

Message from Shona Pitcher

Headteacher

It has been a very festive week in school. Year 6 have been busy making their Advent calendars this week and I have been impressed with their expert sewing skills. A huge thank you to all our parent helpers who have come in this week to support the children. I hope that you all enjoy their creations and that they are proud of their work.

The school has been a hive of activity this morning with preparations for the Christmas Fair which is taking place tomorrow. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. Myself and Mr McHale will see you at the entrance and do pop by the Festive Jackpot game to see the rest of the staff. We are also looking forward to performances from Grand Singers, Little Voices and the country dancers. Thank you to everyone who is volunteering their time tomorrow - I am sure it will be another brilliant event.

This week has been UK Parliament Week and Year 4 has been holding debates, following the process and progress of a Bill passing through Parliament to becoming Law. The children enjoyed learning about democracy in action as well as honing their oracy skills, showing an excellent understanding of why it is important to hear the views of others as well as expressing our own. We may have a few future MPs, or maybe Lords, amongst us...

**UK
PARLIAMENT
WEEK**
24-30 NOV 2025



Domestic Abuse Support App - Bright Sky by Hestia

Domestic abuse, whether towards a female or male partner, can significantly affect the children who live in that environment. Exposure to violence, coercion or ongoing emotional manipulation disrupts a child's sense of safety and can influence their behaviour, relationships and engagement in learning.

These situations are often hard to spot. Many victims work to hide what is happening, particularly from official agencies, due to fear of consequences for the abusive partner or worries about major upheaval for the family.

Hestia is a London-based charity that supports adults and children in crisis, delivering frontline services and campaigning nationally on issues such as domestic abuse, modern slavery and mental health. They have created the Bright Sky app, a free and discreet tool that helps people recognise signs of abuse, access specialist support and record concerns safely.

The Bright Sky app provides:

- A simple tool to help someone recognise signs of abuse and understand whether a relationship feels unsafe.
- A secure, optional journal for recording incidents or concerns that can later be shared with a trusted person or agency.
- A directory of national and local support services, making it easier to find the right help quickly.

To find out more, please follow the link: <https://www.hestia.org/brightsky>

Attendance:

We are committed to helping every pupil achieve their full potential, and excellent attendance is fundamental to this success. We are proud that our overall attendance for the 2024/2025 academic year was 95.5%, which was above the national average for primary schools. Building on this strength, the Department for Education (DfE) has set our school an Attendance Baseline Improvement Expectation (ABIE), requiring us to achieve a minimum overall attendance rate of 95.8% for the 2025/2026 academic year. This is achievable, and we can go further!

While we are delighted that our Year 4 attendance from last year (98%) and support for pupils with SEND have been highlighted as areas of strength, the DfE report identifies that focused improvement in Year 6 is essential for us to reach our goal. We are implementing targeted support strategies and kindly ask all parents to ensure their child is in school, on time, every day. Working together, we can ensure every child gains the learning and progress they deserve. Please note that pupils in KS2 should enter the green gates by 8.45am. If they arrive after that time they are classed as late and will be asked to enter via the office.



Spotlight on attendance

Congratulations to 6T who have had the highest attendance this week (99%).

The Daily Mile Santa Dash 2025!

The Daily Mile Santa Dash is a fun, free event to help children move, smile, and stay active during the winter months. As a school we are taking part on Friday, 5th December! The focus is on getting children moving! If children have a santa hat and want to wear it during the Grand Mile that would be great! This is an optional extra, please do not feel you need to purchase one for the event.



CHRISTMAS TREE CORNER
CHRISTMAS SORTED WITH ONE CLICK
SCAN TO HAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE DELIVERED



£5 from every tree sold goes to GASPA!

<https://christmastreecorner.co.uk/discount/GAPS25>

Park Run—Sunday, 30th November 2025

Mr Tagg will be at park run at Alexandra Park, this Sunday, 30th November if anyone would like to join.

You can register for parkrun for free here:

www.parkrun.org.uk/register/

Mr Tagg looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



We continue to receive complaints from our neighbours regarding inconsiderate parking. Please can we ask you to be mindful when parking outside of the school and do not obstruct driveways.

Weekly House Points

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

Painshill	99
Norbury	92
Wisley	92
Richmond	79
Kew	78
Claremont	58

We have had several cases of headlice across the school. Please can we ask you to check your child's hair this weekend and carry out any treatment as necessary. Thank you.

AVENEWS

www.grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk

Autumn Term (page 4 of 4)

Friday, 28th November 2025

Dates for your Diary

Mon, 1st Dec	NUR	Nursery—open morning & afternoon
Mon, 1st Dec	4SP	4SP Drumming performance @ 2.30pm—Annex Hall
Tues, 2nd Dec	YR 6	National Army Museum visit
Tues, 2nd Dec	5AM	5AM Trumpet performance @ 2.30pm—Annex Hall
Weds, 3rd Dec	3S	3S Ukulele performance @ 2.30pm—Annex Hall
Mon, 8th Dec	RBF	Butterflies Christmas performance @ 9.30am—Annex Hall
Tues, 9th Dec	KS2	Winter Concert @ 6.15pm (full details to follow)
Tues, 9th Dec	RBB	Bumblebees Christmas performance @ 9.30am—Annex Hall
Tues, 9th Dec	YR 1	Festive Craft Afternoon @2.15pm
Weds, 10th Dec	RL	Ladybirds Christmas performance @ 9.30am—Annex Hall
Weds, 10th Dec	YR 4	Showcase afternoon @ 2.45—Year 4 classrooms
Thurs, 11th Dec	ALL	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs, 11th Dec	YR 2 & 3	Christmas Performance @ 9.15am—Main Hall
Thurs, 11th Dec	YR 1	Festive Craft Afternoon @2.15pm
Fri, 12th Dec	YR 2 & 3	Christmas Performance @ 1.45pm—Main Hall
Mon, 15th Dec	NUR	Nursery Christmas Sing a Long
Mon, 15th Dec	YR 3	Year 3 Sewing Day—volunteers requested
Mon, 15th Dec	YR 4	Rose Theatre trip—Cinderella
Thurs, 18th Dec	YR 3	Year 3 Showcase Afternoon @ 2.45pm
Fri, 19th Dec	NUR	Nursery Christmas Party

Last day of Autumn Term— early close; times as below

Fri, 19th Dec	ALL
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Nursery	1pm
Reception, Year 1 & 2	1.15pm
Year 3, 5 & 6	1.25pm
Year 4	1.30pm
After School Club	4pm

