



Grange Park Junior School Newsletter

January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome all the children back to school after what is always a busy Christmas break. Hopefully, you've had a chance to read the published Ofsted Report, which we sent to all parents and carers in the first week of January.

The report confirms that our school remains a *good* school, with areas such as behaviour, attitudes, and personal development progressing towards *outstanding*. My vision is to continue this journey, ensuring we provide an *outstanding* education for your children.

The report also highlights the positive changes we've made recently, which are already making a meaningful impact in preparing children for Secondary school.

For more details, please check Class Dojo, where you'll find my presentation from a recent coffee morning, explaining the report and what it means for our school.

Here are some of my favourite quotes that summarise the Ofsted report:

- *Pupils achieve well across an ambitious curriculum. The school has high expectations for pupils.*
- *Pupils enjoy reading. The school follows a systematic reading programme to support pupils develop their reading.*
- *The school has made recent successful changes to improve its work.*
- *Leaders, including governors, are passionate about providing the best-quality education for the pupils.*
- *Work to foster pupils' personal development is a strength.*
- *Pupils are well prepared for life beyond their school.*
- *Pupils learn about different cultures, beliefs and religions.*
- *They are taught about respect and equality and learn that discrimination is wrong.*
- *Opportunities to perform, work together and compete in sporting events help to develop pupils' resilience and confidence.*
- *Pupil leadership roles are well established and support pupils to become 'Leaders of tomorrow.'*
- *Pupils are polite and behave well. The atmosphere is calm and orderly.*
- *Pupils are proud to attend the school.*
- *The school's motto of 'striving to be the best that we can be' is embedded into school life.*
- *Pupils understand the core values.*
- *Staff deal with rare incidents of poor behavior very effectively.*





Consultation for Amalgamation



Proposal of the amalgamation of Grange Park Infant and Nursery School and Grange Park Junior School.

Proposal to amalgamate Grange Park Infant and Nursery School and Grange Park Junior School to form a single three-form Primary School led by Rena Madar (current Junior School Headteacher).

Description:

Hillingdon Council are proposing to close Grange Park Infant and Nursery School, and the Governing Body of Grange Park Junior School, with the full support of Hillingdon Council, are proposing to extend the age range of Junior School from 7-11 year olds to 3-11 year olds.

The new school would therefore include pupils from Reception (ages 4-5) through to Year 6 (ages 10-11) and provide the same nursery class provision for children aged 3-4 as the Infant and Nursery School currently does if the amalgamation proceeds.

The new school would continue to admit up to 90 pupils a year, giving it the same Published Admissions Number (PAN) of the current infant and junior school PANS when combined if the amalgamation proceeds.

To participate in the consultation, please read through the statutory notice and full information which is available on the Hillingdon Council page

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/grange-park-consultation

and completing the questionnaire or by emailing schoolplaceplanning@hillingdon.gov.uk

Consultation start date: 29th January 2025

Consultation end date: 7th March 2025

Please see our website for more details or do ask any members of SLT for further information.

Staffing update



Mrs. Ramtohum Butler has now begun her maternity leave, and we wish her all the best as she embarks on this exciting new chapter.

During this time, Mrs. Doohan will step in as Acting Assistant Headteacher for three days a week. On those days, 4D will be taught by Mrs. Acri. Additionally, Mrs. Koroluk will take on the role of Acting Year Group Leader for Year 4.



We also say farewell to Mrs. Dhanjal in the office as she steps down from her role as Finance Manager. We sincerely thank her for her dedication and hard work in ensuring the school's financial stability. Her efforts have contributed to exciting projects, including the funding of the swimming pool. We wish her health and happiness in all her future endeavours.

At the same time, we are pleased to welcome Mrs. Kaur to the Admin Team in her new role as School Business Manager.

Pencil Cases

Children should not bring pencil cases to school, as small items often go missing, leading to unnecessary issues between students. Rest assured, we provide all the necessary supplies for their daily tasks. Thank you for your support with this—hopefully, it's one less thing to worry about or spend money on!

Healthy Snacks

As part of the School Council's efforts to achieve the *Healthy Schools Gold Award*, we'd like to remind you of our healthy eating guidelines. Children should only bring water in their bottles and have fruit or vegetables as their mid-morning snack.

Additionally, if your child is staying for after-school clubs, please ensure they bring a nutritious snack that will keep them fuller for longer. Sweets, chocolate, and any products containing nuts are not permitted in school. Thank you for your cooperation!



Clubs



Our Spring term clubs are now underway, offering a variety of activities including Performing Arts, Homework Club, Basketball, and Art Club. It's fantastic to see 170 club spaces filled, showing great enthusiasm from our pupils. However, some clubs, such as Cooking, had little or no interest and were unfortunately not able to run this term.

We take pride in providing after-school clubs every day, giving children opportunities to explore new interests. Later this term, alongside our netball team, we plan to introduce a cricket team with hopes of entering local competitions and inspiring a lifelong passion for the sport. Additionally, a swimming club will be available for all children in the Summer term.



Girls Football Tournament

On Wednesday 29th January, the Year 3 & 4 Girls Football team participated in the PSD & Hillingdon Borough Girls Football Tournament held at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Centre.



This was the team's first ever football tournament. 20 schools participated in the event and our team came up against some tough opposition. They represented the school well and played with respect and pride. We look forward to seeing the team develop over the coming years. Player of the tournament: Kirthika.

A huge thanks to Mr Mahey and Mrs Doohan and of course all the parents who supported the children in this event.

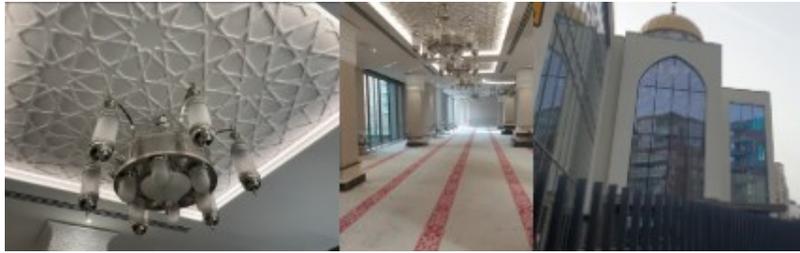


Year 5 Mosque Visit

On Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th January, Year 5 went to the newly renovated West London Islamic Centre. The children thoroughly enjoy exploring the Mosque and learning about Islam. The children were able to ask lots of questions, about the building and what happens there daily.

Rahisha 5P 'I really enjoyed the designs and tiles around the mosque, they looked similar to the ones we studied in school.'

Nimrat 5P- 'It was very modern, futuristic and very interesting!'



Junior Travel Ambassadors—Dragon's Den

Our Year 6 Junior Travel Ambassadors took a trip to the Civic Centre to engage in a Dragon's Den Workshop. Our pupils engaged in a range of exciting opportunities including a data analysis of our JTA survey and exploring their presenting skills. All pupils used their wealth of knowledge to discuss the local area and to create a vision for their next project. The pupils had an opportunity to meet the Mayor and ask her questions whilst taking a seat in the Chambers to share their thoughts. It was a wonderful experience!

I think it was a once in a lifetime experience. It was wonderful to see the Mayor and do lots of activities to help us. - Mya, Year 6

I liked going into the Chambers and completing activities like the Road Safety Riddles. - Haneef, Year 6



Learning about Finances

The Financial Literacy Programme for Year 5 children is designed to provide essential money management skills in an engaging and accessible way. Each session uses interactive teaching methods to ensure that learning is both fun and effective, students will participate in a fun game designed to reinforce the lessons learned throughout the programme. Research shows that the earlier children learn about finances the better their understanding will be.



Taekwondo Tasters

On Friday 24th January, our Year 3 and Year 4 students had an exciting taster session in Taekwondo! They began by learning about the history of this fascinating martial art, gaining an appreciation for its cultural roots and discipline. To warm up, they played an engaging game of shoulder tag, which not only got their bodies moving but also introduced them to the defensive stance. The children then practiced their front kicks, starting with kicking over padded kicking bags before progressing to aiming at a target held by a partner. It was a fantastic session that combined fun, fitness, and focus, leaving everyone with big smiles and a newfound interest in Taekwondo!



I love Taekwondo because I get to kick high and punch like soldiers in old times from South Korea – Parneet - Y3

I liked being able to learn new kicks and holding the kicking targets while defending - Kiratpreet - Y4

I liked how the Sensei helped me improve my technique and where taekwondo came from (Korea). - Manraj - Y4

Thank you to Trenz Taekwon-Do Academy from The Unit, Harlington for running the session.

If your child is interested in taking part in Taekwondo, please email Info@theunitgym.co.uk for more information.



Safeguarding—Whatsapp

Does your child use Whatsapp, are they part of any Whatsapp groups. Did you know you have to be 16+ to use it?

The NSPCC website has some useful information with regards to WhatsApp and also about other Social Media and how to keep your child safe in the onlineworld. Use the link below to start exploring the NSPCC website which has many guides for parents/carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

Tips to help keep your child safe on WhatsApp

Get to know privacy settings

There are four main settings that you can use to help your child control who can see their information:

Everyone – allows all users to see your profile photo, about or status.

1. My contacts – only allows people from your phone contacts to see your profile photo, about, status, last seen and online.
2. My contacts except... – allows you to exclude certain people in your phone contacts from seeing your information.
3. Nobody – doesn't allow anyone to see your information.

The default setting on WhatsApp is 'everyone' but you can help your child to set their privacy controls by clicking the 'settings' cog and selecting 'privacy'. Here you can select each type of information and change it to the setting that you want.

To prevent children being added to groups by people they don't know, we recommend changing the group settings to 'My contacts except' and using the tick icon to select all contacts. This option means only your child's phone contacts, except those you exclude, can add your child to groups. But by selecting all contacts, it means that nobody can add your child to a group chat without first sending them an invitation.

In the same section, you can also switch off 'read receipts', which means other people cannot see when you have read their message. This might help if your child is feeling under pressure to respond to messages.

Make use of safety features

Show your child how to block and report other users of the app or inappropriate content. For information on how to block or report on WhatsApp visit: [How to block and report contacts | WhatsApp Help Center](#).

Talk about sharing

Talk to your child regularly about what they should and shouldn't share with others on WhatsApp. You can read more about this here: [Social media | NSPCC](#)

Remind your child that, even if they think what they are sending will stay private, others might save, forward or screenshot it. Talk to them about making sure others are comfortable with what they are sending and let them know they can come to you if they are worried about something they have shared on the app.



PTA Movie Night

The PTA is excited to announce an upcoming **Movie Night!** Tickets are limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Children will have the chance to enjoy the movie *Over the Hedge* with their friends, and they can also purchase a variety of sweets and snacks from the tuck shop.

Don't miss out!

The PTA's Movie Night tickets are available to purchase on Parent Pay!

GPJS PTA PRESENT

Grange Park Junior School
Leaders of Learning

★ **MOVIE** ★
Night

YR 3 & 4 07TH FEB 3:30 - 5:30PM
YR 5 & 6 14TH FEB 3:30 - 5:30PM

OVER THE HEDGE

PG

TICKETS
£4

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES:
POPCORN & A DRINK

TUCK SHOP - CASH ONLY

Hillingdon—Calling all new, budding Cooks!

Learn Hillingdon

Adult Community Education

Men's **FREE** Cookery Sessions with Learn Hillingdon on Tuesdays
9:45-12pm, delivered in our fab kitchen training room at Learn
Hillingdon, Civic Centre

ALL INGREDIENTS SUPPLIED
(Vegetarian/Halal options)

Recipes	Dates
Garlic Chicken Wraps	28.1.25
Fish Pie	4.2.25
Chicken with Hakka Noodles	11.2.25
Sweet Potato Shepherd's Pie	25.2.25
Thai Green Curry	4.3.25
Enchiladas	11.3.25
Spanish Chicken	18.3.25
Tuna Pasta Bake	25.3.25
Chicken Tikka	1.4.25

To book and secure a space please call - 01895 556252 or
email familylearning@hae-acl.ac.uk (Maximum 3 sessions)



Calendar Dates 2025



- Monday 3rd February— Yr 6. Young Voices Trip –selected children
- Tuesday 4th February—Coffee Morning—Writing
- Friday 7th February— Number Day
- Tuesday 11th February—Coffee Morning—School council
- Wednesday 12th February—TRIP: 4K & half of 4D - Gurdwara trip
- Wednesday 12th February -2pm Amalgamation Session—Infants School Hall
- Thursday 13th February -TRIP: 4M & half of 4D - Gurdwara trip
- **Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February—Half Term –School closed to children**
- **Monday 24th February—Training Day—School closed to children**
- Tuesday 25th February—Coffee Morning—Reading
- Wednesday 26th February—Grange Park vs Hayes Park @ Hayes Park- Football Match
- Tuesday 4th March—Coffee Morning - History & Diversity
- Tuesday 4th March—3 pm—Healthy relationships education and domestic awareness
- Thursday 6th March—World Book day



Welcome to
Grange Park Junior School
Leaders of tomorrow

Did You Know... ?

In a School Year (9 Year)	Your Child Would Have Lost	or They Would Have Missed
Child is Late Every Day By...	Approximately...	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 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 so far:	95.6	95.9	96.7	96.4	96.3

97%-100	Very Good
96%-90%	Room for Improvement
Below 90%	Cause for Concern (Persistent Absentee)