

Message from Shona Pitcher

Headteacher

I cannot believe that we are only two weeks away from the half term break and there are still two year group trips, workshops and GASPA events to come! The children have been working hard this term and I have been impressed with their positive attitudes to learning.

Our Reception tours for entry in September 2026 have started this week and the feedback from parents was very positive and the children demonstrated what GRAND children they are as the groups toured around the classrooms. If you know anyone who would like to visit the school please do share with them our Reception tours leaflet which is attached to the Newsletter.

It is a busy week for GASPA with the GASPA OGM taking place on Tuesday evening where I will be sharing an update on our school, and also sharing future plans which we will collaborate with GASPA on. I am looking forward to the GASPA Bingo night next Friday evening run by our parent volunteers. This is always a fun night and I hope to see you there!

Next week is *Bikeability's Cycle to School Week*, which runs from 13th–17th October 2025.

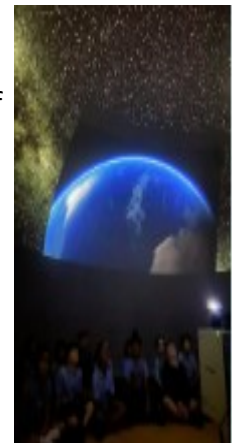
We are encouraging children to cycle or scoot to school. Cycling not only helps reduce pollution, but also supports children in developing a healthy lifestyle. If cycling every day isn't possible, why not aim for three times a week instead?

If you live too far away for cycling or scooting to be realistic, you could consider a "park and scoot/cycle" option.

To find out more, please [follow this link](#).



Year 3 enjoyed visiting the Science Dome this week. The children explored all of the stages of the rock cycle and learnt about soils and fossils too. Then they looked deep inside the earth and watched as magma erupted from volcanoes, turning into igneous rocks when cooled.



Top Tips for Dealing with Traumatic and Challenging Events

When children and young people experience traumatic or difficult life events, their emotional world can be shaken, and the impact may show up in their behaviour, mood, or relationships. Whether it's bereavement, a family breakdown or witnessing something distressing, the support of trusted adults can be key in helping them feel safe again. The attached guide looks at how to create a nurturing environment to help young people process difficult feelings.

It also shares clear, actionable strategies to promote recovery – from building emotional literacy and creating a predictable routine to recognising signs that further help may be needed. Sensitive language, patience, and presence all play a part in empowering children to move forward at their own pace. With the right support, they can rebuild a sense of security and resilience.

ParentingU: Autumn 2025 groups – Referrals now open

ParentingU believe every family deserves access to safe, nurturing parenting support that respects both culture and safeguarding standards. Many parents complete domestic abuse or Freedom Programme sessions but still struggle with harsh parenting practices, unresolved trauma, or cultural shame. These challenges can leave families caught between cultural expectations and statutory requirements.

Our role is to bridge that gap. ParentingU offers culturally responsive, therapeutic programmes that help families move beyond awareness and into practical, safe parenting. By addressing cultural sensitivities and lived experiences, we empower parents to build healthier relationships and break intergenerational cycles.

Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

Christmas Card Fundraiser

Please check your child's bag for their artwork proof which should have come home with them this week.

Orders must be made **by 12pm noon on Wednesday 15th October** via the online shop for the highest commission for our school!

SHOP LINK : <https://myfundraisinghub.com/welcome>

The shop will re-open between Tuesday 21st October - Monday 1st December. These sales will generate an extremely low commission for the school.

Before ordering:

- ☑ Check your child's name is spelt as you want it to appear on the artwork on the ONLINE SHOP before you order.
 - ☑ Small touch-ups can be made to your child's art work.
- Please request these online ASAP.**



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/>

✦ GASPA is looking for a new Chair ✦

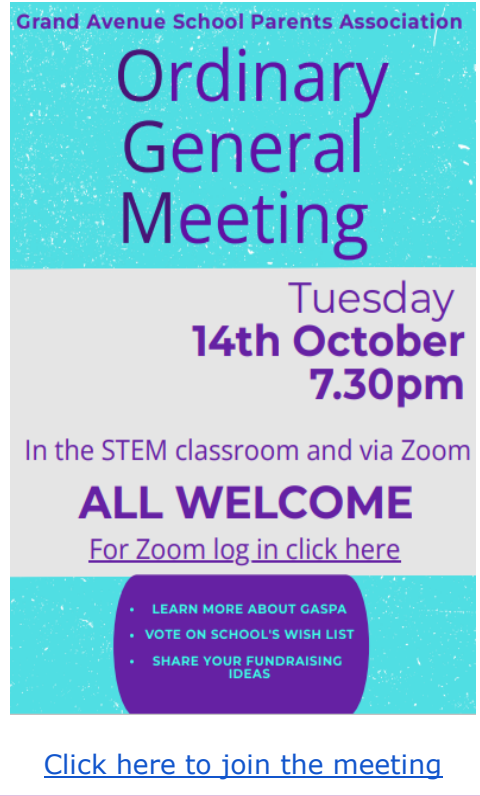
Are you passionate about supporting our school community and our children? Are you someone who can help guide our efforts, bring people together, and make a real difference for our children and staff and importantly have a lot of fun along the way.

This is a fantastic opportunity to:

- * Organise fundraising events
- * Work closely with parents and the leadership team
- * Maintain our strong school community

You do not need prior experience, we didn't, we learnt along the way and have loved every moment!!!!

If you would like to find out more please contact Lu or Maggie via your class rep.



Grand Avenue School Parents Association

Ordinary General Meeting

Tuesday
14th October
7.30pm

In the STEM classroom and via Zoom

ALL WELCOME

[For Zoom log in click here](#)

- LEARN MORE ABOUT GASPA
- VOTE ON SCHOOL'S WISH LIST
- SHARE YOUR FUNDRAISING IDEAS

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

AVENEWS

www.grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk

Autumn Term (page 4 of 5)

Friday, 10th October 2025

Reminders from the School Office.....

If your child is absent from please can you telephone the main school number or email the Absence email account: absence@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk

Please do not send absence emails to the Office email.

If your child has had vomiting or diarrhoea please keep your child home for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea.

Please can we ask that medical appointments are kept outside of school where possible to avoid disruption during the school day.

Children arriving late to school or returning after an appointment should enter via the School Office.

Weekly House Points

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

Claremont	121
Richmond	111
Kew	100
Wisley	99
Norbury	92
Painshill	83

Ribbons wanted for Reception.

If you have any rolls of ribbons or offcuts at home that you would like to donate, the Reception team would be pleased to have these for their outdoor play sessions.



Spotlight on attendance

Congratulations to **6CM** who have had the highest attendance this week (99.7%).

Flu immunisation—Reception to Year 6 **Tuesday—11th November**

The letter with full details of how to provide consent for your child to be administered the nasal flu immunisation were sent on Tuesday, 30th September.

Please follow the below link to consent to your child receiving the immunisation. Consent must be given by **Thursday, 6th November**

[Nasal Flu Immunisation electronic consent](#)

[Log onto the School Gateway](#) to check and pay any outstanding payments on the School Gateway. Thank you.

Y1	Science Dome
Y3	Science Dome
Y5	Science Museum
Y2	Tower of London
Y6	Poetry & Poppies workshop

Dates for your Diary

w/c 13th Oct	ALL	Cycle to School Week
Mon, 13th Oct	YR 6	Poetry & Poppies Drama workshop
Tues, 14th Oct	ALL	GASPA OGM @ 7.30am
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 (deadline to provide consent Thurs 6th Nov)
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

Mayor's Christmas Card Competition 2025

The Mayor is asking for children to enter the competition to design his Christmas Card for 2025. Please see the attached letter and template to submit the designs on. The deadline for submission is Friday, 7th November.