

Message from Shona Pitcher

Headteacher

As I look back over the term, there is so much to be proud of and I hope that your children can reflect on a successful time.

On Monday, I was lucky to accompany our Year 4 children to the Rose Theatre to watch their festive production of Cinderella. The children loved this experience and demonstrated what GRAND children they are. The rest of the week has been a blur of classroom showcases, musical performances and sewing! I hope that you have enjoyed these sessions as much as we all have. Being able to share your children's learning and achievements brings the school together.

The children across the school enjoyed their Christmas parties and the children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 had a very special guest join them! The children in Year 5 & 6 performed in a Carol Concert which was organised by the class representative coordinators, Martina and Tash and led by Ron and Gareth on instruments and conducting. They were accompanied by a community band who accompanied the children. You will see that children in Year 4 painted some beautiful panels under the direction of the talented Tilly to provide a festive backdrop to the concert. A huge thank you to all involved in putting this event together. Today the children enjoyed a special treat with a panto put on by the staff! The children loved the show and seeing the staff in their costumes.

On that note, I would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful team that I have the pleasure of working with. Every member of staff brings something special to this school and all their hard work and dedication is very much appreciated both by me and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you too, to all of our parent community for your on-going support and thank you for your kind words and gifts. Although we all love our jobs and we are here because we love working with children, it is always nice to feel appreciated.

I wish you all a wonderful festive break and hope that you all enjoy some well-deserved rest. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday, 5th January for the first day of the Spring term.





Earlier in the week, Year 3 had a very busy day sewing their stuffed toys. They're really proud of their creations! Thank you to all the parent helpers who helped throughout the day.

Year 4 have had a busy week! On Monday all the children went on the bus to Kingston and watched The Rose Theatre's production of *Cinderella*. The songs and spectacle were enjoyed by all, as was the opportunity to indulge in the chanting of the children's two favourite consecutive numbers.

Wednesday was a double treat, firstly with the making and tasting of some hearty Viking broth, packed full of vegetables that the Norse folk would have eaten in their day. The children learnt knife techniques so they could safely chop the cabbage, swede, courgette, cauliflower and carrots before adding them to water and simmering. Everyone thought the taste was 8 out of 8 as they evaluated their broth afterwards. The smell scored a little lower amongst the staff in the corridors!

The children also contributed to the painting of some scenery flats that were used at the Christmas concert. Each class painted sections of the backdrop for the concert that Upper Key Stage 2 performed. The workshop and concerts were led by parents, showing off the sense of community of which the school is rightly proud. The flats will also be used for future productions, fulfilling the sustainability we all aim for.



GOVERNORS CORNER—ANGIE EDWARDS

Hello everyone! I'm Angie, one of the co-opted governors at Grand Avenue, and I am delighted to be part of this fantastic team. I became a governor because I believe schools are at the heart of every community, and I wanted to play a role in supporting the valuable work that happens here every day. I also have a long-standing connection with Grand Avenue—I was a pupil here many years ago!



I currently work in higher education as a Senior Lecturer in Education, specialising in Initial Teacher Education and mathematics education. Before this, I was a primary teacher and senior leader in local schools. I have two primary-aged children of my own- my daughter is in Year 4 and my son is in Year 1.

This year, I am the Year 3 governor, and my subject focus is Design Technology. I'll be exploring how key concepts are implemented across the DT curriculum to support understanding and progress. I'm keen to visit classrooms, chat with staff and pupils, and see DT projects in action.

Grand Avenue is special because the pupils love coming to school, learning, working hard, and aspiring to great things. The school's core values create a place where happy, lasting memories are made for everyone. I'm looking forward to supporting the school and working alongside the staff, parents and pupils to continue to make Grand Avenue a great place to learn and grow.

GASPA FUNDRAISING

The team would like to share an update on the Christmas fundraising.

Christmas Fair £7,881 (including the raffle)

Secret Room £2,746

Donation from Coffee on the Corner £1,000

This takes the Christmas total to a massive £11,627

A huge thank you to Coffee on the Corner who supported us by donating a portion of their sales for every tree purchased by the Grand Avenue community and have generously topped this up.

Thank you to everyone for your support this term, we are looking forward to the Spring term events.

Fundraising this year is focussed on new play equipment for the KS2 playground and we are well on our way to purchasing this.

School Applications

If your child is due to begin Reception in September 2026, please visit the Kingston eAdmissions site to make your applications. Please follow the below link:

[Kingston Council eAdmissions](#)

Ella in 3FB has written a festive poem for us to enjoy. Well done Ella.

Ella's Christmas Poem

Father Christmas has a hat
He wears it on his head
He has a reindeer called Rudolph
And his nose is red!

He has eight other reindeer
They all pull his sleigh
On Christmas Eve they take their flight
And Rudolph leads the way!

They travel all across the world
Until their work is done
They start with a sleigh full of presents
And at the end there's none!

The children wake up in the morning
They're excited and full of glee
Father Christmas rests his legs
Next to the christmas tree!

by Ella Daisy Dean

Why not pick up a book and enjoy some reading over the festive break. Some of the teachers favourites are shared below.



Miss Clift recommends: *The Grand Hotel of Feeling* by Lidia Brankovic

Mrs Barnett recommends: *Beware of the Bear* by Alan MacDonald and Gyneth Williams

Mrs Dumbleton recommends: *The Blue Balloon* by Mike Inkpen

Mr Cary recommends: *Vincent the Vain* by Sam Lloyd

Places available on a number of parenting groups starting next term in Kingston

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.

Workshops for parents of children aged up to 10 years

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 contact [Karen Williams](#) for further information.



Stanley (5S) will be starring as a member of Fagan's gang in *Oliver* in London's West End. Stanley will be appearing from January 2026 .

Congratulations to Stanley.

Dates for your Diary

Mon, 5th Jan	ALL	FIRST DAY OF THE SPRING TERM
Wed, 7th Jan	ALL	Swimming/volunteer inductions 8.45-9.00am Please click here to sign up to attend a swimming/volunteer induction session.
Mon 16th—Fri 20th Feb	ALL	HALF TERM
Thurs 12th Mar	ALL	Parent/Teacher consultations
Fri 13th Mar	ALL	Parent/Teacher consultations
Fri, 27th Mar	ALL	Last day of Spring term—early close
Weds, 20th May	YR1 –YR6	Sports Day (more details to follow closer to the date)

Swimming—Spring Term

Here is the swimming timetable for the Spring Term.



	Mon	Tue	Weds	Thurs	Fri
1-2PM	5C	4SP	Badgers	-	Foxes
2-3PM	5S	4V	Otters	5AM	4C

If you have not paid swimming fees for the Autumn Term please log onto your child’s School Gateway and make payment as soon as possible, thank you.



Spotlight on attendance

Congratulations to **4V** who have had the highest attendance this week (96.6%).

Weekly House Points

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

Kew	101
Painshill	92
Norbury	90
Richmond	88
Claremont	80
Wisely	71

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

A re minder that Mr Tagg will be taking part in the Junior Parkrun in Alexandra Park, Surbiton on Sunday, 21st December from 8.50am. Come along and join in the fun!