

## Message from Shona Pitcher

### Headteacher

What a busy and exciting week we've had! We were delighted to welcome Dermot O'Leary to the school to talk about his latest book, *Toto the Ninja Cat and the Pirate Treasure Hunt*. The children saw him in the lunch hall when he collected his school lunch and then a group of children met with him to have their books signed and ask him questions about his work. Dermot then met with Key Stage 2 and I had the pleasure of interviewing him. The children were delighted to hear about Dermot's many cats, which are the inspiration behind his stories. His advice to the children was to write about the things around them. The children then drew their own Toto the cat pictures and some are on display outside the library.



To all the parents that asked me, yes I did get a picture with Dermot and yes he is just as nice in person as he appears on TV!

Thank you as always to Mrs Maqsood, our school librarian, and Pat, from the Regency Bookshop in Surbiton, who organised this amazing event for our children. Our children are lucky to have a variety of opportunities available to them.

## Year 4 trip to Richmond Park

On Tuesday, Year 4 enjoyed their trip to Richmond Park. The children carefully sketched the landscape from Richmond Hill and explored nature trails around Pembroke Lodge, looking out for different types of trees and flowers. Some children reached the viewpoint at King Henry's Mound to see a panoramic view of London whilst others loved spotting a deer during a lunch time picnic.



The playground was, of course, a big hit, with climbing frames, sand pits and lots of space to play with old and new friends. A team-building exercise involving balancing the giant seesaw was another highlight of the day!

Kingston School Sports Partnership and RKFC Year 4 boys Tournament

On Wednesday, 8 boys from Year 4 took part in the Kingston Schools football tournament at Richmond and Kew FC's ground in Ham. The boys were in Group 1, which was down to 3 teams as one had not made it. It meant two games of 15 minutes back to back and we made a fine start with a 3-0 win over Alexandra. All three goals were scored by Leo A, ably assisted by the rest of the team who all played their part in the victory. The second game in the group was against OLI, who had beaten Alexandra soundly, so we were chuffed to go 2-0 up. Both goals were again scored by Leo A, the second being a screamer of a free kick. At that point, however, their academy player took charge and they pulled 3 back to win the game and the group. As runners up, the boys were pleased to be in the cup quarter-final, this time playing Coombe Hill who had won their group.

The chances came thick and fast, with most boys either hitting the woodwork or narrowly missing the net every time; the ball seemed to spin on the line several times but it just wouldn't go over it. One goal for Coombe Hill was enough to seal the win for them (before they were beaten by OLI!). The 8 boys showed excellent teamwork as well as individual flair throughout and will no doubt improve on all of this at next year's tournament. Thanks to the parents and grandparents for the transport and support.



**Mental Health Ambassadors Annual Conference**

The Year 6 mental Health Ambassadors attended this year's conference which was held at Southborough School this week. They spent the morning learning more about mental health and how to support others as well as themselves. They then completed an action plan of ways to further develop awareness of mental health at Grand Avenue. I was very proud of all their hard work.

Mrs Pidduck, Mental Health Lead



# AVENEWS

[www.grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk)

Autumn Term (page 3 of 5)

Friday, 9th September 2025

## Anger Manager in children NSPCC

Every year many thousands of children are referred to Childline for anger issues. Anger management in children is one of the top mental health concerns in childcare. Anger and the ability to control it are key skills of adulthood. Violent thoughts frequently bubble underneath human interactions. Anger is the quickest way for those thoughts to become reality. For this reason it is tightly regulated in our society. Children must learn to overcome anger so that they do not fall foul of strict controls on violent conduct. However, this is difficult for children to learn to manage since anger is remarkably powerful. Yet as parents and teachers there is no choice but to teach them to reign these emotions in. This can be hard knowledge to impart, but the NSPCC has produced helpful resources to aid you in that vital mission. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/arguments-conflict-family-tension>

## YEAR 6 CAKE SALE

Celebrating friendship in their final year together...

“Bake a Smile - Sprinkle a Little Love”



FRIDAY  
10 OCTOBER

FROM 3PM

AT BOTTOM GATE  
REMEMBER TO  
BRING A CONTAINER  
CASH OR CARD

BEAUTIFUL  
HANDMADE  
SCRUNCHIES

also on sale...



## Spotlight on

## attendance



Congratulations to **4C & 4V** who have had the highest attendance this week (100%).

## Weekly House Points

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

Claremont	154
Kew	130
Richmond	102
Wisley	96
Painshill	90
Norbury	69

## Autumn Term: Early Closing dates/times

- Friday, 7th November : Parent/teacher meetings.

Please see the times below for year group collection times.

**Nursery : Closed all day**

**Years R, 1 & 2: 1.15pm**

**Year 3: 1.25pm**

**Year 4: 1.30pm**

**Year 5 & 6: 1.25pm**

**The after school club will close at 5pm on this day.**

Friday, 19th December : Last day of Autumn term

**Nursery : 1pm**

**Years R, 1 & 2: 1.15pm**

**Year 3: 1.25pm**

**Year 4: 1.30pm**

**Year 5 & 6: 1.25pm**

**The after school club will close at 4pm on this day.**

ASD  
Parent/Carer Support Group



Thursday 9th October 2025

9.30 to 11am

at

Grand Avenue Primary School, Surbiton, KT5 9HU

*Join us for coffee, biscuits and chat to other parents that understand!*

*The theme for this session will be social communication and interaction.*

*If you would like to come along, please register by following this link:*

<https://forms.gle/FmZcDip5C5fCXkrX6>

or contact

Jane Pidduck (e-mail: [jpiddu2@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:jpiddu2@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk))

Emma (3S) was recently chosen to be a mascot at the Fulham vs Manchester United match. Emma had the incredible experience of walking out onto the pitch in front of 30,000 spectators and even took part in a short television interview.



Please see the attached flyer with details of a new Pilates course run by Berrylands Pilates. Starting Friday 10th October at 12.30pm at Emmanuel Church, Berrylands.

**Kinship care week: 6th to 12th October**

Kinship Care Week is a national week of awareness, recognition, and celebration of kinship families across England and Wales.

It's a chance to recognise the amazing grandparents, aunts, uncles, adult siblings, and close family friends who step up to provide homes for over 141,000 children in England and Wales. These carers offer vital stability and connection, helping kids maintain family bonds and cultural heritage.

The week also shines a light on the unique challenges kinship families often face, such as having to overcome complex systems with limited support, all while ensuring their child feels safe and loved.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11-qMS32HcinEyA2EexrBaFtJ8za2JtZG/view>

Dates for your Diary		
Mon, 6th Oct	YR 1&3	Science Dome Visit
Weds, 8th Oct	ALL	Bag 2 School—morning drop off
Fri, 10th Oct	ALL	Year 6 cake sale
w/c 13th Oct	ALL	Cycle to School Week
Mon, 13th Oct	YR 6	Poetry & Poppies Drama workshop
Tues, 14th Oct	ALL	GASPA OGM
Fri, 17th Oct	ALL	Year 5 cake sale
Fri, 17th Oct	ALL	GASPA Bingo Night @7.30pm—Main Hall
Mon, 20th Oct	REC	Diwali Dance workshop
Mon, 20th Oct	YR 5	Year 5 Science Museum
Tues, 21st Oct	REC	Reception Phonics and Reading workshop—online @ 9.30am
Thurs, 23rd Oct	YR 2	Tower of London visit
Thurs, 23rd Oct	REC/YR1	Reception & Year 1 Dress up day
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
Thurs, 6th Nov	ALL	Parent/carer teacher consultations (school closes at usual time)
Fri, 7th Nov	ALL	Parent/carer teacher consultations NURSERY CLOSED ALL DAY RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 SCHOOL—EARLY CLOSE
Tues, 11th Nov	R –6	Flu immunisations
Weds, 12th Nov	ALL	Parent Forum @ 9am
Fri, 21st Nov	ALL	Year 4 Cake Sale
Sat, 29th Nov	ALL	GASPA Christmas Fair
Fri, 19th Dec	ALL	Last day of Autumn Term