the weather and climate.

This week, we investigated how meteorologists measure wind speed by creating our very own anemometers! We carefully built and tested our instruments, exploring how they work and why they are important for collecting weather data.

This practical activity helped us develop a better understanding of weather monitoring and the different tools used to study and predict changes in the climate.

### YEAR 4 - ENGLISH

In English, we have started reading our new class book, *Lotería*. To help us understand the story and its cultural links, the children played the traditional game of *Lotería*. They had great fun learning the rules and exploring the different cards and images. Afterwards, the children wrote reviews of the game, sharing their opinions and identifying its key features. Next week, they will use their reviews to help them write persuasive advertisements, encouraging others to play the game.



### Year 4 - Kew Gardens

We are very excited about our upcoming trip next week. During our visit, the children will explore a variety of plants and habitats from around the world, to consolidate our learning of science learning about living things and their habitats. They will have the opportunity to investigate how plants grow, discover the importance of conservation, and learn about the incredible diversity of the natural plant world. We are looking forward to a fun and educational day of exploration and discovery. If you require further information regarding the details of the trip, please refer to the letter sent on Arbor or email us on [year4@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:year4@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk).

## CARNIVAL DANCE PRACTISE



With Carnival fast approaching, Year 5 have begun practising their Carnival dance. The teachers have been immensely proud of the enthusiasm, effort, and energy the children have brought to rehearsal so far.

The children are working hard to learn the choreography, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow with each practice session. We are looking forward to putting the finishing touches on the dance and cannot wait to perform it for parents at Carnival.

To help the children continue practising, the Carnival song has been uploaded to Google Classroom. We encourage them to listen to it at home so they can become even more familiar with the music and dance routine.

We are excited to showcase all of their hard work at Carnival!

## BUTTERFLIES



On the last day of Summer 1, Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to release the butterflies that we had been carefully observing and caring for over the past few weeks. It was wonderful to watch them fly off into their natural habitat after witnessing their incredible journey from caterpillars to butterflies.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned so much about life cycles, growth, and transformation. Seeing the butterflies emerge and take flight was a memorable moment for everyone involved.

One chrysalis had not yet hatched, so it was taken home by the teachers to continue being monitored. We were delighted when it successfully hatched over the weekend and was happily released shortly afterwards.

This was a fantastic experience for the children and a wonderful way to bring our learning to life!

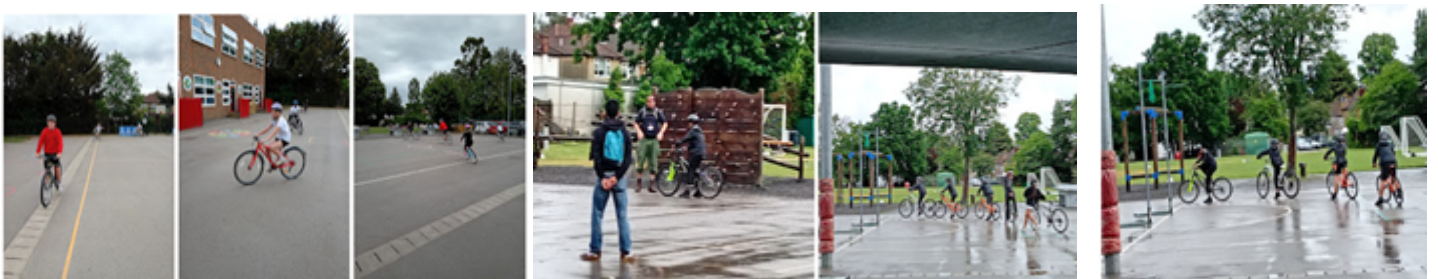
In art, Year 6 children have begun a Manga unit, exploring the origins of this distinctive art form and its enduring influence on contemporary illustration. They are learning about the key features of manga, including expressive characters, dynamic composition, and visual storytelling. In addition, the children have created their own manga-inspired drawings, applying these techniques to develop individual style and confidence.



In Computing this term, children are using Micro:Bit devices to programme a range of digital projects. They are learning to write simple sequences of instructions, test their code, and refine their work through careful debugging. This practical approach is developing pupils' confidence, logical thinking, and perseverance. Children have particularly enjoyed creating animations, displaying messages, and designing interactive games.



Year 6 children were offered the opportunity to take part in a Cycle Confidence Course. The programme provided a valuable opportunity for them to develop essential cycling skills in a safe and supportive environment. Throughout the course, children learned how to balance, steer, signal, and brake with increasing control and confidence. They also demonstrated excellent concentration, perseverance, and respect for safety guidance. More children will be taking up this opportunity next week.



SUMMER TERM 2026

TERM DATES

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Cycle Confident (registered only - 5 days) Reception visit from Fire Brigade GS Football not running
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Y4 visiting Kew Gardens GS Girls Football not running
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Jun	New Reception Meeting (Sept 26 intake) 5pm
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Music Showcase
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Reception visiting Odds Farm 5O visiting HEHS for Art Workshop
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Y1 CREW - Science in Action 3B visiting The Globe 6R and 6M visiting NHM - Lego workshop
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Jun	3R visiting The Globe
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Jun	3T visiting The Globe West London Finals Day
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Jun	6G visiting NHM - Lego Workshop
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	Y6 Tennis Tournament
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Y4 visit from Mozartists
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>FOGS Summer Carnival</b>
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Y5/6 Sports Day - 10am
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Jul	Y3/4 Sports Day - 10am
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	Rec, Y1/2 Sports Day - 1:30pm start Y5 Showcase - 10am
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Whole School Meet the Teacher Y5 Showcase - 2pm
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Digital Citizenship Presentation
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Production and Presentation - 6pm
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Y6 Activity Day and Picnic
Last week	No external clubs
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Leavers Assembly - 9:30am - Y6 parents only
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Y6 finish at 1:45pm Rest of school finish at 1:30pm

**Summer Term**  
Mon 1 Jun—Mon 20 Jul

**PDD dates**  
Fri 17th Jul  
Mon 20th Jul

2026/27 TERM DATES

**Autumn Term**  
Wed 2 Sept - Fri 23 Oct  
1/2 term break: Mon 26 Oct - Fri 30 Oct  
Mon 2 Nov - Fri 18 Dec

**Spring Term**  
Mon 4 Jan - Fri 12 Feb  
1/2 term break: Mon 15 Feb - Fri 19 Feb  
Mon 22 Feb - Fri 25 Mar

**Summer Term**  
Mon 12 Apr—Fri 28 May  
1/2 term break: Mon 31 May—Fri 4 Jun  
Mon 7 Jun—Thurs 22 Jul

**PDD dates**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sept, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 4<sup>th</sup> Jan,  
28<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul

**SPORTS DAYS**  
please note these are  
subject to weather  
conditions

**Rec/Y1/Y2** - Thursday 2nd  
July 1:30pm

**Y3/4** - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July

**Y5/6** - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June