

## Message from Shona Pitcher

## Headteacher

The term already feels like it is flying by! What a busy few weeks we have had and so much more to come. Clubs have all begun and the children are enjoying these wonderful opportunities. Thank you to all the staff that give up their time to run these activities and thank you to Miss Richards who co-ordinates all our outside providers. Our children are lucky to have such a diverse offer of activities to participate in.

We hope that you have found our Year Group welcome meetings interesting and useful. The slides from the sessions have been shared on the Google Classrooms, if you unable to access these please do let us know. For those Year Group meetings which are yet to come, the teams are looking forward to welcoming you into school. We are also excited that our open mornings for prospective reception parents begin soon. If you have a child in our Nursery or in another local setting and would like to see Reception in action then please do book on a tour. The poster is attached to this newsletter. Feel free to share it with other parents or in any WhatsApp or social media groups you're part of. Thank you for helping us keep everyone informed!

I'd like to remind all parents of the need to be mindful when parking and driving around the roads outside of school. Please do not park on zig zag lines, double yellow lines or across residents driveways. Where possible please park away from the school to reduce congestion around the gates at the busy drop off and pick up times. The upper gate where the Year 5& 6 children enter and exit can be particularly busy and we are asking parents to be vigilant and thoughtful when arriving at school. The police and parking attendants continue to monitor the situation to help keep everyone safe. We have been asked to share the details of any inconsiderate or illegal parking with our community and the police.

Last week, Year 3 had an amazing day out at Butser Farm where they learnt about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. They made jewellery, pots and even became archaeologists! Thank you to the parent helpers who joined us on the trip.

Here is a recount of the trip written by Maisha in 3S:

On Friday, we went to Butser Farm on a massive coach. First, when we arrived, we were a little bit hungry so we ate a snack on the soft, swirly grass. Next, we sat in a huge hut around the hot, burning fire. It was very dark in there! After that we bashed chalk to make handmade clunch. Then we dug for bones, shells and even metal! Later we had our lunch. We also made pots out of material from the ground. Then we made lovely jewellery. Finally we went back to school on the coach.



**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Snapchat**

With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. The attached guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service and web browser access.

Please remember that the Snapchat age restriction is 13 years old, with users aged 13-17 requiring permission from a parent or guardian. Accounts for users under 13 are terminated, and Snapchat does not allow users under 18 to change their birth year to 18 or older to prevent bypassing safety features. Primary age children should not have access to Snapchat.



**Spotlight on attendance**

Congratulations to **3S** who have had the highest attendance this week (99%).

**Accessibility Plan 2025**

At Grand Avenue Primary and Nursery School, we are committed to ensuring that our school is accessible to all pupils, staff and visitors. We have recently updated our Accessibility Plan, which sets out our targets to further improve access to our school environment, curriculum, and information. The draft version is available on our website:

[Accessibility Plan 2025](#)

If you are unable to access this we can send a paper copy/ email version on request via the office. We value the views of our school community so if you have suggestions or would like to contribute your thoughts on how we can make our school even more accessible, please get in touch.

**LOST PROPERTY**

We already have had a lot of lost property in school.

Please can you ensure all items of clothing, PE kits, water bottles and coats are labelled so we can return them to your children

**Parentalk Podcasts**

The Mental Health Support Team have shared the following link which contains short podcasts with parenting tips for children in primary school.

[The Parentalk Podcast for the Primary Years - Care for the Family](#)

### Spotlight on Reading

At Grand Avenue Primary and Nursey School we are passionate about reading and inspiring our children to read. We have a number of reading events taking place in school.

If you would like to come in and support with reading with the children read please see the information below on how to sign up.

### Reading Café

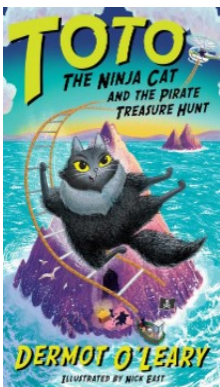
Our popular reading cafes are starting again next Friday. This is an opportunity to share a book with your child and enjoy a snack and a drink in our wonderful school library.

Please see below the dates when your year group will be invited to attend. A letter with information on how to book your place will be shared nearer the time.

Year 1—Autumn term 1  
Year 2—Autumn term 2  
Reception—Spring term 1  
Year 3—Spring term 2  
Year 4—Summer term 1  
Year 5/6—Summer term 2

### **Author visit—Year 3-6**

A reminder for children in Years 3-6 that Dermot O’Leary will be joining us on Wednesday 1st October to talk to children about his new book, Toto the Ninja Cat and the Pirate Treasure Hunt.



If you would like to order this book or one of Dermot’s other books you can do so via your School Gateway account.

The Travelling Book Fair is visiting school next week from Monday until Friday.

The year groups will be visiting the book fair throughout the week and will have an opportunity to purchase books during their visit.

[Please click here to read the letter](#)

Thank you to all our helpers who have come in to read with the children during the last academic year. It is a lovely way to support the children.

If you would like to sign up to support with reading with the children please speak to your class rep who will be able to share the volunteer sheet with you.

**Dates for your Diary**

w/c 22nd Sept	ALL	Travelling Book Fair
Mon, 29th Sept	YR 5	YR 5 Welcome meeting @ 6pm—Main Hall
Tues, 30th Sept	YR 4	Year 4 visit—Richmond Park
Weds, 1st Oct	YR 3-6	Author visit—Dermot O’Leary
Weds, 1st Oct	YR 3	YR 3 Welcome meeting @ 6pm—Main Hall
Thurs, 2nd Oct	YR 1	YR 1 Welcome meeting @ 6pm—Main Hall
Mon, 6th Oct	YR 1&3	Science Dome Visit
Fri, 17th Oct	ALL	GASPA Bingo Night @7.30pm—Main Hall
Mon, 20th Oct	Rec	Diwali Dance workshop
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
Weds, 5th Nov	ALL	School photos
Tues, 11th Nov	R –6	Flu immunisations (details to follow shortly)

**Weekly House Points**

Here are this weeks house points. Well done to Kew.

Kew	100
Wisley	91
Richmond	79
Claremont	70
Norbury	68
Painshill	64



**BINGO Night**

**Friday 17th October 7:30PM**  
(1st Game at 8PM)

Get ready to shout "BINGO!" and win some amazing prizes (Adults only)

**£6 per ticket**  
(includes 3 games and a 'dabber')

**£15 for a LARGE Domino's pizza**  
(margarita / pepperoni)

There will be a bar selling alcoholic, soft & hot drinks.  
This is not a BYO event!!

Tickets will also be available to enter the raffle!  
Buy tickets at:  
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/gaspa/>