



Grange Park Junior School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last couple of weeks are the best time to work in a school. It is such a privilege to see the children enjoying the fun and festivities that come at this time of the year. The children enjoyed the Panto that visited them this year—Aladdin. We also hope the children enjoyed their Christmas Dinner and wearing their festive, favourite jumpers on the day too.



We were also able to visit St Nicolas Church on Rayton Drive to present our festive concert. It was beautifully delivered and the children worked so hard to prepare for the occasion. It was a wonderful celebration of world songs. A huge thanks to Mrs Ramtohul—Butler for organising all of our Christmas events.



It has been a very rewarding first term for me here. I wish everyone a wonderful break and all the best for the new year. Thank you for all the gifts that the staff have received. We do not expect presents, but your generosity is much appreciated. For those who celebrate Christmas I hope the period is a joyous one. I look forward to seeing all of the children on Monday 8th January 2024!

Equality

Last term, we celebrated Interfaith week and it has been disappointing with the recent increase of use of racist language between the children. Grange Park Junior School will not tolerate the use of racist language and we are reviewing our behaviour policy to ensure that the severity of children using racist language is reflected in our policy and procedures.



In assembly, we reflected on the passing of the poet— Benjamin Zephaniah, who used his poetry, music and stories to promote equality for all.

Please ensure that you are aware of the materials that your children are looking at online and language that they are coming across on Social Media and that it does not promote derogatory or racist language.



Parental Survey—We need you and your views!

Please could you fill out the following Parental Survey, to help us plan what we need to do to improve the outcomes for our pupils. We have added extra information to support you in answering the questions. We kindly ask that you complete this survey by Friday 12th January 2024.

Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/2avtdj9Uv8BKBkgR8>

Here is the QR code:



Holiday Activities and Food Programme

HAF programme is open to school-aged children (reception to year 11) who receive benefits-related free school meals. The winter programme will be delivered from **Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 January**.

The programme consists of healthy food and fun activities, children and young people can develop new skills, take part in creative and physical activities, learn about food and cooking, and enjoy free nutritious meals each day.

Please click the link below to see if you are eligible and for a list of the activities

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/haf-parents>

Other Local News

Household Support Fund

This grant is to support low-income households with the cost of food, utilities and related costs (and essential goods, in exceptional circumstances). Please see Household Support Fund - Hillingdon Council for full details.

Winter Holidays Activities & Food Programme

The HAF winter programme will be delivered from Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th January 2024. The programme is open to school-aged children (reception to year 11) who receive benefits-related free school meals.



Trips and Visits

Year 5—Mosque Visit

As part of their learning in R.E, year 5 had an opportunity to visit Quba mosque in our local community. The children were able to explore the different floors of the mosque and have a look at the features of the mosque in person. They also participated in an educational Q&A session with the imam of the mosque and were able to ask questions in relation to their learning about the 5 pillars of Islam.



Year 4 - History Roman Workshop

Year 4 had a fantastic time learning more about the Roman invasion of Britain through drama and acting. The children found the workshop really engaging and actively participated in the activities.

Asad - I found it really enjoyable and liked making Hadrian's wall by joining hands with my classmates.



Sahibnoor - We learnt lots of facts about the Romans and I had fun doing lots of acting.

Year 3—Gunnersbury Park

On Friday 8th December 2023, Year 3 had the most fantastic time at Gunnersbury Park and Museum. This trip linked in with their learning of the Stone Age. They had the opportunity to experience life as hunter-gatherers and early farmers. In this creative outdoor learning experience, Year 3 pupils discovered the types of tools and materials used by Stone Age people. They observed original and replica prehistoric artefacts from the museum collections. Outside in the park, they built shelters and tried their hand at wattle and daub.

At Gunnersbury Park, my favourite part was when we were hunting the wild boar. We also looked at a fossil which belonged to a woolly mammoth. Mohammad, Ash class

Gunnersbury park was fun, my favourite part was looking around the museum and fossils. Amelia, Elm class





Calendar dates 2024

Coffee Mornings: *details are available on an attachment sent with this newsletter.*

- Tuesday 9th January, 9am to 10am - Attendance
- Tuesday 16th January, 9am to 10am—Maths
- Tuesday 23rd January, 9am to 10am—E-Safety
- Tuesday 30th January, 9am to 10am -PSHE & Relationships & Sex Education (RSE)
- Tuesday 6th February, 9am to 10am -Multiplication Tables Check (Year 4)



Maths Trips

Tescos

Some of our children had an enjoyable and rewarding day at Tescos on Glencoe Road. During this visit, children had a great experience exploring the shop, looking at the labels, price tags, measurements units, preparing shopping list and making a budget. This maths workshop also included a competition and prizes for winners.



A.I.M.S High

Some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children were selected for the A.I.M (Achieve, Inspire, Master) Maths Day presented by Authors Abroad and Heathrow Primary School.

Selected children had the opportunity to work with one of the UK's leading Maths specialists, Jean Knapp! The main aim of this workshop was to use reasoning in deep mathematical ways to solve exciting problems and mysteries. We were very proud to see our children's enthusiasm, confidence and participation. We won 7 prizes out of the 12 that were available to win! Well done to all the children involved and thank you to Mrs Kumar for arranging both of the visits.





Governor Update

It is with great sadness that Graham Wells has stepped down as Chair of the Governing Board. He has been Chair of Governors for over 9 years and his commitment and dedication have been invaluable through recent times, such as Covid and changes within the leadership structure. I have only known him for a short time, but his integrity, knowledge and above all kindness that he brings to role will be missed. We are pleased to say that he will remain on the Governing board and we welcome Natalie Hobkirk as our new Chair of Governors and we wish her every success in supporting the school on its exciting new journey.

Attendance



Welcome to
Graham Park Junior School
 Leaders of tomorrow

Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters
 Remember Absence = Lost Learning Opportunity

Punctuality

Please ensure you leave home in plenty of time for your child to arrive at their allocated start time.

Illness

If your child is sick please make sure you call us promptly by 8.30am to speak to the Admissions Manager, Mrs Phull on Tel: 020 8353 4265

Please also note if your child is sick with vomiting or diarrhoea, he/she will need to **remain at home for 48 hours** from the last episode. This is a health and safety requirement to ensure it does not spread around the school.

Evidence must be provided prior to all types of appointments eg; Doctor, Dentist, Hospital or any other appointment, however if the appointment is an emergency, including visiting A & E, please make sure you acquire an appointment card/letter for your child's school records.

Exceptional Leave During Term Time

Taking holidays in term time will affect your child's schooling as much as any other absence and we expect parents to help us by not taking children away in school time. Remember that any savings you think you may make by taking a holiday in school time are offset by the cost to your child's education. There is no automatic entitlement in law to time off in school time to go on holiday. The Participation Officer, Children and Young Peoples Directorate can issue Penalty Notices for any unauthorised absence. Penalty Notices can be issued to each parent/carer concerned and for each child's absence (currently £60 rising to £120 if unpaid after 21 days. If unpaid after 28 days a summons to Court will be issued for each unpaid Penalty Notice). If unauthorised leave is repeated the Participation Team may summons each parent to Court. The legislation is the Education Act 1996 sec. 444(1) and 444(1A).

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School Attendance		
						97%-100	Very Good
						96%-91%	Room for Improvement
Attendance so far;	97.0	96.8	97.1	95.9	96.8	90% and Below	Cause for Concern