

Dear Parents

Many thanks to the GPPSA and volunteers who made this year's Christmas fayre so successful and to all the staff, family and friends who attended. We know you will agree it was a fantastic event and a fabulous start to the festive season. Please do take a note of events that are planned for the rest of this term.

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with you. Androulla Constantinou (EYFS Teacher) has given birth to a baby boy and Suzanna Saunders (Y3 teacher) has given birth to a baby girl. Congratulations to them.

**Tijen Hassan**  
Headteacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Time and Venue
Tues 10 December	Nursery/Reception Nativity	9:30am & 2:00pm, main hall
Tues 10 December	Pyjamarama – Year 1	4.30pm – 5.15pm
Wed 11 December	Y4 Puma & Tiger visit to the Tate Gallery	10am – 3pm
Fri 13 December	Christmas Lunch	
Tues 17 December	Y2 Carols from around the world	9:30am & 2:30pm, main hall
Tues 17 December	Y6 Lowry & Picasso to Bletchley Park	9am – 3pm
Tues 17 December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Party	1.30 pm – 3pm
Wed 18 December	Y6 Kandinsky & Monet to Bletchley Park	9am – 3pm
Wed 18 December	Y3/Y4/Y5 Christmas Party	
Thurs 19 December	Y1/Y2/Y6 Christmas Party	
<b>Thurs 19 December</b>	<b>Last day of term</b>	<b>School closes at 2pm</b>

### TERM DATES, HOLIDAYS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

#### AUTUMN TERM Second half

Monday 28 October to  
Thursday 19 December  
(school closes at 2pm)

#### SPRING TERM First half

Monday 6 January 2020 to  
Thursday 13 February 2020

#### SCHOOL CLOSED FOR INSET

Friday 14 February

#### HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 17 February to  
Friday 21 February

### CLASS ASSEMBLIES

29 Nov	Saturn
6 Dec	Butterfly
13 Dec	Mercury
24 Jan	Leopard
31 Jan	Robin
7 Feb	Puffin
6 Mar	Monet
13 Mar	Woodpecker
20 Mar	Willow
27 Mar	Kingfisher

Class assemblies take place on Fridays in the round hall, at 9:05am. We look forward to seeing you there.

### ATTENDANCE

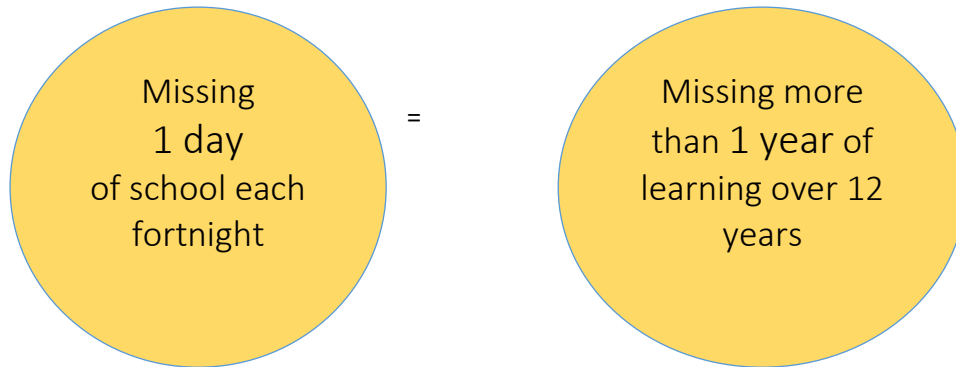
Well done to Grovelands family for the best attendance to date of 96.30%. Also well done to Puma class for having the best attendance of 99.03.

W/C	25.11.19	03.12.19
Broomfield	96.27%	95.69%
Grovelands	95.36%	97.24%
Oakwood	96.04%	95.29%
Trent	95.82%	95.21%

Please support your child's education by ensuring they have the best possible attendance.

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Did you know:



Research clearly shows how being in school on time, every day, improves life chances and gives children the best possible opportunities to flourish, both academically and socially. Please make every effort to ensure your child is at school on time each day and works towards achieving 100% attendance.

***Of course, do not bring your child to school if they are ill, but do consider still getting them into school if all they have is a sniffle or are feeling a bit tired or 'under the weather'!***

As a school, we aim to exceed our target of 97% attendance across the school and want to work in partnership with Children and parents to make sure that our attendance is aspirational, along with all aspects of our curriculum.

Being **at school** ensures that children are available to receive and make the very most of educational experiences, in order to best set them up for life as kind and educated citizens. We can only do this with the continuing support of parents, combined with the efforts of the children.

If in a school year your child is late every day by...	Your child would have lost approximately:
5 minutes	3.5 days from school a year
10 minutes	7 days from school a year
15 minutes	10 days from school a year
20 minutes	14.5 days from school a year
30 minutes	22 days from school a year

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Please try to make any medical appointments after school or in the school holidays. If it is unavoidable, appointment letter/cards should be provided to school for absence to be authorised. Where urgent appointments are required a stamped and timed card should be requested from the medical receptionist.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCES

Leave of Absence forms are available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school website if you would like to request leave during term time. School does not allow holidays in term time.

Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances and gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. The Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave.

Please DO NOT book holidays before speaking with the Attendance Officer.

All Year 2 and Year 6 pupils must attend school during for statutory tests.

## PUPIL PREMIUM LETTER

You will have received a letter via Parentmail regarding Pupil Premium and Service Premium. This premium provides schools with extra funding to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils from Reception to year 11. In order to receive this additional funding we are required to provide information to the Department for Education confirming which children meet the government criteria.

If you qualify for the appropriate benefits but have chosen not to apply for free school meals please consider applying. You do not have to take up the free school meal to attract the funding for your child's school. If you have any questions regarding this please contact the school office.

## CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

### CHRISTMAS POST

The Christmas Post Boxes will be available for use from **Monday 9 December**. Please ensure the envelopes have the name and class of the child they are being sent to clearly written on the front. Year 6 pupils will deliver to classes each day. Class teachers will let the children know where the post boxes will be.

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The school Christmas lunch will be on **Friday 13 December**. If you have not replied to the form confirming that your child would like a Christmas lunch please ensure that your child has a packed lunch with them on that day. If your child would like to wear a Christmas hat for the lunch please send it into school on **Friday 13 December**.

### CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Our school Christmas parties take place in the last week of term. The dates are included in the 'dates for your diary' above. All children can come to school dressed in their party clothes on the day of the party. Please send a donation of £1 into your class teacher towards the party food by **Wednesday 11 December 2019**.

### NURSERY

On the last day of term the timings for the nursery sessions have changed to ensure that every child is in nursery for the same length of time. The timings are as follows:

Morning school will be from 8:30am-10:45am

Afternoon School will be from 11:45am-2pm.

Children staying will have lunch as normal at a slightly earlier time of 11am.

### END OF TERM

Please note that school will close at **2pm** on **Thursday 19 December 2019** for the Christmas holidays.



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

- **STAFF CAR PARK** - Please note that when dropping off or collecting from Connect, parents are not allowed to park in the staff car park until after 5pm. Pedestrians should not enter the school grounds via the car park gate as this is the vehicle entrance.
- **END OF DAY** - At the end of the school day, if children are not collected they stay with their teacher until 3.20 pm and are then taken to the school office. Whilst we understand that, from time to time parents may be unavoidably delayed, there are an increasing number of children being picked up after 3.20pm from the office. This can be very upsetting for the children and disrupts the work of the office team. Please try to pick your children up on time.
- **WATCHES** - Some children are coming to school wearing watches which have recording apps that can be uploaded to mobile phones. These watches are inappropriate and should not be worn to school.

## KEEP GRANGE PARK SUSTAINABLE

Every two weeks, an article will be placed in the newsletter each time explaining a way to help the environment or share something we have done. This week we ask only one thing...Stop bringing in single use plastic bottles. Thank you!



## SPORTING UPDATE

The Grange Park Y5 & Y6 girls football team played some great football and scored some amazing goals in the Fursman Cup, winning 9-0 vs Wilbury and progressing into the Quarter finals of the cup. Well done!

From the start of the new school year, we have had over 100 children represent Grange Park. From Year 3, all the way up to Year 6, children have participated in various sports and competition. These include boys and girls football, hockey, netball, tag rugby and Athletics. In the new Year there will be even more opportunities for your children to represent Grange Park at football, tag rugby, netball, hockey, athletics, basketball, cricket, futsal and tennis. Look out for the updates.



### MyMaths

Over the last month children have been enjoying using MyMaths as an interactive way to complete their Maths home learning. All of the children have been given login details to access this and it can be completed on any interactive device.

Christopher in Oak class said, "I like MyMaths because you can use a computer programme to show off your learning in school. It has fun games and the lessons help you to do the home learning with confidence and show my dad the way things are in my school."

Phoebe in Robin class said, "The maths is challenging and the way it is presented is colourful and well explained. I really like doing my home learning on the computer as I feel proud that I am being more independent."

## RECEPTION

This half term Reception have been following the learning quest "People who help us". We have been learning about different types of jobs in the community including Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Postal Workers. To also link with our Talk For Writing book "The Jolly Postman" the children wrote their own letters to post themselves in a real post box. The children loved creating their own letters which will hopefully be arriving through their letterboxes soon!



## YEAR 2

This week Year 2 were lucky enough to get a visit from a real firefighter named Richard! This visit linked into our Learning Quest for the term of The Great Fire of London as we have been looking at fire fighting in 1666 compared to now. All children listened intently whilst Richard talked them through his equipment and his day to day duties. There was then time for the children to ask questions about fire fighting, Kyran asked *"How do you become a fire fighter?"* and Sophia *"What do you use to put out the fires?"*



## YEAR 4

This week Year 4 went to visit themselves in at the Steve McQueen Year 3 exhibition at the Tate Britain. Turner Prize-winning artist and Oscar-winning filmmaker Steve McQueen's exhibition involved schools all over London. It involved having a traditional photograph from specially trained photographers. We went to visit our final photographs at the exhibition in central London.

As well as looking at our own published work we also looked at other artists and paintings in the gallery to inspire our still life drawing in school.



## YEAR 5

This week, Year 5 have been visited by UCL students. They gave us feedback on the air pollution in our local area. This allowed us to see real science at work. The results of the experiment will be used to create new inventive ways of lowering air pollution. In English, we have used this data to write information texts on the issue.

*"I cannot believe our air quality is so poor!"* stated Christian.

*"Something must be done about this."* added Tarai.

*"I am going to write a letter to the government."* retaliated Olivia.

*"This has made me want to work as a Scientist."* shared Sam.

We are so passionate about this issue in Year 5. We have a message for you all: 'Our world is precious. Adults, help us to keep it safe.'



# GPPSA NEWS & UPDATES

We are the official fundraising arm of Grange Park Primary and look to bring parents, families, friends, staff and local communities together socially to support our school.

## 2019/20 TARGETS



This year the school have identified that they need funding for two IT projects (90 electronic portable devices and 8 LCD screens) and playground markings.

## Monies raised

Christmas Cards £154  
Christmas Jumper Day £537  
Christmas Fayre £TBC

So far this school year we have raised £2,070

## LATEST NEWS

We just wanted to say a massive thank you to all those that came to the **Christmas Fayre** last Sunday. I think we can all agree it was a great success and we wanted to thank again all the committee, reps, helpers and parents who helped in the lead up to, and on the day.



From the amazing **grotto**, to the hard work that went into sorting all the **pre loved teddies, games, puzzles and books**, the **Y6 excelled themselves this year with 15 new ideas** for stalls plus everyone else that ran the usual stalls. We are still counting the money and hope to announce the final figure very shortly! This money will be going towards another set of **30 electronic portable devices** for the school.

We also have our **32 raffle winners** and all prizes should have been distributed this week!



## GPPSA VACANCIES

We are still looking for a new Secretary and Communications/Fundraising Officer to help us this year! Also general committee members.

If you are interested or just want to have a chat about the roles, please contact us.

## GUESS THE TEDDY BEAR'S BIRTHDAY WINNERS

**Snowman – Cayden in Butterfly**  
**Kylo Ren – Harry in Jupiter**  
**PJ Bear – Imogen in Kadinsky**

**Reindeer – Hasti in Oak**  
**Corgi – Nevaeh in Puma**

Big congratulations to all our winners. Don't worry the bears will be back for our Summer Fayre in 2020.... Please look out for them!

## LOOKING TO HELP?

Remember if you don't want to join the committee but would love to get involved and help at our fundraisers please get in touch at [gppsa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gppsa@hotmail.co.uk) or speak to any of the committee directly.

We have a new WhatsApp helpers group where information is shared and everyone is welcome to join! Please contact us to find out more.

Thanks again for your continued support and here's to another successful fundraising year!  
**Remember to like & follow us on Facebook OR get in touch at [gppsa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gppsa@hotmail.co.uk)**