



Grange Park Junior School Newsletter

October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this first half term, it's incredible to reflect on how busy and productive it has been! Year 6 have begun their swimming lessons, and we'll soon be able to extend this to other year groups which will include offering after-school swimming clubs. The children have looked fantastic in their uniforms, and during our recent photography day, we captured some wonderful images for our new website which will be launched in the next couple of weeks. I have also been particularly impressed by the politeness and manners of our children, especially when welcoming visitors to the school. It's heartening to see them take such pride in themselves. A big thank you to all the parents who have been attending the coffee mornings—it's wonderful to see such a great turnout each week!



Next week, we have Parents' Evening on Wednesday which will be a great opportunity to discuss how your child is settling in. Please note that no data or assessments will be shared at this stage. On Thursday, we have our PTA disco and on Friday, the school will be closed for a training day.

Wishing you all a fantastic half term, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4th November.

Mrs Madar—Headteacher

Reading

Reading is one of our key priorities, and we are eager to foster a love and enjoyment of reading in all of our children. To support this, we have introduced a Reading Buddies program where children read to students from different year groups.





Charville Library

Upcoming Events



Chess Club - Saturday 26th October at 11:30am to 1:30pm –for children 6-11

Learn how to play chess and challenge other competitors to become a chess champion.

No need to book; just drop in.

Autumn Craft - Tuesday 29 October at 2.30pm - for children 5-11.

Spend a cosy afternoon at Charville Library this half-term, making some beautiful autumn craft projects.

[Autumn Craft - Discover Hillingdon](#)

Halloween Craft - Thursday 31 October at 2.30pm - for children 5-11.

Are you brave enough this Halloween to join us in making some super spooky crafts to take home with you? For children 5-11. After the craft event, stay with us for our Halloween Party with scary stories and refreshments (subject to availability).

[Spooky Season Craft - Discover Hillingdon](#)

Reading Group—Thursday 14th November at 2:30pm –for Adults

Join our friendly group of readers to explore a wide range of topics and authors.

Booking details: Email charville-library@hillingdon.gov.uk

Year 6 - Battle of Bunker

Year 6 have been learning about World War 2 and in particular, the part that the local area played in it. This wonderful trip gave our children the opportunity to visit the underground operations room at RAF Uxbridge, formerly used by No. 11 Group Fighter Command during the Second World War. Having this amazing opportunity to attend the bunker will allow our children to develop their confidence in speaking and listening skills as well as create exciting reading and writing links to our English and History curriculum.

Mrs Patel –Year Group Leader



Houses of Parliament Visit

School Council

On Friday 11th October, our newly elected school council travelled to Westminster to visit the Houses of Parliament. During their visit, students were able to deepen their understanding of democracy, governance and the political system, and were also provided with a guided tour of the palace of Westminster, including the House of Lords and House of Commons. John McDonnell also surprised the children, by meeting them at the Houses of Parliament and giving them access to the impressive library housed within the building.

Thank you to Mr Luft and all the staff who supported the children with this very special visit.



Sporting Update

Our netball team recently participated in a netball festival at Hayes Park School and played two matches.

They secured a 1-0 victory against Charville Academy but narrowly lost 5-4 to Hayes Park School. Well done to the team on a strong start to the season—hopefully, they can build on this success.

Player of the Match: Lama (Year 6) – for her outstanding leadership and positive attitude.

Our football team also played their first match at home against Belmore. Despite an early 1-0 setback, we earned a penalty to equalize, ending the game in a 1-1 draw. Well done to the football team, and we look forward to the upcoming fixtures.

A big thank you to the parents and carers who came out to support the children!



Message from the Local Authority:

Re: Attendance



Dear Parents and Carers,

Select Committee Review of Persistent Absenteeism

Hillingdon Council's Children, Families and Education Select Committee is undertaking a major review of persistent absenteeism across the borough.

As a key partner, the Committee would like to hear from you.

With this in mind, the Committee would like to invite you to attend a virtual witness session with Committee Members to discuss your experiences. The session will take place at 18:00 on **Wednesday 06 November 2024** via Microsoft Teams.

What is the event for? This session will enable the Committee to hear directly from you on your experiences of persistent absenteeism among your young people. It is intended that this review will help the Committee to formulate recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet in order to improve attendance.

Who will be present? In attendance will be eight Members of the Children, Families and Education Select Committee, plus the clerk to the Committee.

(The Committee is comprised of seven Councillors and one Co-Opted Member (find more information [here](#))

How to join? Please be invited to join the meeting via this [link](#)

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Ryan Dell, clerk to the Committee, at democratic@hillington.gov.uk

Please be reassured that this invitation has gone out to all parents/ carers/ foster carers of young people within Hillingdon, and is not a reflection of your child(ren)'s rate of attendance.

Thank you,
Democratic Services
London Borough of Hillingdon

Home time

If someone other than the usual parent/carer is picking up your child, please inform the office as early as possible. To ensure your child's safety, we will always require confirmation from you if someone else, including another parent, is collecting your child and you haven't notified us.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us ensure all children leave school safely.

Additionally, please ensure that children do not ride scooters or bikes whilst on the school grounds.

Thank you for your understanding.

Calendar dates 2024

- Tuesday 22nd October 2024—Yr.5 Early Islamic Civilisation Workshop
- Tuesday 22nd October 2024—Coffee Morning—School Council
- Wednesday 23rd October 2024—Parents' Evening
- Thursday 24th October 2024—PTA Halloween Party
- Thursday 24th October 2024—Netball Match at Hayes Park School (GPJS Netball Team)
- **Friday 25th October 2024— Training day—School Closed to Children**
- **Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November—Half Term –School Closed to Children**
- Tuesday 5th November—Coffee Morning – French Trip (Year 5 only)
- Wednesday 6th November—Yr5. Trip to British Museum (5N and half of 5P)
- Wednesday 6th November-Parent drop in session -Educational Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)
- Thursday 7th November—Yr.5 Trip to British Museum (5F and half of 5P)
- Friday 8th November—Be Bright, Be Seen—Children come to school wearing bright clothes –details to follow
- Friday 8th November—Harvest Assembly –details to follow
- Monday 11th November—Friday 15th November—Anti-Bullying Week
- Monday 11th November—Remembrance Day
- Tuesday 12th November—Odd Socks Day –details to follow
- Tuesday 12th November - Coffee Morning –Maths
- Wednesday 13th November—Yr.5 Early Islamic Civilisation Art Workshop
- Thursday 14th November –NSPCC workshop Yr5. and Yr.6
- Thursday 14th November -Year 5 & 6 Choir: Lights On Event (selected children)
- Friday 15th November—Gymnastics Taster –Yr.4 and Yr.6
- Friday 15th November—Children in Need
- Wednesday 20th November—School Photo –Individual /Siblings
- Thursday 21st November —Yr.4 History Explorer Romans Workshop
- Thursday 21st November -Sports Hall Athletics @ Swakeleys (Select children)
- Tuesday 26th November –Coffee Morning –Junior Travel Ambassadors
- Wednesday 27th November –The North Poles Got Talent detail to follow
- Monday 2nd December—Yr.3 Police Workshop –Clever Never Goes
- Monday 2nd December—SEND Panathlon 10 Pin Bowling (Select children)



Calendar dates 2024 continued

- Tuesday 3rd December—Coffee Morning—PSHE
- Tuesday 3rd December—Yr.4 Police Workshops -Personal Safety
- Tuesday 3rd December— Yr.5 –Police Workshop -Internet Safety
- Thursday 5th December—Yr.6 Police Workshop– Future Life: Knife Crime, Gangs and Drugs
- Friday 6th December -- Daily Mile Santa Run @ GPJS
- Monday 9th December 2024 -Yr3 Trip to Gunnersbury Park Museum
- Thursday 12th December—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 12th December—PTA Hot Chocolate and Treats -details to follow
- Monday 16th December—Yr.3 and Yr.4 St. Nicholas Church -details to follow
- Tuesday 17th December –Yr.5 and Yr.6 St Nicolas Church—details to follow
- Wednesday 18th December—Yr.3 and Yr.4 Panto at the Beck Theatre
- Thursday 19th December - Yr.5 and Yr.6 Panto at the Beck Theatre
- Friday 20th December—**School Closes Early at 1pm**
- **Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January –School Closed to children**
- Monday 6th January - Children back to school

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Welcome to Brynna 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

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Punctuality: Please support your child/children in getting to school on time by leaving home with time to spare so that children can enter the school building at 8.40am, to start their learning at 8.45am (school gates open at 8:30 am).

Reporting your child's absence:

If your child is absent, please ensure you call us promptly by 8.30am and leave a voicemail message on Tel: 020 8353 4265 (Option 2).

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 or letter of attendance for your child's school records.

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School Attendance	97%-100	Very Good
						96%-90%	Room for Improvement
Attendance so far:	96.6	96.6	97.5	97.6	97.0	Below 90%	Cause for Concern (Persistent Absentee)