



GRIMSDYKE NEWSLETTER



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM *Mrs Bhudia*

Dear Parent,

It has been wonderful to welcome parents and students alike back to the new academic year. I would like to extend a special welcome to the new families and students who have joined us, as well as the new members of staff. Welcome to the Grimsdyke family!

We have been off to a roaring start with a busy first two weeks back - staff across the school have worked incredibly hard to make the transition back to school as smooth as possible for our students.

Students across the school have settled well to the new routines and expectations after a long summer break. It is lovely to see the students coming through the gate in the morning, smartly dressed in their uniforms and entering their respective gates. It is also pleasing to see the new Reception cohort increasing their time in school and getting used to new routines.

Meet the Teacher

We have successfully delivered "Meet the Teacher" event for each year group from Year 1 to Year 6. These were great opportunities to meet the teachers and find out a little bit about the day to day organisation within the year group as well as some of the exciting plans for the year ahead. If you were unable to make these sessions please don't worry, we have emailed the presentations out via Arbor and they have been uploaded onto the school website for all of the parents to access.

"Meet the Teacher"
event for Reception
parents is scheduled for
the 23rd September 9am.
❤️

Please note the Reception parents meeting has been scheduled for **9am - Wednesday 23rd September**.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance is essential to ensuring that every child is able to make strong progress, achieve well and benefit fully from all that school has to offer. We expect pupils to maintain attendance of **95% or above** wherever possible.

If your child is not well enough to attend school, parents and carers must notify us of the absence by emailing attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk. Please provide your child's name, class and the reason for their absence **before 8.30am** so that the correct information can be recorded on the attendance register. Until we have received confirmation explaining the reason for an absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised.

- Pupils are expected to arrive at school by **8:45am**. Both the Infant and Junior gates will close promptly at this time.
- Any pupil arriving after **8:45am** must enter through the main school entrance and will receive a late mark. Punctuality is an important life skill and arriving on time ensures that children have a calm and settled start to their learning.
- Please be aware that pupils arriving after **9:00am**, without an authorised reason, will receive an unauthorised absence mark for that morning session. We will contact families where we identify repeated lateness or concerns regarding attendance.

School Calendar Dates

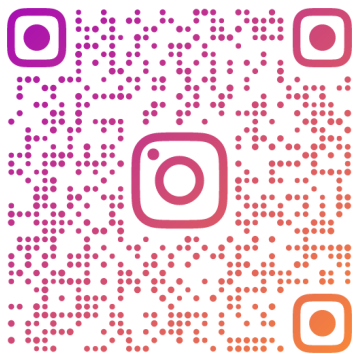
We have finalised some of our diary dates for the school year ahead. These can be found on the [school calendar](#) or at the end of each fortnightly newsletter. More dates will be added once confirmed so please keep a look out for these.

School Instagram

Please do visit our Instagram page, where we hope to share regular updates, reminders and highlights with parents and carers.

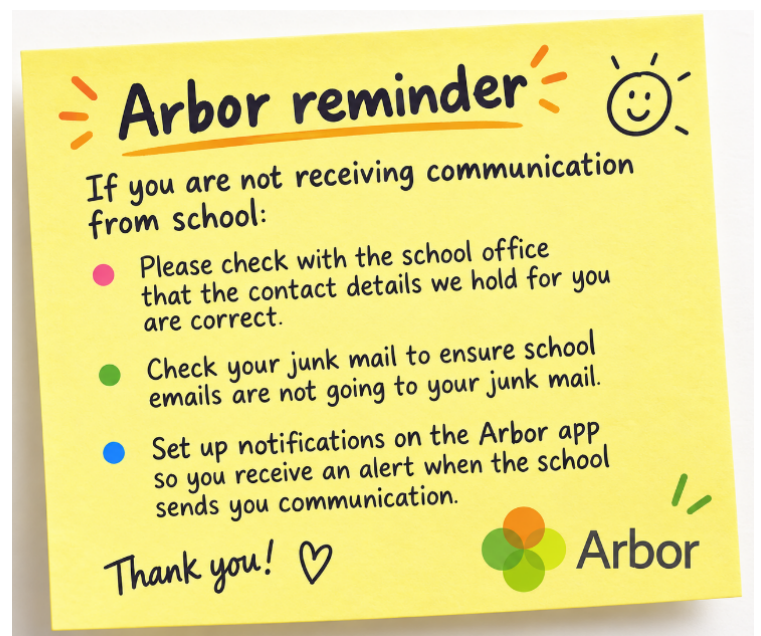
Please note that we do not aim to use Instagram to share individual pupil updates or photographs of children. Instead, we use this platform to share some of the wider activities, events and things happening across the school.

Please follow us on Instagram: **@Grimsdykeschoolofficial**



Ongoing communication

We recognise that the school is a busy place, in order to share upcoming events with the parents we use a number of different methods e.g. email, newsletter, Instagram and the A-Frame. If you are not receiving information from the school there could be a number of reasons for this, please check with the school office that the contact details we hold for you are correct. As well as allowing for clearer communication between home and school, it is vital that we hold up to date information in case we need to contact you in an emergency.



Finally, on behalf of everyone at Grimsdyke, we look forward to working closely with you this year to ensure your children enjoy a fantastic year of learning and fun. We wish you all a restful weekend before normal routines resume next week.

Safeguarding update - End of Day Dismissal

As we continue to work together to ensure a safe environment for all our pupils, we would like to issue a gentle reminder regarding our afternoon dismissal procedures.

Once a child is released by their teacher at the end of the school day, **Full responsibility for their care and supervision rests with the collecting adult.**

Please note that **children are not allowed to play on any school equipment or playground structures** after they have been dismissed. The school's insurance and health and safety policies dictate that these areas can only be accessed under the active supervision of school staff during school hours.

To help us maintain a secure site and prevent any accidental injuries, please supervise your children closely upon collection and vacate the school premises efficiently.

We greatly appreciate your support in keeping your children and the Grimsdyke community safe.

Safeguarding update - Road Safety and School Streets

The School Streets scheme operates on Sylvia Avenue at the start and end of the school day.

8:15am to 9:15am 2:45pm to 3:45pm

Please remember that Sylvia Avenue is not pedestrianised during these times and vehicles may still be using the road.

To help keep everyone safe, we ask parents and carers to:

- Use the footpaths when entering and leaving the school area.
- Choose safe crossing points.
- Keep children close to you, particularly near the road.
- Talk to your children about road safety and help them develop confidence in identifying potential dangers.

As a STARS accredited school, we continue to encourage safe, active and sustainable travel to and from school wherever possible.

We have, however, noticed an increase in unsafe driving around the school, particularly outside School Streets operating hours and during Breakfast Club and After School Club times.

If you do need to drive, please help us to keep our children and local community safe by not:

- Stopping or parking on the yellow zig-zag markings outside the school.
- Parking in the access road to school
- Parking across or blocking residents' driveways.
- Carrying out U-turns outside the school.
- Allowing children to get out of the car on the roadside or in the middle of the road.
- Please also remember that there is no parking available on the school site for parents and carers.

Thank you for helping us to keep the area around our school as safe as possible for all children and families.





Grimsdyke School Attendance Reminders



Please note where possible, advance notice should be given of any medical appointments. Where applicable, children should be in school before an appointment takes place and return after an appointment.

1 Punctuality

- School gates open at 8:30am
- Gates close at 8:45am. The school day begins.
- Children arriving between 8:45-9:15 are marked as late.
- Children arriving after 9:15am will be marked as unauthorised late unless medical appointment evidence has been provided.
- Gates open for collection at 3:25. Please collect your child promptly.
- Children remaining after 3:45pm will be placed in After School Club and parents may be charged for the session, as part of our late collection process.



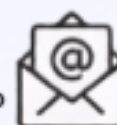
2 What to do if your child is unwell

- Where possible, please report your child's absence before 8:30am by emailing

attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

Where evidence such as a medical note or prescription label is available, please email that to the Attendance email address.

- The school may ask for evidence for prolonged illnesses linked to medical reasons.



3 Attendance Fines: The National Rules

Under national rules, the Local Authority issues Penalty Notices if a child misses 10 sessions (5 days) of school without a valid authorised reason.

First Fine: £80 per parent if paid within 21 days

Second Fine: £160 per parent

Third Fine: No third fine is allowed. Continued absence leads directly to Magistrates Court Prosecution.

Under these rules, no holidays during term time can be authorised by law.

Leave is only granted for urgent matters as outlined in our Attendance Policy.

To apply for exceptional leave, please request a form from the Office and submit it at least 2 weeks in advance. We strongly discourage booking travel until you receive written approval. Previous requests and current attendance will also be considered.



4 We Are Here To Help!

If your child is struggling with anxiety, health needs or any barriers keeping them from coming to school, please reach out to us early so that we can build a support plan together.

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER



Grimsdyke School

Who shall I speak to?



- Letters
- School events queries
- Any changes to personal details e.g. address
- Trip queries
- Arbor support e.g. payment details, child details
- Term dates



Front office
Ms Chellapen and Mrs Nolan
Email:
office@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

- Medical appointments
- Advance notice of lateness
- Requests for leave
- Medical conditions/medications



Attendance/Welfare
Mrs Patel
Email:
attendance@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

- Behaviour of pupils
- Bullying
- Online safety
- Day-to-day classwork/curriculum query
- Any minor changes at home e.g. sleep routines, emotional changes, family circumstances
- General assessment and individual progress
- Year group/phase leader query



Year group inbox
Class teacher
Email:
Individual year group inbox
reception@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk
year1@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk
year2@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk
year3@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk
year4@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk
year5@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk
year6@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

- EHCP and annual reviews
- SEND concerns
- Support plans
- Medical conditions (please also copy Attendance/Welfare email)
- Queries regarding external professionals and services
- Mental health concern
- Pupil premium and LAC queries



SENDCO & Inclusion Manager
Mrs White
Email:
sendco@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

- Whole school assessments
- National curriculum queries
- Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)



FAO Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Varsani
Email:
office@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

- Matters not resolved by the above staff
- Queries regarding governance



FAO Headteacher
Mrs Bhudia
Email:
office@grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk

By using the above channels of communication, we can make sure your query is responded to in a timely manner.

Reception CURRICULUM IN ACTION

The Reception children have made a fantastic start to school life! They've settled into their new classes with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm. It's been wonderful to see them exploring their new classrooms, building friendships, and growing more confident each day.

Our topic this half term is "*Bright Beginnings*", where we'll be learning about starting school, our emotions, our families and friendships. We'll also be enjoying a range of stories with colour themes.

Over the past few weeks, the children have been busy learning the daily routines, and they're already showing great independence. They've had fun discovering our outdoor learning area and even took part in their very first gymnastics lessons! Lunchtimes have been another exciting milestone. Everyone has done brilliantly staying for lunch and getting to know their new friends around the table. This week, we read *The Colour Monster* and talked about different emotions. The children shared what makes them feel happy, sad, angry or calm, and they enjoyed mixing colours to match these feelings.

In maths, we focused on sorting and matching. The children took part in lots of practical games and activities where they grouped and matched different objects. It was great to see their thinking skills in action.

We're so proud of how well they're all settling in and can't wait for the learning adventures ahead!

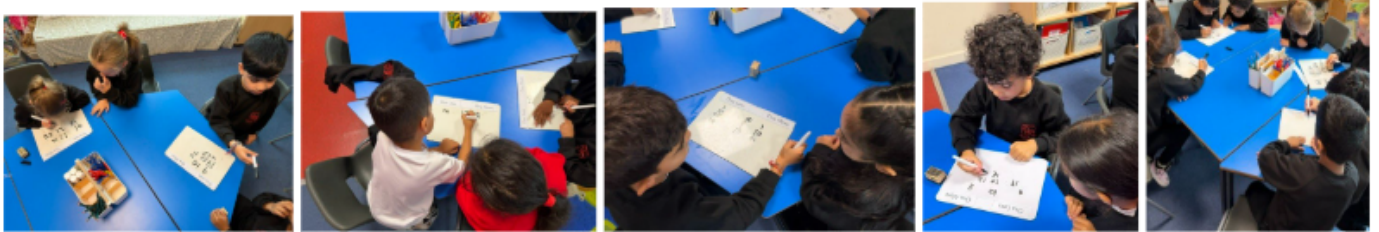


Year 1 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

We would like to start by saying welcome back! We are very proud of how well the children are all settling into Year 1. We have been very busy learning lots of new faces and routines.

Our topic this half term is 'Home Sweet Home' and we are going to be looking at houses from the past through to the present day. In Science we have been revising body part names and enjoying the book 'Oi Frog' and 'Oi Dog' by Kes Gray and Jim Field. These humorous rhyming stories have been used in reading, writing and phonics lessons, where we have been focusing on word endings and spelling. Can your children think of some rhyming strings for your favourite animals e.g. pig > wig > big > fig etc.?

In maths we started with sorting objects and giving reasons for our choices. Many children focused on colour but soon realised that there were many different ways items could be sorted such as size and type. We then moved onto counting forwards and backwards 0 - 20 and 1 more/less. We will continue working on writing digits as many children are incorrectly forming numbers.



The Year 1 children have been getting acquainted with their new classrooms and exploring what's on offer.



Year 2 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

The children are settling into Year 2 wonderfully and are becoming increasingly familiar with their new routines. We are very proud of how well they have adapted and delighted to see their enthusiasm for learning.

Over the past week, the children have written recounts about their summer holidays, explored place value in mathematics, discovered interesting facts about significant people in history and begun their science topic, Living Things and Their Habitats.

In Art, the children have learned about primary colours and created abstract artwork inspired by the artist Piet Mondrian.

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to our Meet the Teacher presentation. Please look out for the new documents, which will soon be available on the school website.

We are looking forward to sharing an exciting and rewarding half term with the children!



Year 3 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

Welcome to Year 3! We have had a fantastic start to the new school year and have been so impressed with how well the children have settled into their new classes and routines. It has already been a busy and exciting few weeks, with lots of fantastic learning taking place. We are looking forward to sharing some of the things we have been getting up to so far!

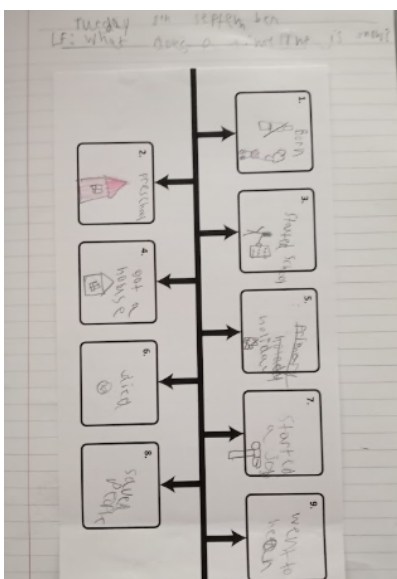
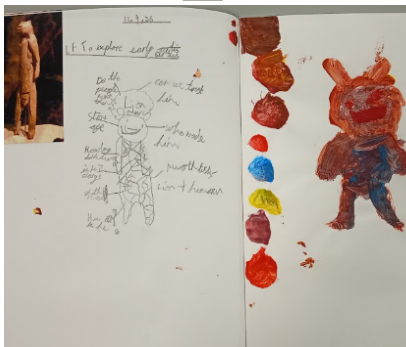
Art

In Art, Year 3 have made an exciting start to their new topic on **cave art**. The children learnt about the fascinating **Lion Man**, an ancient sculpture discovered in a cave, and explored how early humans created art using natural materials. They also experimented with the **three primary colours – red, yellow and blue – to mix different shades of brown**, ready to use in their own cave-inspired artwork!

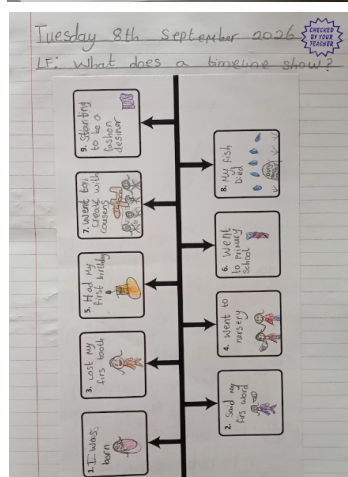
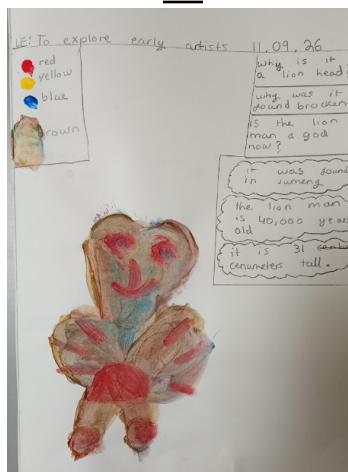
History

In History, Year 3 have begun their exciting topic all about the **Stone Age**! The children have been learning about **timelines** and how they help us understand when events happened in the past. To practise this, they created their own personal timelines, adding important events from their lives in chronological order.

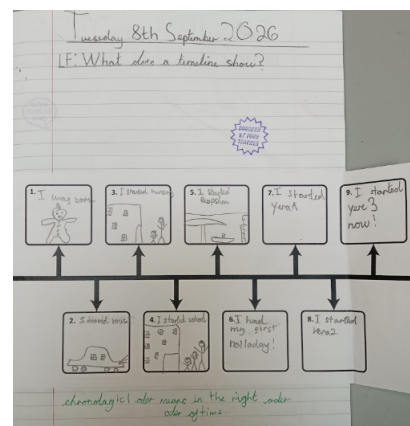
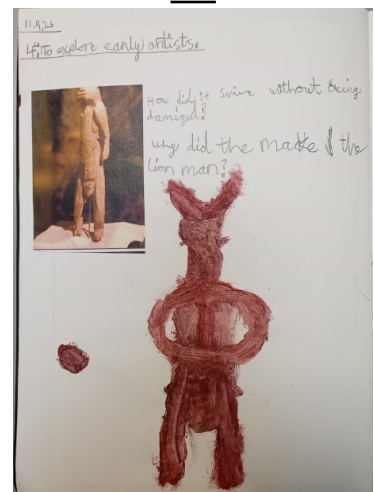
3B



3H



3M



Year 4 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

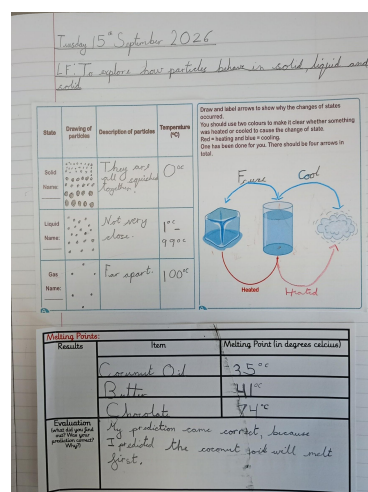
Welcome to Year 4! The children have settled in to their new academic year wonderfully well and are becoming increasingly confident with their new routines and expectations. We are very proud of how well they have adapted and delighted to see their enthusiasm, independence and positive attitude towards learning.

SCIENCE - States of Matter

In Science, the children have started their new topic of states of matter and how materials can change from one state to another. They enjoyed conducting an investigation to find the melting points of butter, coconut oil and chocolate. The children made careful observations, recorded their results and compared the temperatures at which each substance melted. They developed their understanding of fair testing and demonstrated great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the experiment.

ART - POP ART and Andy Warhol

In Art, we have been exploring Pop Art and the work of artist Andy Warhol. The children learned how Warhol used repetition and bold, vibrant colours to create eye-catching artwork. Inspired by his style, the children created their own template to repeat a doughnut image across the page. They then used their learning from last week of complementary colours to carefully select contrasting colour combinations, creating bright, playful and striking designs. The results were simply Pop-tastic!



Year 5 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

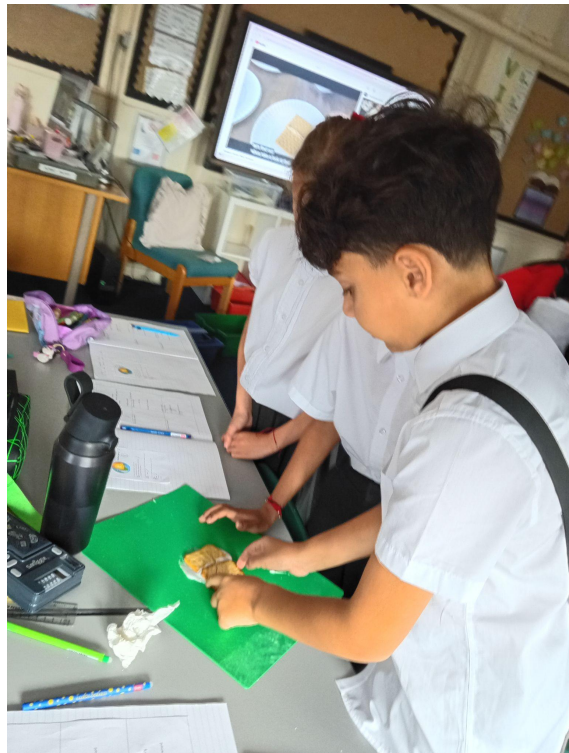
Year 5 is in full swing! We have started our class text- *Street Child*- and the children have been thrown in to the world of Victorian street children. The protagonist, Jim Jarvis, faces trials and tribulations, feels intense emotions and overcomes challenges all whilst on the run. The children will be continuing to read this for the next term.

Art- William Morris

In art, we have started learning about our artist for the term, William Morris. He focussed on nature in his art and created beautiful patterns on tapestries, wallpaper and other fabric- some of which are still used today. The children have started the unit by showing us their attempt at a William Morris print. As you can see, the children have created some impressive sketches.

Geography- Tectonic Plates

Year 5 have been learning about tectonic plates and how they move. This week, we investigated the different ways the tectonic plates move and the landforms they create. We used crackers as our tectonic plates and icing sugar as our magma! The children thoroughly enjoyed this practical activity and remained enthusiastic throughout.



Year 6 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

Welcome to what promises to be an exciting and memorable year in Year 6! We are thrilled to begin this final chapter of primary school with your children and look forward to supporting them as they grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Maths -Place value

In maths, Year 6 children investigated place value, each child rolled a dice seven times to create the largest possible seven-digit number using their understanding of place value.(the value of each digit shown in any number depends on its position)

P.E.- Health Related Exercise

In P.E., the children have started the unit of Health Related Exercise. Pupils recorded their scores, ready to compare them against their scores recorded at the end of the programme in week six. The aim of the unit is to develop children's understanding of aerobic fitness and how exercise affects our bodies.

Science- The Heart

As part of science learning, the children have been studying how the heart works as a powerful pump, transporting blood around the body to deliver oxygen and nutrients to every cell. To reinforce their understanding, the children used coloured playdough to model the different parts of the heart and labels were added to identify the different chambers and vessels.



PE, Sport and Physical Activity

It's been go go go for Year 5 and Year 6 in the first couple of weeks of this autumn term, with sports trials happening across the last two weeks. There has been an astounding amount of interest from the children which is really positive. After receiving the School Games Calendar, we have decided to focus on football, hockey, athletics and netball this term. This will be a combination of competitive and development inter-school events for selected children.

The events we are targeting this term are:

Y5/6 Boys Competitive Football Tournament
Y5/6 Boys Development Football Tournament
Y5/6 Girls Competitive Football Tournament
Y4/5/6 Girls Development Football Tournament
Y5/6 Hockey Competitive Hockey Tournament
Y5/6 X-Country Competitive Tournament
Y5/6 Indoor Athletics Festival
Y5/6 Netball Competitive Tournament

This is the number of children that attended our recent trials;

Boys Football - 58

Girls Football - 23

X-Country - 44

Hockey - 35

A great start to sport in school this year.



Calendar 2026 - 2027

Date	Event
Wed 23rd Sept	Reception Meet the Teacher presentation
Tues 6th Oct	Y4/5/6 Girls Development Football Tournament (selected only)
Tues 13th Oct	Flu Vaccinations Y5/6 Hockey Tournament FOGS Happy Circus Parent Coffee morning - 9am start
Wed 14th Oct	FOGS Happy Circus
Thurs 15th Oct	FOGS Happy Circus
Mon 19th Oct	Y6 PGL
Tues 20th Oct	Y5/6 Boys Development Football Tournament (selected only)
Fri 23rd Oct	Y6 PGL return
Mon 26th - 30th Oct	½ term break
Mon 2nd Nov	Professional Development Day - children are not in school
Tues 3rd Nov	Parent Consultations
Thurs 5th Nov	Parent Consultations
Mon 9th Nov	Boys Football Tournament (selected only)
Tues 10th Nov	Y5/6 Girls Football Tournament
Tues 17th Nov	Boys Football Tournament Flu vaccination catchup
Wed 18th Nov	Y5 visiting Gunnersbury Park Museum (2 classes)
Thurs 19th Nov	Y5 visiting Gunnersbury Park Museum (1 class)
Tues 24th Nov	Y5/6 Netball Tournament (selected only)
Wed 2nd Dec	Y4 Winter Concert at HEHS
Sat 5th Dec	FOGS Christmas Fair
Fri 18th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term - school closes at 2:30pm
21st Dec - 1st Jan	Christmas Break
Mon 4th Jan	Professional Development Day - children are not in school
Tues 5th Jan	First day of Spring Term - gates open at 8:30am
Tues 19th Jan	Y6 @ Wallace Collection (1 class)

Fri 22nd Jan

Y6 @ Wallace Collection (2 class)

Please note that all calendar dates are available on our website.