

## Message from Shona Pitcher

We are already half way through the half term and it's been wonderful to see the children coming into school every morning, happy and ready to learn. Myself and other members of SLT enjoy greeting children and parents at drop off and collection every day.

The children in Year 5 & 6 enjoyed their Virtual Reality experience yesterday, with rave reviews of the animals and habitats seen by Year 5.

On Tuesday, Mr Ball, our School Improvement Partner from the local authority, came into school for his termly visit. He observed several key strengths across the school, noting the calm, orderly and purposeful learning environments established in our classrooms. He also highlighted that the staff successfully created a safe and supportive atmosphere for all pupils.

Looking ahead, we recognise that attendance remains a huge focus nationally. We are committed to prioritising this area by working closely with our families to improve both punctuality and overall attendance rates. By fostering these partnerships, we aim to ensure every child is present and ready to benefit from the high-quality learning environment our School Improvement Partner so positively reviewed.

## Headteacher



Our Year 5 & 6 swimming team excelled themselves at this weeks swimming gala earlier in the week. Both teams won their relays and collected an array of medals. Well done team.



We are regenerating our wildlife area and are planning on rebuilding and resizing the pond.

If anyone has any expertise or knowledge of this we would be grateful of your advice. Please contact the School Office via email or ([office@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:office@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk)) or drop in and speak to us.

Thank you as always for your support.

### ***From the Office team:***

With this wet weather upon us we have run out of spare socks and tights. Please can you return to us any which may be at home and if you have any spares for donation we would be pleased to have them.

We have had a lot of children without lunches booked this week. Please can you ensure that school lunches are booked for the remainder of the term. We are unable to make any changes to the lunch order after 9am. If you no longer require a lunch please can you also ensure you cancel any booked.

**Bag 2 School**  
**Friday, 30th January**

Please place any bags for donation on Friday morning on the right hand side inside the school gate and away from the fence.

Thank you.



**Bag 2 School**

**UPCOMING DATES**

**DATES FOR 2025-26**

Wednesday 8 Oct 2025  
Monday 17 Nov 2025  
Friday 30 Jan 2026  
Friday 20 Mar 2026  
Friday 22 May 2026  
Friday 3 July 2026

Bag 2 School accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags, Hats, Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie, Socks, Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen, Household curtains, Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers only)

If you have any toy cars, helicopters or planes, Mrs Pidduck would be grateful to have these. Please take any donations to the School Office



Many thanks.

There are still a lot of unclaimed single and pairs of gloves, hats and scarves. Any items not claimed by next Friday, 30th January, will be donated to Bag2School.



**Weekly House Points**

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

Painshill	133
Norbury	123
Claremont	121
Kew	116
Richmond	109
Wisley	105

**Overdue payment reminders:**

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

YEAR	TRIP/WORKSHOP
REC	Diwali workshop
YR 1,2, 3,4 & 5	Swimming fees
YR 1 & 3	Science Dome
YR 2	Tower of London
YR 5	Science Museum
YR 5 & 6	Virtual Reality Workshop
YR 6	National Army Museum
YR 6	Poetry & Poppies
YR 6	PGL Windmill Hill



### Spotlight on attendance

Congratulations to **Badgers** who have had the highest attendance this week (98.9%).

### Christmas cards fundraising

The Christmas cards and gifts raised an amazing £1,469.01 for the school.

Thank you to everyone involved with this fundraiser, including the teachers who supported the children with their wonderful designs and Martina and Tash for organising the project.

### Water Safety

Following a recent incident involving children and the River Thames, Kingston Council are asking for your urgent support in discussing water safety with your children.

With the current cold spell and the potential for further freezing weather, the risks associated with open water are significantly higher. We want to ensure every family in our community has the information needed to stay safe.

#### The Dangers of Cold Water

Please remind your children that entering the river or stepping onto ice is extremely dangerous.

- **Cold Water Shock:** This is a primary cause of drowning and can occur in water temperatures below **15°C**.
- **Current Conditions:** The River Thames typically drops to between **3°C and 9°C** during January and February.

**The "Float to Live" Rule:** If someone accidentally enters the water and experiences cold water shock, they should **float on their back** and resist the urge to swim until they can control their breathing.

#### **Helpful Resources for Families**

We encourage you to review these resources based on your child's age group to help start the conversation:

- <https://capt.org.uk/drowning/>
- [Water safety for Teenagers and young peoples](#)
- [Staying safe around water](#)
- [Water safety London Fire Brigade](#)
- [Winter water safety- Royal Life Saving Society](#)

**Dates for your Diary**

Mon, 26th Jan	ALL	Mental Health Support Team coffee afternoon
Fri, 30th Jan	ALL	Bag2School collection
Fri, 30th Jan	YR 3	Maths afternoon @ 2.30pm (Year 3 classrooms)
Fri, 30th Jan	YR 1	Squirrels visit to Tolworth Library @ 10.15am
Fri, 30th Jan	REC	Bumblebees visit to Tolworth Library @ 9.30am
Fri, 30th Jan	YR 1	Year 1 Cake sale
Tues, 3rd Feb	YR 4	Ancient Egyptian Workshop and Dress up Day (payment due 27th)
Weds, 4th Feb	YR2	Badgers Class Assembly @ 10.30am (Main Hall)
Fri, 6th Feb	REC	Ladybirds visit to Tolworth Library @ 9.30am
Fri, 6th Feb	YR 1	Hedgehogs visit to Tolworth Library @ 10.15am
Fri, 6th Feb	REC	Reception cake sale
Tues, 10th Feb	YR 6	Junior Citizenship Scheme (payment due Fri, 6th Feb)
Weds, 11th Feb	YR 2	Otters Class Assembly @ 10.30am (Main Hall)
Fri, 13th Feb	YR 1	Year 1 First Aid Workshop (payments due Fri, 6th Feb)
Fri, 13th Feb	REC	Butterflies visit to Tolworth Library @ 9.30am
<b>Mon 16th—Fri 20th Feb</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Mon, 23rd Feb	ALL	First day of Spring Term 2
Fri, 6th Feb	NUR	Nursery cake sale
Thurs 12th Mar	ALL	Parent/Teacher consultations
Fri 13th Mar	ALL	Parent/Teacher consultations
Mon, 23rd Mar	YR 3	Roman Day workshop (payment due Mon, 16th Mar)
Tues, 24th Mar	ALL	GASPA AGM
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)

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