

Shona Pitcher – Headteacher

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. It's wonderful to see the children returning to school, full of energy and ready for the new academic year.

A very warm welcome to everyone, especially to our new joiners in Nursery, Reception and across the school. We are delighted to have you as part of the Grand Avenue Primary & Nursery School community.

If you have any questions or just want to say hello, you'll usually find me at the lower gate during drop-off and pick-up times each day. Please feel free to speak to me or any member of our Senior Leadership Team—we're always here to help.

Coming up soon: Please keep an eye out for the dates of our year group meetings, which will take place over the coming weeks. These meetings are a great opportunity for you to meet your child's year group team, hear about their plans for the year ahead and find out more about the exciting learning experiences your child will enjoy.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year together. Wishing you and your children a wonderful start to the term!



Frankie (4SP) set herself a summer challenge to read her height in books.

Here she is with her 133cm tower of summer reading!

Well done Frankie.

Sustainable September 2025

As part of its Sustainable September campaign, Kingston Council has collated a variety of information and resources that can help you to cut your energy bills, improve your home and help the planet at the same time. Now is the perfect time to take a look and get ready ahead of the expensive winter months.

Explore their page to get started and scroll down to find a list of fun events and activities taking place.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Group Chats

Group chats are becoming a hugely popular way for children to stay in touch with their friends, whether via messaging apps, social platforms or games. These online groups can help them feel connected, strengthen relationships and encourage creativity, but they also come with certain risks.

From teasing and exclusion to privacy worries and inappropriate content, children can experience a wide range of challenges in group chats. This guide helps parents and educators recognise the signs of trouble and offers simple ways to support children in using group chats safely and respectfully.

At Grand Avenue Primary school, we do not recommend that children use apps such as WhatsApp. These platforms are not designed for young users and can expose them to privacy risks, inappropriate content and distractions from learning due to fall outs and arguments outside of school. If you choose to allow your child to participate in group chats on any platform, we strongly encourage you to closely monitor their activity, the content they are exposed to and their conduct in these spaces.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Online Slang

Online slang can be a vibrant way for young people to express themselves, but it also changes rapidly and can sometimes carry hidden meanings. This guide helps adults navigate this shifting landscape by breaking down what some of today's most-used slang terms actually mean and why they matter. From 'rizz' to 'sigma', it's a handy starting point for anyone wanting to better understand how young people communicate online.

The attached guide offers parents and educators information about online slang and the risks involved, from generational misunderstandings to being used as a veil for harmful content or behaviour. Importantly, it offers advice on encouraging open conversations and critical thinking about language. With slang constantly evolving, this guide encourages adults to stay curious, connected and supportive.

The South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service are hosting two webinars for parents to discuss the flu vaccine.

Parents can sign up using the links below:

- [Wednesday 8th September @ 14:00 – 14:45](#)
- [Monday 15th September @ 18:00 – 18:45](#)

During these webinars, the service will explain the importance of vaccinating your child, the difference between the nasal and injectable flu vaccine, the MMR vaccine, and how to complete the e-consent form. There will also be a chance for parents to ask our nurses any questions they have. The flu immunisations will be taking place at school on **Tuesday 11th November**, full information will follow shortly.

Meeting with Cllr Diane White

Cllr Diane White met with Mrs Pitcher and visited our school last term. After her visit, she said: "It was so inspiring to meet your wonderful children and staff and see your beautiful school. Everyone was truly happy, engaged in learning, and the enrichment opportunities are so wide and varied."

We discussed many local issues, including parking and driving concerns at the front of the school, as well as keeping our community tidy. Our pupils also met with her, and one of the topics they discussed was the possibility of having a bin outside the front of the school to help keep our street clean and support the environment.

Cllr Diane White took our request forward, and Peter Herlinger, Councillor for Alexandra Ward, followed it up. He raised a member's enquiry (ME1871) to ask whether a bin could be placed at the location mentioned to Cllr White. The waste officer visited the site a few times before the school holidays and concluded that the area was above standard. His recommendation was not to install a litter bin at this time.

We responded to say that while the area is tidy, thanks to the brilliant efforts of our neighbours, a bin would still be very helpful to support everyone's hard work in keeping the street clean.

If you feel that litter outside the school continues to be an issue, we encourage you to also contact the council or our local councillor and submit a request for improved facilities on Grand Avenue.

Parenting Groups

There are places available on free parenting groups which will be starting next term in the Kingston borough.

- The Parenting Puzzle/Nurturing Program for parents and carers of primary school aged children
- Incredible Years for parents and carers of children 2-8 years to assist in managing children's behaviour problems
- Triple P Teen for parents and carers of adolescents, children 11+
- Teen Life for parents and carers of children aged 10-16 years with a diagnosis of ASD

Please see attached posters for more information about each group.

Please see the attached fliers for the "Helping Children with" & "Helping Teens with" workshops that MHST will be hosting this new academic year.



For advice and resources about mental health and wellbeing, please scan this QR code.

May we remind you that snacks brought into school should be **fresh fruit only**. *If the snack has a wrapper, it is not suitable!*

Dates for your Diary

Tues, 9th Sept	YR 6	Welcome meeting @ 6.30PM—Main Hall
Weds, 10th Sept	ALL	Second Hand Uniform sale @ 2.45PM
Fri, 12th Sept	YR 3	Butser Ancient Farm visit
Fri, 24th Oct	ALL	INSET DAY—School and Nursery Closed
Mon 27th—Fri 31st Oct	ALL	HALF TERM
Mon, 3rd Nov	ALL	FIRST DAY AUTUMN 2
Tues, 11th Nov	R –6	Flu immunisations

A polite reminder that dogs should not be brought onto school grounds/into the school building except in exceptional circumstances.

Thank you for your understanding.

*Please remember to book your child's school lunches every day.
If you are having problems accessing the School Gateway please contact the School Office.*



Weds 10th Sept
2.45 - 3.30pm

DONATE WHAT MONEY YOU CAN, CASH & CARD ACCEPTED

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE

WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
BOTTOM GATE BY NURSERY ENTRANCE
2.45PM - 3.30PM

DRESSES, TROUSERS, SKIRTS, POLO TOPS, CARDIGANS, JUMPERS, PE KITS & MORE!

DONATIONS WELCOME ON THE DAY
MORNING DROP-OFF AT BOTTOM GATE & AT SALE

DONATE ONLY
LOGO CARDIGANS | LOGO POLO TOPS | LOGO JUMPERS
ESPECIALLY SIZES 5-6 & 7-8

Email queries to:
preloveduniformgaspa@gmail.com



Part of the Mayor's Community Weekend

September Picnic & Wildflower Planting

@ Alexandra Millenium Green

13th September
10am - 4pm
FREE EVENT

next to Surbiton croquet club
What3words: ///invite.hogs.duck

BEE PART OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL - VOLUNTEER TO PLANT WILDFLOWERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY PARK!

alexandramillenniumgreen.co.uk