

## Message from Shona Pitcher

## Co- Headteacher

We have had another busy week in school and the children have been enjoying their activities.

This week we have been celebrating Diwali in our assemblies which the children enjoyed and even took part in some of the dancing. Thank you to Juhi, (parent of Sedona and Sahara) who came in for these assemblies.

Our Year 2 children have dressed up today to support their learning of 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets'. All the colourful costumes were delightful!

Our Reception classes have been out enjoying the outdoors and came back to school a little bit muddy. Thank you to all the parents helpers who joined this week.

I also want to say well done to the children that entered the Bonfire Night Art Competition - the pictures were lovely! We have some pictures of their artwork included in today's newsletter.



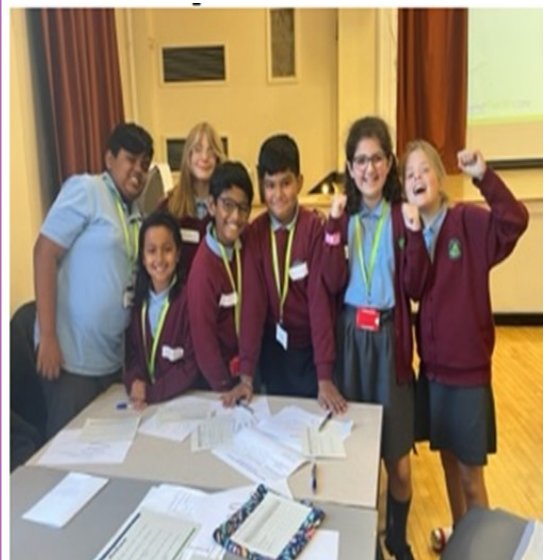
Our children were invited to take part in an art competition with Guinness Homes and we had some lovely entries around the theme of Bonfire Night.

Well done to our winners and runners up:

- 1st Ava (3W) and Amelia (6D)
- 2nd Emma (5S)
- 3rd Bobby (RBB)
- Runners up:
  - Ahana (Nursery)
  - Lena (RBF)
  - Anna (Rabbits)



We are very proud of our Mental Health Ambassadors, who run a lunchtime club for Key stage 2. The Year 6 Ambassadors were invited to a conference at Southborough School this week where they learnt more about mental health, kindness, resilience and how to be a good listener.





## Black History Month

Black History plays an important part in our curriculum all the way through the year but in October it is particularly highlighted as part of Black History Month. Here are some of the displays the children created.





We were delighted to welcome to the school Juhi, who talked to our children about Diwali and demonstrated some traditional dancing. The children very much enjoyed learning about Diwali and took part in the dancing.

Grand Avenue has been awarded the "Daily Mile Children Fit for Life" Award for our fantastic engagement in the Daily Mile every morning. It benefits the children's physical, emotional, social and mental health and wellbeing by taking part and it sets us up to be GRAND learners each day.

Well done!



World Diabetes Day is on Tuesday 14th November 2023. The aim of the day is to raise awareness and funding to support those living with diabetes. Please look out for the posters around the school. If you would like to talk to your child at home about diabetes, the Diabetes UK website has lots of information.

## Head lice

We have had some cases of head lice reported throughout the school. Please can we ask you to routinely check your children's hair.



## Morning drop off

A reminder to parents that children must be dropped off to the wooden gates when they arrive in the morning. There will be members of staff at the gate who will welcome the children into school as well as staff members on the playground who will supervise the children until 8.45am when they enter the classroom. To ensure your child's safety please do not let your children walk up to the wooden gates unaccompanied.





Thank you to the Year 2 parents for your support with the children's costumes today! Kings, Queens, dragons and knights (to name but a few!) graced our classrooms this morning. They had lots of fun writing regal stories, creating crowns and meeting Gary the Guard!

**Spotlight on attendance**

Congratulations to **4SP** who have had the highest attendance this week (99.3%).



**Microtransactions**

Microtransactions figure in the business model of many game and app developers, allowing them to bring in ongoing revenue as users continue to pay for extra features and content; even software that's initially free to download can be monetised in this way. It's a system which has featured in many of younger gamers' perennial favourite franchises, from Fortnite to FIFA.

As well as encouraging regular spending, however, microtransactions – especially the increasingly common use of loot boxes – have also been scrutinised for what many argue is a resemblance to gambling, with the potential to foster addictive behaviours. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide tells parents and carers what they need to know about microtransactions.

Please see the attachment with details.

A massive thank you to parents, carers and staff who attended the recent GASPA quiz and helped the school to purchase over 50 new books for the school library.



A special thank you to the GASPA team who collated reading lists and made a wishing tree where those attending were able to choose these books to purchase.



**Santa's Grotto** £3.50 per child  
Booking Now Open!

Limited slots available so book your slot at the Grand Avenue Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November ASAP to avoid disappointment

11:30-12:00 SEN children only  
12:00-15:00 All welcome

Book here today:  
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gaspa/index.cfm?event=event&eventid=70997>



**Second Hand Uniform Sale**  
FRIDAY 17th NOV

**Second hand uniform sale**  
When: Friday 17th November  
Where: At bottom gate  
Time: 2.55pm onwards  
Donations for GASPA welcome



**Christmas Jumper Sale**  
Friday 17th November  
2.55pm - Outside NurSery

**Christmas Jumper Donations - Fri 17 November**  
Wanted: Pre-loved good condition & clean Xmas jumpers - children & adult sizes.  
Where: Bottom Gate (or the office for Breakfast club)  
When: 8.30am - 9.05am

Good Condition pre-loved jumpers available - Small money donations welcome

### Dates for your Diary

Tues, 14th Nov	Y2	Tower of London visit
Wed, 15th Nov	All	Individual and Sibling photos
Fri, 17th Nov	All	GASPA Christmas Jumper and second hand uniform sale
Mon, 20th—Fri 24th Nov	All	Travelling Book Fair
Tues, 21st Nov	R-YR 6	Nasal Flu immunisations
Thurs, 23rd Nov	3W	Class Assembly @ 10.30am
Fri, 24th Nov	Y3	Butser Farm trip
Fri, 24th Nov	All	Non-uniform day & Bottle Tombola collection day
Sat, 25th Nov	All	GASPA Christmas Fair
Thurs, 30th Nov	3W	Ukulele Performance
Weds, 6th Dec	RBF	Nativity Performance @ 9.30am
Thurs, 7th Dec	RL	Nativity Performance @ 9.30am
Tues, 12th Dec	N	Christmas Sing A Long
Weds, 20th Dec	Y1	Christmas Assembly
Thurs, 21st Dec		Last day of Autumn Term