



GRIMSDYKE NEWSLETTER



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM *Mrs Bhudia*

Dear Parent,

I hope this week's newsletter finds you and your families well. As always, there has been lots happening across Grimsdyke, and I have plenty of exciting news, updates and reminders to share with you this week.

Individual School and Sibling Photos

A reminder that individual and sibling school photographs will be taking place on Tuesday 6th October.

Students are expected to wear the correct school uniform and school jumpers.

Children in Years 1 and 2 will still have PE on this day. However, please send your child to school wearing their full school uniform rather than their PE kit, so they are ready for their individual photograph. They should wear trainers that are suitable for a light PE lesson.



Celebrating Birthdays Safely at Grimsdyke

ALLERGY ALERT

Earlier this week, we shared a letter with all parents and carers outlining an important change to the way we celebrate birthdays at Grimsdyke. Following strengthened guidance for schools around allergy safety, including the wider changes linked to Benedict's Law, we will no longer be asking children to bring in food, sweets, cakes or other edible treats to share with their class.

We absolutely still want birthdays to feel special for our children and staff will continue to make sure that birthdays are recognised and celebrated in school. In the letter, we have suggested some optional alternatives for families who may wish to mark the occasion in a different way, such as donating a book, stickers, a small game or art materials for the class.

I would particularly like to emphasise that there is absolutely no expectation for parents or carers to send anything into school for a child's birthday. We know this can be expensive for some families and we would much rather families spend that money on their own child, a family celebration or a birthday party. Whether or not anything is brought into school, every child will still be made to feel special and celebrated by their class.

Please do take a few moments to read the full letter carefully, as this new approach will come into effect from Monday 5th October. This is an area we need to address promptly in order to ensure that our practice remains safe, inclusive and appropriate for all of our children.

Communication from School

Please remember to check your junk or spam email folders regularly. We have had a number of parents inform us that they have not received communications from year groups or individual members of staff, only to later find that messages or replies have been directed to their junk folder. This may include important updates or responses to queries you have raised with the school.

A gentle reminder to parents and carers that any communication for class teachers should be sent through the relevant year group email address rather than through Google Classroom. This helps us to ensure that messages are picked up and responded to appropriately, while keeping Google Classroom as a space specifically for pupils to access learning and home learning activities.

Ongoing communication

We recognise that Grimsdyke is a busy school and there is always a great deal taking place. To help keep families informed about upcoming events, reminders and school news, we use a number of different communication methods, including email, our newsletter, Instagram and the A-Frame displayed at the school entrance.

If you feel that you are not receiving information from the school, please contact the school office to check that the contact details we hold for you are correct. Keeping these details up to date not only supports effective communication between home and school, but is also essential should we need to contact you urgently or in an emergency.

Over the coming weeks, the school office may also contact some parents and carers where important information is missing from our records. This may include details such as your child's NHS number, GP information or emergency contact details. We would be very grateful for your prompt response if you are contacted, as maintaining accurate and complete records is an important part of keeping our students safe.



Class Representatives

Over the past two weeks, teachers have been discussing with their classes the different roles that students can play in the development of the school. Roles such as Student Councillor, Playground Pal, Reading Ambassador, Eco Warrior, Healthy School and Junior Travel Ambassadors all contribute to school life and provide great opportunities for student involvement.

In addition to this the Year Six students have all been presented with the opportunity to apply for a Prefect role. Year Six students have expressed an interest in these positions by completing a job application. We received an amazing response in the number of students applying for various roles including Headteacher Prefect, Senior Prefect, House Captain and Prefects. I look forward to presenting these badges to the students in an upcoming assembly.

Curriculum Information

To keep you further updated with the curriculum provision here at Grimsdyke School, we update and refresh the curriculum section of the school website regularly -

www.grimsdyke.harrow.sch.uk/curriculum

Some of the items you will find here include long term overviews, curriculum maps and the end of year expectations. All of these things are shared with you to give an indication of the content of the curriculum for the autumn term. This will also support the information that was shared with you at the recent Meet the Teacher meetings. The slides from these sessions have also been shared with parents from each year group.



FOGS – Happy Circus Event



We hope you have had the opportunity to purchase tickets for the upcoming Happy Circus event, organised by FOGS. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the circus to Grimsdyke during the week beginning 12th October and to what promises to be a fantastic event for our school community.

Events such as this are not only a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, but they also make a valuable contribution to the school. All funds raised by

FOGS are reinvested back into Grimsdyke and help us to purchase and improve resources and equipment that support the delivery of a broad, balanced and enriching curriculum for our pupils.

World Mental Health Day – Friday 9th October

9th October

world mental health day

What to do on 9th October

We invite all pupils to come to school wearing something yellow- it could be a scarf, a t-shirt, a pair of socks or even a small accessory. The most important thing is that we come together to:

- Show support for one another
- Spread positivity and kindness
- Raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing

In partnership with YOUNGMINDS

Why we're taking part

At Grimsdyke School, we know how important it is to look after our mental health and wellbeing. This World Mental Health Day, we're joining thousands of schools across the country in celebrating Hello Yellow Day - A chance to shine a light on the importance of mental health for every child.

People face mental health challenges. Let's break the stigma and support each other.

On Friday 9th October, we will be marking World Mental Health Day as a school community. This year, we are encouraging all pupils to come to school wearing something yellow. This could be as simple as a scarf, T-shirt, pair of socks or a small yellow accessory.

The day is a valuable opportunity to remind our children of the importance of looking after their mental health and wellbeing, showing kindness to others and knowing that it is always okay to ask for help or support.

We are proud to be taking part in Hello Yellow Day, in partnership with YoungMinds and hope that seeing the school filled with yellow will be a positive reminder that we all have a role to play in supporting one another.

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.



Finally, thank you for your continued support. It has been another busy and positive week at Grimsdyke, and I continue to be incredibly proud of the enthusiasm our children bring to school each day and the many ways in which they contribute to school life. We have lots to look forward to over the coming weeks and I hope you enjoy seeing some of these opportunities reflected throughout this newsletter.

I hope you and your families have a lovely and restful weekend. I look forward to seeing the children again on Monday for another exciting week at Grimsdyke.

Safeguarding update - Absences (Illness related)

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. Please see the poster below from the NHS regarding illness related absences and if your child should or should not attend school.

Is my child too ill for school?



Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Safeguarding update - Road Safety and School Streets



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.

*Look out
Be aware
Keep safe
Together* 



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 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.

Reception CURRICULUM IN ACTION

It has been another busy and exciting two weeks in Reception! The children have continued to settle into their new routines and school environment and have been working hard, showing lots of enthusiasm and curiosity in their learning.

In Maths, we have been learning to compare different amounts and objects using mathematical language such as longer and shorter and heavier and lighter. We have also been exploring and creating simple patterns, developing our ability to notice what comes next.

As part of our Communication and Language, we have continued to focus on friendship, sharing and turn-taking as the children develop positive relationships with their new classmates. We particularly enjoyed reading *Our Classroom Is a Family* by Shannon Olsen, which has helped us to think about what makes our classroom a happy, caring and supportive place to learn.

As part of physical development, children have been working very hard to develop their fine motor skills through our daily 'Funky Fingers' activities. These activities help to strengthen little fingers and hands, develop coordination and build the skills needed for confident handwriting.

As part of our Understanding the World learning, we have been exploring the seasons, with a particular focus on autumn. We have enjoyed going on autumn walks around our school environment, looking carefully at the changes happening around us and collecting beautiful autumn leaves. The children loved talking about the different colours, shapes and sizes they discovered.

We also celebrated Harvest Day, which was great fun! The children came to school dressed as farmers, scarecrows or in beautiful autumnal colours, helping to create a wonderful autumn atmosphere. We also enjoyed some special baking and made delicious hedgehog-shaped bread. The children worked together to make their hedgehogs topped with delicious raisins and are very excited to bring them home today for you all to enjoy as a family!

We are incredibly proud of how well the children are settling into school life and of all the wonderful learning and experiences they have enjoyed so far. We look forward to seeing their confidence, friendships and independence continue to grow over the coming weeks!



Year 1 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

In history, children have been looking at houses from different time periods. We went on a local walk to look at features of houses. Maybe when you are out and about, you can ask your child to point out a detached house, semi - detached house, terraced house, flat, bungalow etc.



We have been learning about the 5 animal groups; mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. We sorted animals into these 5 groups

In R.E we are learning about special buildings and the focus this week was the Sikh Gurdwara. We got together in groups and pretended to be in the 'Langar Hall' that you would find in a Gurdwara. A Langar is where a meal is shared by all who visit the Gurdwara. Everyone removes their shoes and sits to eat at an equal level on the floor. We practised sharing and thinking of others. We demonstrated community, equality and kindness.



Year 2 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

The children have worked extremely hard during their first few weeks in Year 2 and have made a very positive start to the new academic year. We have continued our learning about famous people, and it has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and curiosity as they learn about a range of influential individuals.

In **English**, we have continued to develop our understanding of diary entries, focusing on the key features and language used when writing from a person's perspective. The children have also explored role play to help them develop their understanding of different characters, experiences and perspectives, which they will then use to support their writing.

In **History**, the children have been learning about famous athletes throughout history, exploring their achievements and contributions to sport. They have also been developing their historical research skills by using Chromebooks and a variety of research strategies to find, select and record relevant information. The children have learned about famous inventors, such as the Wright brothers, their inventions and the significant contributions they have made to our everyday lives. To further develop their understanding, the children designed, made, tested and evaluated their own aeroplanes, applying their creativity and problem-solving skills throughout the process.

In **Art**, the children have been developing their understanding of perspective and experimenting with colour mixing. This week, they applied their knowledge of primary and secondary colours to create artwork that represents different emotions.

In **Science**, the children have been learning about microhabitats. The children also designed their own microhabitats, applying their understanding of what living things need to survive.

In **Computing**, we have been learning about the technology we use in our everyday lives and exploring the different ways in which technology can support and assist us.

What a fantastic few weeks of learning, exploring and discovering! We are incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm, creativity and hard work, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow, learn and shine as the year progresses!





Year 3 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

Art - Stone Age Art

In Year 3, we have been developing our sketching techniques to create detailed drawings of a woolly mammoth skeleton. We looked closely at its anatomy, exploring the structure of its bones, enormous tusks and distinctive skull. Using careful observation, we practised drawing shapes, proportions and adding detail to bring our prehistoric subject to life. The children have shown fantastic focus and creativity in their artwork!

3B


Lucian



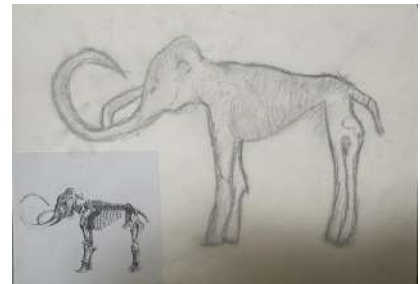
Ethan

3H


Noah



Arion

3M


Lara



Yash

Science - Rocks and Soils

In Science, we have been investigating how water can affect different types of rocks through the process of weathering. We submerged a variety of rocks in water and carefully observed any changes, measuring their weight before and after. We discovered that the sedimentary rock, chalk, increased in weight after being submerged! This hands-on investigation helped us develop our scientific enquiry skills and deepen our understanding of how rocks change over time.

Rock	Mass of rock	Mass in water	What happened?
Granite	11.5g	10.5g	1g
Chalk	14g	15g	1g
Coal	4g	1.5g	2.5g

Reyansh - 3B

Rock	Mass of rock	Mass in water	What happened?
Granite	55g	40g	15g
Chalk	21g	20g	100 changes
Coal	5.2g	6.3g	1.1g

Ruhi - 3H

Rock	Mass of rock	Mass in water	What happened?
Granite	110g	90g	20g
Chalk	31g	32g	29g
Coal	52g	60g	8g

Arwa - 3M



Year 4 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

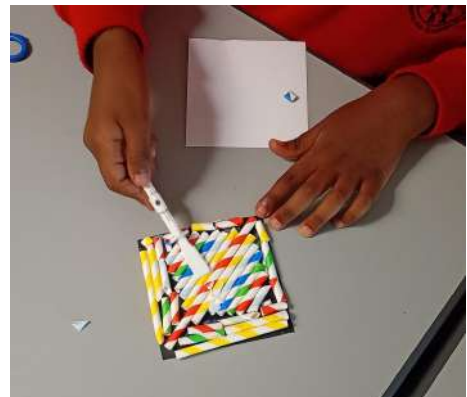
MATHS - Place Value, Addition and Subtraction

In Maths, year 4 children have been recapping and developing their understanding of place value using place value charts and counters during their practical lesson this week.

They created their own 4-digit numbers and then explored adding and subtracting 1, 10, 100 and 1,000. We discovered that we needed to exchange when a column gained 10 or more counters.

ART - POP ART and Marta Minujin

In Art, we have been exploring Pop Art and the vibrant, playful work of Argentine artist Marta Minujin. The children were inspired by her colourful, energetic creations and her use of everyday materials to create exciting works of art. They used colourful straws to make their own Pop Art-inspired pieces, carefully placing the straws in different directions and thinking about how their choices of colour, shape and placement could create interesting patterns and designs. The children experimented with repetition and bold colours to create bright, playful and eye-catching artworks inspired by Minujin's imaginative style. The results were wonderfully vibrant and full of creativity!



Year 6 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

Reading

Year 6 children are enjoying regular visits to the library, where they are developing a sustained interest in reading and exploring a broad range of books. The sessions promote a love for reading by encouraging curiosity, thoughtful engagement and personal choice. They are strengthening their confidence as readers and recognising the importance of reading for both enjoyment and learning.

Art

In art, the children have started a still life unit. They began by examining the work of different artists, considering how each artist represented form, colour, shape and detail. They studied Vincent van Gogh's *Sunflowers* and produced their own versions using all pastels. Following this observational activity, the children drew their own flowers, making individual decisions about composition and appearance.

Science

In science, children investigated the composition of blood and the functions of the cells within the blood. Using their mathematical knowledge, they were able to create a pie chart to explain the composition of the blood.



PE, Sport and Physical Activity



Captains Selected

Last week, our football captains were selected to represent both the boys and girls teams for the season ahead. Congratulations to Elissia and Zane who were chosen for their sportsmanship, teamwork, encouragement, fairness and honesty. They will have the chance to lead their teams for the first time at the Barnet Cup tournaments after half term.

The following children were also selected to represent the school as part of the squads;

Y5/6 Competitive Team - Ammar, Maayan, Shaarav, Yoel, Hussainali, Tom, Dylan, Martin, Theo, Ibrahim, Avir and Reyaan

Y5 Boys Development Team - Tristan, Anthony, James, Coen, Kaiyen, Ali, Dhian, Sami, Rohan and Lemar.

Y6 Boys Development Team - Zeki, Ismail, Shiven, Aaran, Imran, Kanish, Haris, Dion and Arthur.

Y5/6 Girls Development Team - Zahra, Maria, Safiya, Ava, Sara, Umika, Neda, Pransi and Anaisha.

Congratulations to all of the children who have been selected!

Calendar 2026 - 2027

Date	Event
Tues 6th Oct	Y4/5/6 Girls Development Football Tournament (selected only)
Friday 9th Oct	'Hello Yellow Day' - wear something additional that is yellow
Monday 12th Oct	Y2 CREW - Florence & Mary - famous people dress up day
Tues 13th Oct	Parent Coffee Morning - sleep & screen time - 9am Flu Vaccinations Y5/6 Hockey Tournament FOGS Happy Circus
Wed 14th Oct	FOGS Happy Circus
Thurs 15th Oct	FOGS Happy Circus
Mon 19th Oct	Y6 PGL - wave off by 9:20am
Tues 20th Oct	Y5/6 Boys Development Football Tournament (selected only) Y4 Science Boffins Y3 CREW - Stone Age
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
Tues 10th Nov	Y5/6 Girls Football Tournament (selected only)
Fri 13th Nov	FOGS Non-uniform Day - bring a gift for the tombola
Tues 17th Nov	Boys Football Tournament Flu vaccination catchup
Wed 18th Nov	Y5 visiting Gunnersbury Park Museum (5J & 5R)
Thurs 19th Nov	Y5 visiting Gunnersbury Park Museum (5M class)
Fri 20th Nov	FOGS Non-uniform Day - bring a teddy for the teddy tombola
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

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