GRIMSDYKE NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM *Mrs Bhudia*

Dear Parents,

What a busy half term it has been! Our Year 6 pupils have returned from their PGL residential full of excitement and stories to share. It was a hugely successful trip, filled with teamwork, resilience and plenty of laughter. We are immensely proud of the personal growth and confidence they have shown throughout the experience.

As we settle into the second half of the Autumn Term and the colder winter months approach, we are reminded that this can often feel like the longest term of the academic year. With temperatures beginning to drop, we kindly ask that all pupils come to school wearing their full winter uniform, including a warm coat, to ensure they are comfortable and well protected during outdoor playtimes and breaks. Please also ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled, as this makes it much easier for us to reunite misplaced belongings with their owners. Our lost property pile is beginning to grow quite rapidly and we are unable to return items without a name!



Remembrance Day Observance



Next week, we will be coming together as a whole school on the Junior Playground to mark Remembrance Day. This will be an opportunity for our pupils and staff to pause, reflect and remember those who have served and sacrificed their lives.

In the lead-up to our observance, we will be selling poppies on **Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November** for any pupils or families who would like to make a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. **Please note that donations will be cash only.**

Poppies are also available from many local shops and businesses if you are unable to purchase one at school in the mornings.



FOGS Christmas Fair – Saturday 5th December

Make sure you save the date for our much-loved annual FOGS Christmas Fair! Preparations are already underway and we are looking forward to another wonderful event bringing our school community together.

The Christmas Fair is not only a fantastic opportunity for families to come together and enjoy the festive spirit, but also a great way to support our school. The funds raised by FOGS directly benefit our pupils and we are incredibly grateful for the many resources, experiences and improvements they have generously funded across the school.

Tokens and tickets for this event will be on sale in the carpark each day of the week in the lead up to the fair. We hope to see as many of you there as possible to support this fantastic event!

Christmas Competitions

We have some exciting Christmas competitions for our pupils to get involved in this year! First, we have our **Christmas Ticket Design Competition**, followed by our ever-popular **Christmas Jolly Jars Competition**.

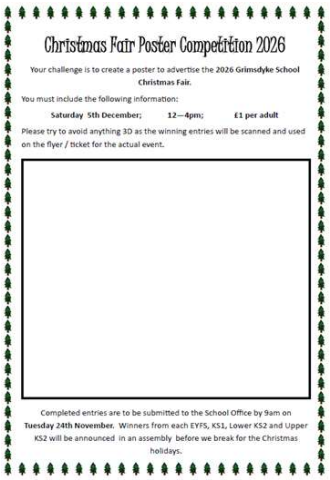
We would love to see even more Jolly Jars this year! To help inspire some creative ideas, we have included examples from previous years below. I am really looking forward to seeing all the wonderful creations and having the difficult task of judging the entries!





Competition Deadlines:

- **Christmas Ticket Design Competition – Tuesday 24th November**
- **Christmas Jolly Jars Competition – Tuesday 1st December**



FOGS will also be sharing further details about **The Great Grimsdyke Bake Off**, which will take place at the Christmas Fair itself. Both adults and children are welcome to enter, with entries judged in separate categories. Whether you are an experienced baker or simply enjoy getting creative in the kitchen, we would love to see you take part!

Please keep an eye out for further information from FOGS about how to enter.

Christmas Raffle

Yet again this includes some amazing prizes – ticket stubs have already been flowing into the School Office ready for the raffle barrel. We have lots more ticket books available if your child has already sold their first allocation. There is a prize for the most tickets sold in Rec/KS1 and a prize for the most sold in KS2.

Non-Uniform Days – Friday 13th and Friday 20th November

To support our upcoming FOGS Christmas Fair, we have two non-uniform days planned, and we would be grateful for your support in helping to make some of our most popular stalls a success!

Friday 13th November – Christmas Fair Tombola Donations

Our first non-uniform day will help us gather donations for one of the most popular stalls at the Christmas Fair, which, alongside the food stalls, always seems to attract one of the longest queues!

In exchange for wearing their own clothes, we kindly ask pupils to bring in a suitable Tombola donation for the stall or a gold coin contribution. The FOGS team will be waiting in the school car park in the morning to collect your generous donations.

Friday 20th November – Teddy Tombola Donations

Our second non-uniform day will be in support of the ever-popular Teddy Tombola! If you have any soft toys or cuddly friends at home that are in good, clean condition and ready for a new home, we would love you to donate them.

The FOGS team will once again be in the school car park in the morning to collect your donations. You can also make a gold coin contribution.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and continued support. These contributions make such a difference to the success of our Christmas Fair!

Christmas Pantomime – Exciting News!



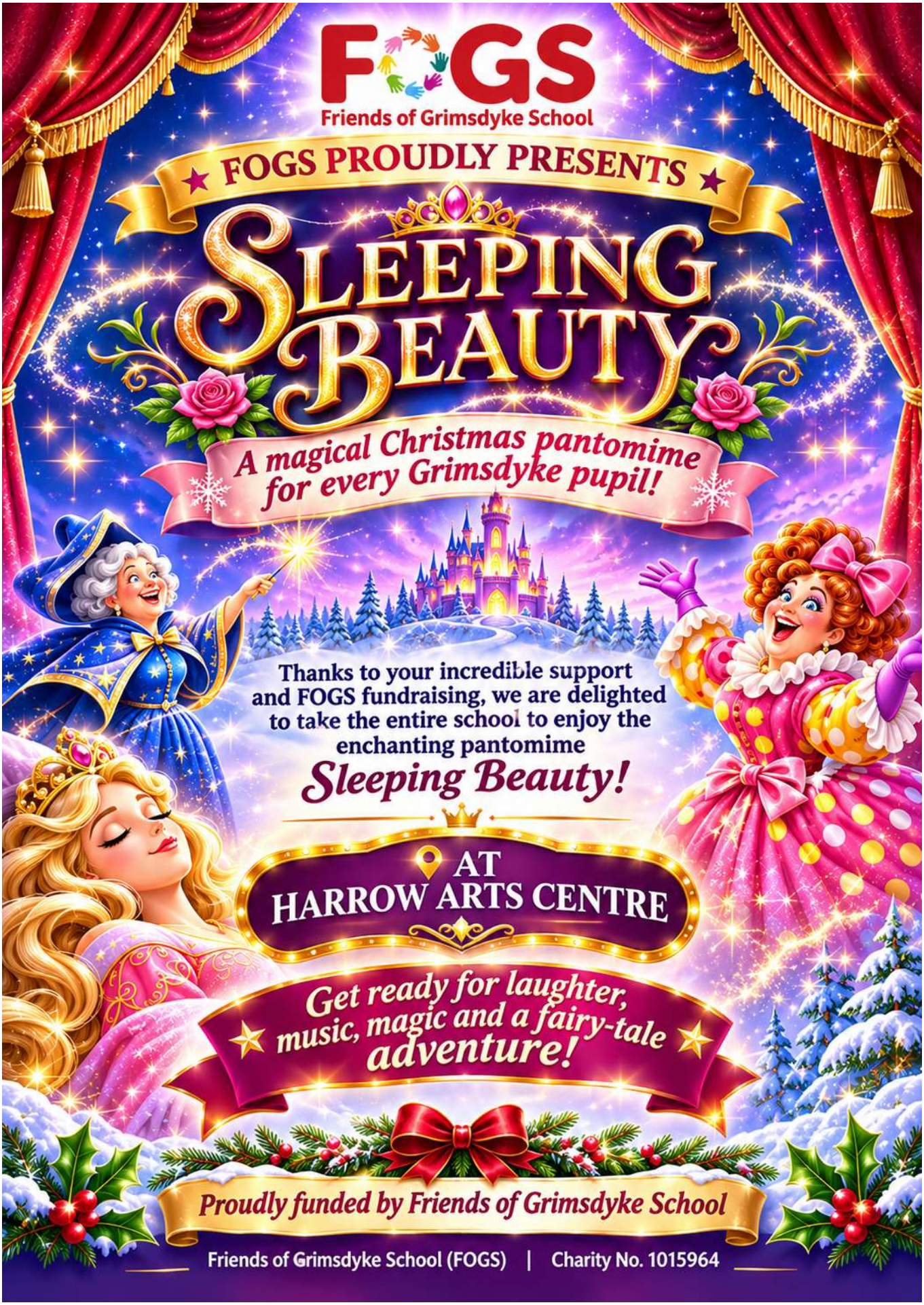
We are absolutely delighted to share that all of our pupils will be attending the **'Sleeping Beauty'** pantomime a**t Harrow Arts Centre** this Christmas!

Thanks to the incredible generosity and continued support of **FOGS**, this wonderful festive experience will be fully funded, meaning there will be no cost to parents.

We are extremely grateful to FOGS and to all our families who support their fundraising events throughout the year. This is a fantastic example of how the money raised directly benefits every child in our school, creating memorable experiences and opportunities for all.

Please keep an eye on our school calendar for details of when each year group will be attending. We are sure the children will have a magical time!

FOGS
Friends of Grimsdyke School


FOGS
Friends of Grimsdyke School
FOGS PROUDLY PRESENTS
SLEEPING BEAUTY
A magical Christmas pantomime for every Grimsdyke pupil!
Thanks to your incredible support and FOGS fundraising, we are delighted to take the entire school to enjoy the enchanting pantomime
Sleeping Beauty!
AT HARROW ARTS CENTRE
Get ready for laughter, music, magic and a fairy-tale adventure!
Proudly funded by Friends of Grimsdyke School
Friends of Grimsdyke School (FOGS) | Charity No. 1015964


FOGS
Friends of Grimsdyke School
SANTA'S GROTTO
Parents / Guardians of Students at Grimsdyke School!
Ho Ho Ho!
It's me, Santa Claus!
By invitation of my little FOGS Elves,
I'm coming to Grimsdyke School
on Saturday 5th December 2026
12pm – 4pm
Meet Santa and share your wishes!
Receive a special wrapped gift to take home!
Take a snap in our magical Grotto!
SANTA
THIS WAY
BOOK YOUR CHILD'S TIMESLOT
Please book via the PTA website (or scan the QR code) to secure your visit and avoid the North Pole Rush!
I can't wait to see you all!
From Santa
£3.75
http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofgrimsdyke | Charity No: 1015964

We need your help...

As we embark on an exciting new project, we need your help to bring it to life. We are reaching out to request donations of small items like bottle tops, buttons, beads, and other similar materials, particularly in shades of green. These items will be essential in crafting a vibrant and eco-friendly artwork that embodies our collective creativity and commitment to sustainability.

Why green, you ask? Green symbolizes growth, renewal, and harmony with nature—qualities we cherish and aspire to reflect in our project.

Please drop any contributions in to the collection boxes in 5J.

Thank you,
Mrs Joanides and Miss Maugi

Reception CURRICULUM IN ACTION

The Reception children have certainly returned to school with a BANG! It has been a very busy and exciting time, filled with lots of fun, creativity and learning.

We have been celebrating **Diwali, the Festival of Light**, and learning about the story of Rama and Sita and the evil Ravana. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting creative, using clay and paper plates to make their own colourful divas.

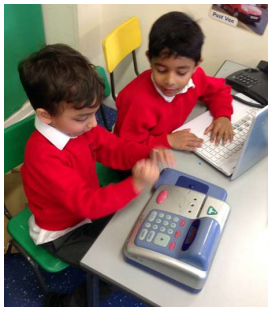
We also explored **Bonfire Night**, learning about the history behind the celebration. The children used a variety of materials and resources to create their own fantastic firework and bonfire pictures. We also discussed the importance of firework safety and how to keep ourselves safe during the celebrations.

In **Maths**, our focus has been on positional language. The children had great fun using a teddy bear and positioning it in different places around the Reception classroom. We practised using key vocabulary such as *over, under, next to, in* and *in front of*.

In **Phonics**, we have been learning the sounds **ll, ss and ff**. The children have also started reading their Little Wandle reading books, which will be coming home with them this week. We are so excited to see their reading skills continue to develop!

Finally, it has been an absolute pleasure taking the time to speak with Reception parents this week during parent meetings. All the Reception staff are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into school. They have adapted beautifully to their new routines, formed lovely friendships and made so much progress since starting in September.

Thank you for your continued support and for working in partnership with us. We are so proud of our Reception children and look forward to all the exciting learning and adventures still to come!

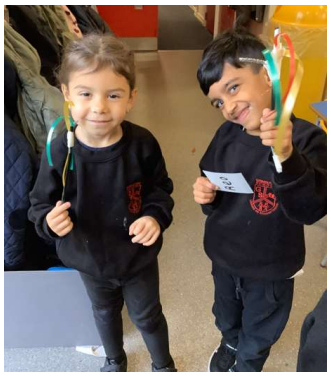


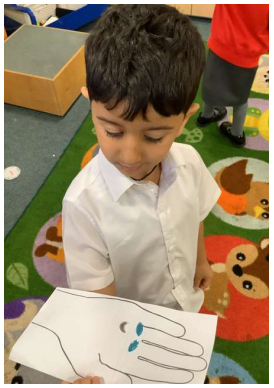








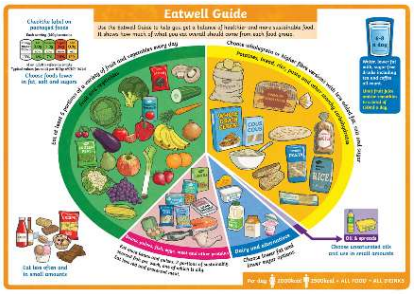


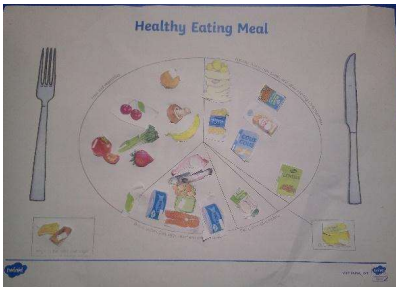
Make a rang
Pattern
Diwali Rangoli Patterns

Year 1 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

Welcome back! This half term our topic is **'Bright Sparks'.** We have been discussing this phrase and what it means. It could mean someone who is clever or has a good idea. We will also be thinking about all the celebrations and festivals that include 'sparks'; Hanukkah, Diwali, Eid, Halloween, Bonfire night, Christmas as well as candles on our birthday cakes!
We have started the week with our focus text, 'How to catch a Star', by Oliver Jeffers. The children will be writing instructions for how to catch a star but before the children sit down to write their own creative instructions, they will participate in **oracy sessions -** structured discussions, designed to build their confidence, vocabulary, and speaking skills. By talking through their ideas in groups first, children can more easily organise their thoughts when they pick up a pencil to write their final instructions for how to catch a star. We hope there will be many 'Bright Sparks' in the classroom, sharing their clever ideas!

We have started a new Design Technology unit called, 'Food, Glorious Food'. This week we have been working in small groups to sort and classify foods into the different nutritional groups. We will also be thinking about where food comes from and if it is grown, caught or produced. Please have a discussion about the food you eat at dinner together. Can you work out which nutritional groups you are including?





1D





1M





1K





Year 2 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

As we reach the end of our first half term, we can look back on a wonderful few weeks filled with new knowledge, exciting experiences and lots of learning! The children have worked incredibly hard and have made a fantastic start to the school year.

In **Science**, the children have been exploring the topic of **Living Things and Their Habitats**, developing their understanding of different living organisms and the environments in which they live.

In **English**, we have completed our Famous People topic. To consolidate their learning, the children have explored different types of protest, created posters and taken part in a peaceful protest within the school. In addition, we have been developing our understanding of adjectives and verbs, while continuing to strengthen our punctuation skills. The children have also been learning how and when to use question marks correctly in their writing.

In **Maths**, we have successfully completed our first unit, **Place Value.** The children have worked hard to develop their understanding of number value and have applied their knowledge of place value and number facts to solve a range of mathematical problems.

We hope you all had a lovely and relaxing half-term break and enjoyed some special time together.

It was also lovely to meet so many parents during this week's parent consultations. **Thank you** for taking the time to attend and share conversations about your child's settling in year 2 and their learning. We hope you found the sessions useful, informative, and that they provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements and discuss their next steps.

As we begin the new half term, we are excited to introduce our new topic, **The Great Fire of London.** The children have already shown great enthusiasm and curiosity about this fascinating period in history. Throughout the topic, we will explore the events of 1666, develop our understanding of what life was like in London at the time, and use our historical learning to inspire a range of reading and writing activities. We look forward to an engaging and enriching half term ahead!





Year 3 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

Stone Age Day

Year 3 had a fantastic time stepping back in time for our Stone Age theme day! The children enjoyed an exciting workshop, creating their own cave art and taking part in a range of fun Stone Age activities. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity as they learned more about life in the Stone Age.

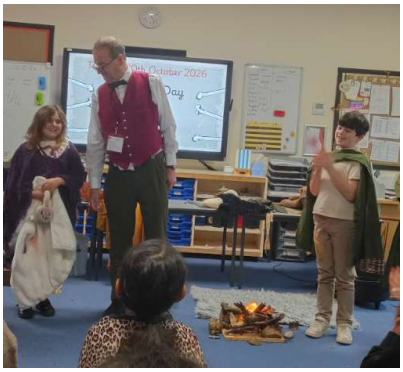
A big thank you to all our parents and carers for the fantastic effort with the children's outfits – they looked brilliant and really helped bring the day to life!







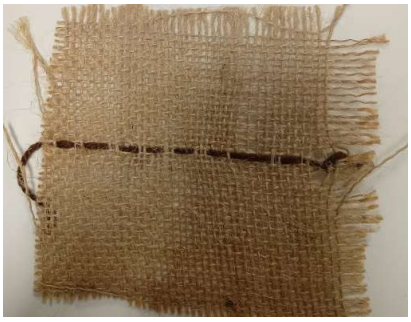




DT - Sewing

Year 3 have been developing their sewing skills and enjoyed their introduction to this new and exciting technique. The children showed great perseverance and patience as they learnt how to thread a needle and practised creating a running stitch. We were so impressed with how well they did, especially when tackling something that was completely new to many of them. Well done, Year 3!

3B



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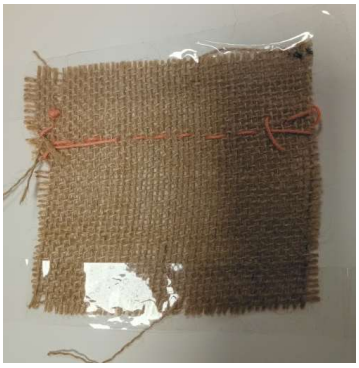

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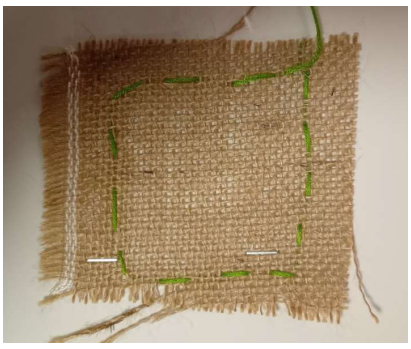

Cairo

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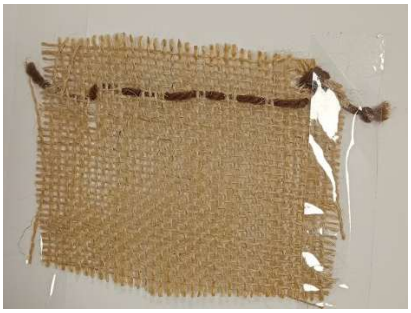


Rayan



Selina



Ruqayyah

Year 4 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

SCIENCE - States of Matter

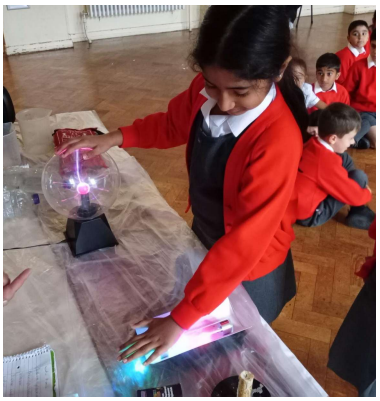
Just before the end of last half-term, Year 4 were lucky enough to take part in an exciting and entertaining Science Boffins workshop. The session was closely linked to our learning about the states of matter and gave the children a fantastic opportunity to see science brought to life through a series of spectacular demonstrations. We were wowed by dry ice burps, giant bubbles and impressive fire extinguisher experiments, all of which helped us explore how materials behave and change. The children were amazed by the different scientific effects and thoroughly enjoyed getting involved. The highlight for many was creating a giant cloud and having the opportunity to sit right in the middle of it! It was a superb hands-on experience that sparked curiosity, encouraged lots of questions and brought our classroom learning to life.

HISTORY - Anglo Saxons and Vikings

Two workshops in two weeks! We also had the privilege of a fantastic CREW workshop this week. This explored Anglo-Saxon and Viking history, beginning with the departure of the Romans from Britain and the period known as the Dark Ages. We learned about how people lived, including their homes, settlements, farming and cooking. We explored social hierarchy, kingdoms and the arrival of invaders from Northern Europe and Scandinavia. The story of King Arthur was also discussed. Practical activities included weaving and learning about Viking attacking formations, helping us to understand everyday life, traditions and warfare during this fascinating, yet blood-thirsty, period.













Year 5 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

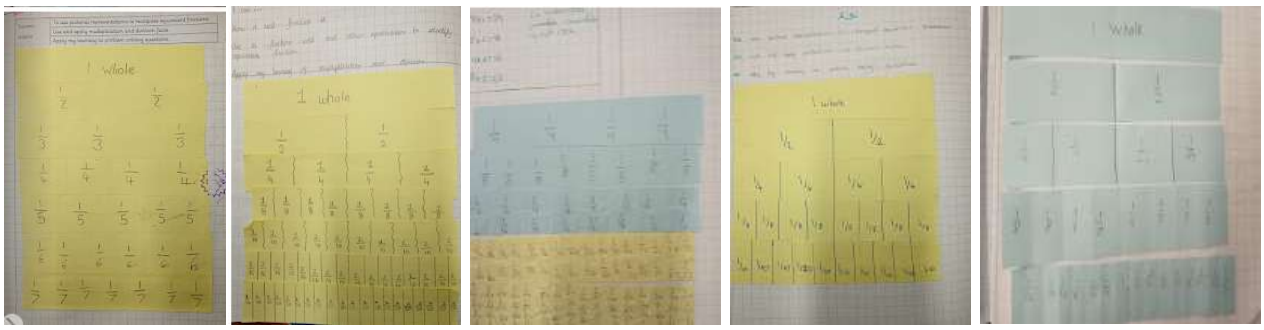
English

This week in English, Year 5 have been exploring the creative art of blackout poetry. The children began by learning about the key features of blackout poetry and how writers can select and highlight particular words from an existing text to create a completely new piece of writing. To develop their understanding, the children explored famous war poetry, including *Dulce et Decorum Est* by Wilfred Owen, considering how poets use language to convey the emotions and experiences of war. Finally, the children put their learning into practice by using an extract from *Private Peaceful* to create their own blackout war poems.They carefully selected words and phrases to produce powerful and thought-provoking pieces of poetry. We have been incredibly impressed with their creativity and thoughtful word choices!



Maths

This week in Maths, Year 5 have started their new topic on Fractions. We began by exploring equivalent fractions, learning how different fractions can represent the same amount. To introduce the topic, the children enjoyed making their own fraction walls, which helped them to visualise and compare fractions. They used these to identify equivalent fractions and develop their understanding of how fractions relate to one another. The children have made a fantastic start to the new topic, and we look forward to building on this learning in the coming weeks.



Year 6 CURRICULUM IN ACTION

The children recently visited PGL, taking part in activities that challenged and engaged them. They enjoyed the experience while developing teamwork, communication, problem-solving and practical skills. Working collaboratively, they approached unfamiliar tasks, made decisions and supported one another. The activities encouraged curiosity, independence, resilience and perseverance, while helping them recognise their personal strengths and develop greater self-confidence. The visit provided valuable opportunities to learn beyond the classroom and strengthened skills that will support the children's personal development and future learning.



During Activity Week, the children participated in a varied programme designed to promote creativity, collaboration and resilience. They designed and made tote bags, applying planning and practical skills throughout the process. They also enjoyed taking part in different sports, where they developed their coordination and demonstrated teamwork. In addition, the children made pizza, engaging positively with the practical steps involved, and watched a movie together. Across the week, they used teamwork and perseverance when completing activities, supporting one another and responding constructively to challenges. The range of experiences provided opportunities for the children to develop confidence, cooperation and practical skills in an engaging setting



PE, Sport and Physical Activity





The Y5/6 competitive girls football squad had a friendly match this week against Cannon Lane. The team played a 40 minute match with all players receiving at least 20 minutes playing time. It was a good experience for the girls and useful to knock off some rust before their tournament next week. The game ended up as a 6-4 win for Grimsdyke with Deeva scoring 4 goals. Well done team and good luck next week!

Calendar 2026 - 2027

Date	Event
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 (Selected only) Flu vaccination catchup Band Festival (Selected only)
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
Mon 23rd Nov	Y5/Y6 Cross Country - (Selected only)
Tues 24th Nov	Y5/6 Netball Tournament (Selected only)
Thurs 26th Nov	Battle Of Britain (2 Classes)
Fri 27th Nov	Battle Of Britain (1 Class)
Wed 2nd Dec	Y4 Winter Concert at HEHS
Thurs 3rd Dec	Y2 Crew - Great Fire of London Y5 - Victorian Theme Day
Sat 5th Dec	FOGS Christmas Fair
Fri 18th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term - school closes at 2:30pm. No clubs running.
21st Dec- 3rd Jan	Christmas Break
Mon 4th Jan	Professional Development Day (Children NOT in School)
Tue 5th Jan	Back to School
Tue 19th Jan	Y6 Wallace Museum (1 Class)
Fri 22nd Jan	Y6 Wallace Museum (2 Classes)

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