



Granard Primary School and Cedar Base

"Growing together; Achieving together"

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable half term break. We have a very busy half term ahead of us, so please do look at our 'Dates for your diary' section so that you don't miss out on anything! Mainstream parents should have received information about booking parents' evening appointments for next week. If you have any issues with booking, please contact the front office. The mainstream school will close at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 3rd March due to parents' evening.

Next week is also 'Book week' with World Book Day taking place on Thursday, 5th March. On this day, we encourage children (and staff!) to come to school dressed as book characters. There will be prizes for the most creative outfits! During Book week, children will be visiting Waterstones in Putney to spend their book vouchers.

It was lovely to join Reception for their recent 'Curriculum share' with parents before half term. Our next 'Curriculum share' event is for Year 2 parents, on Monday, 16th March at 2.45 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

Due to clashes with Ramadan, we have decided to move our ASC Easter party to Wednesday, 15th April, so that all children will have the opportunity to attend.

If you haven't already, do pop down to Putney Library to see our amazing Art Exhibition – it truly is a very colourful and eye-catching display of our children's work. The exhibition will stay up until the end of this term.

Parent Governor Election

Due to one of our parent governors coming to the end of her term of office, we are looking to elect a new parent governor.

A parent governor is a volunteer elected to a school's governing board to provide a parental perspective, helping shape strategic decisions to improve educational standards. They represent parent views without acting as a delegate for individual issues, focusing instead on the whole school's best interests. They are not involved in day-to-day management.

 info@granard.wandsworth.sch.uk

 020 8788 3606

 [X.com](https://www.x.com)

 [facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

 [@granardprimary](https://www.instagram.com)

Key Responsibilities

- **Strategic Direction:** Contributing to school policies, aims and objectives
- **Accountability:** Holding the Headteacher to account for educational performance
- **Monitoring:** Overseeing financial performance and ensuring budget efficiency
- **Representation:** Bringing a parent's viewpoint to the board, without acting as a direct spokesperson for specific issues
- **Governance:** Attending meetings (approximately 6 per year), reading papers and visiting the school

Key Facts

- **Eligibility:** Must have a child at the school at the time of election
- **Term:** Usually a four-year term
- **Role Type:** It is a strategic, non-executive role, not a "doing" role
- **Conduct:** Must act in confidence and follow a code of conduct

Please note that parent governors are not responsible for resolving individual student issues, but rather for directing parents to the school's formal complaints procedure.

If you are interested in taking on this role, please speak to Mrs Grigg by **Friday, 6th March 2026**.

SAFEGUARDING SEGMENT

So that children can flourish in life, they need to have good bedtime routines. A number of our children are tired during the day and this is impacting on their ability to really achieve their best. A solid bedtime routine is one of the most underrated tools in a parent's kit. It isn't just about getting them to sleep; it's about creating a predictable "*safety net*" that helps their brains transition from the chaos of the day to the rest they need to grow.

Beyond just preventing morning grumpiness, here is why those routines are so transformative for a child's development:

1. Emotional Security

Children thrive on predictability. When they know exactly what happens next (bath, pyjamas, book, bed), it lowers their cortisol levels. This sense of routine helps them feel safe and in control, which reduces bedtime anxiety and "stalling" tactics.

2. Cognitive Development

The brain does its 'heavy lifting' during sleep - sorting memories and processing what was learned during the day. A routine ensures they get the quality and quantity of sleep required for:

- better focus and attention spans
- improved problem-solving skills
- language development (especially if the routine includes reading)

3. Biological Regulation

A consistent routine helps set the child's circadian rhythm. By dimming lights and slowing down activities at the same time each night, you trigger the natural release of melatonin, making it physically easier for them to fall asleep and stay asleep.

GOVERNOR BLOG

On the cold and rainswept evening of 11th February there were flags of many colours and countries flying in the warmth of Putney Library. There was much excitement as Granard pupils, parents and friends gathered for the Private View of 'Global Identities'.

The Annual Art Show was officially opened by Cllr. Jeremy Ambache, the Wandsworth Mayor. He was genuinely impressed by the works of art created by pupils throughout the whole school, remarking that the exhibition beautifully reflects the idea that flags are so much more than colours and shapes. They are symbols of heritage, belonging, achievement and collective values. He said that the use of many techniques and the variety of materials, from tissue to felt and string, amongst others, used during the creative process has shown the pupils there is no single way to represent a culture. Diversity isn't something to neatly fit into one form; it is something to explore, interpret and celebrate with imagination.

This is something that happens regularly at Granard, as we have teachers who believe that creativity through Art promotes added value to a balanced curriculum, making learning more accessible to all children. During the preparation for this project, the pupils expanded their knowledge about the world, especially the human and environmental geography of both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. We have families from all over the world represented at Granard, and it is not surprising that the pupils were enchanted by the idea of being adventurous and putting their own ideas down to mark the importance of the flags of the world.

The Private View was a wonderful evening, full of fun, proud pupils, their friends and families. It is a lovely reminder of the power of Art to connect all of us, to venture into the wider world and explore the possibilities of seeing things in a different way.

The show continues until **27th March**, so there is still time to see the flags if you haven't already!

Shirley Hobson, **School Governors**

Please see below and overleaf for highlights from the event, along with a selection of the flags on display.







DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

📅	Tuesday 3 rd	9.30 a.m.	Parent workshop in school – Introduction to Makaton – all parents welcome to attend
		1.30 p.m.	Mainstream children leave
		1.45 p.m.	Parents' Evening – mainstream
📅	Wednesday 04 th	3.30 p.m.	Parents' Evening – mainstream
📅	Monday 9 th		Year 3 Roman Artifacts – virtual session
📅	Tuesday 10 th	9.30 a.m.	Parent workshop in school – Total communication – all parents welcome
			Year 3 trip to Kew Gardens
📅	Wednesday 11 th	5 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Early Years Bedtime stories
📅	Thursday 12 th	9 a.m.	Coffee morning for parents – all parents invited – <i>Supporting your child's wellbeing with Dr Phoebe Wheeler</i>
📅	Friday 13 th		Coding Club trip to <i>Stamford Bridge</i>
		2.45 p.m.	Year 3 class assembly
📅	Monday 16 th	2.45 p.m.	Year 2 curriculum share with parents
📅	Tuesday 17 th		Year 5 trip to Wimbledon Synagogue
📅	Wednesday 18 th	9 a.m.	Parent workshop in school about screen time
		11.45 a.m.	Year 4 Brass concert – parents invited Ash class trip to Deen City Farm
📅	Friday 20 th		INSET day – school closed for children
📅	Monday 23 rd	2.45 p.m.	Year 1 curriculum share with parents
📅	Wednesday 25 th		Reception trip to the Polka Theatre
		6.30 p.m.	Lion King performance
📅	Thursday 26 th	6.30 p.m.	Lion King performance
📅	Friday 27 th	1.10 p.m.	Reception Book share with parents
		1.15 p.m.	Base children leave – Break up for Easter holidays
		1.30 p.m.	Mainstream children leave – Break up for Easter holidays Base Easter/Spring event

APRIL

📅	Monday 13 th		Children return to school
📅	Wednesday 15 th		ASC Easter party
📅	Friday 17 th		Fun Fundraising sponsored event
📅	Tuesday 21 st		Years 3 & 4 'Learn to ride' cycling course (until 24 th April)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Friday 1 st	2.45 p.m.	Year 2 class assembly
Monday 4 th		Bank Holiday – school closed
Wednesday 6 th	2.45 p.m.	Year 3 curriculum share with parents
Monday 11 th		Year 6 – SATS week
Thursday 14 th	2.45 p.m.	Year 5 curriculum share with parents
Friday 15 th		Year 6 end of SATS trip
Monday 18 th	2.45 p.m.	Year 4 curriculum share with parents
Wednesday 20 th		ASC party
Thursday 21 st	2.45 p.m.	Year 6 Book share with parents
Friday 22 nd	1.10 p.m. 1.15 p.m. 1.30 p.m.	Reception Book share with parents Base children leave – Break up for Half term holidays Mainstream children leave – Break up for Half term holidays

INSETS & HALF TERM DATES

- ✓ Friday 20th March 2026 - INSET Day
- ✓ Monday 20th July 2026 - INSET Day
- ✓ Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026 - Summer Half Term

TERM DATES

Scan this QR code for the **term dates** for **this year** and **next academic year**.

[Or click here](#)



PARENTS MENU

Scan this QR code to go straight to the **Parents Menu** on our school website.

[Or click here](#)



6R ROWLING

Mental Health Week

As part of Mental Health Week, the children in 6R took part in simple relaxation activities and practised belly breathing to help them recognise and manage their feelings.

We talked about how taking a moment to pause, breathe deeply and notice how our bodies feel can support well-being, focus and calm and every day situations.



Wellbeing in Action: Yoga for Calm and Focus

This week, the children in 6R Rowling took part in a calming yoga session as part of our ongoing commitment to fitness, wellbeing and mental health.

Through gentle movement, stretching and simple breathing techniques, the children were encouraged to slow down, notice how their bodies feel and practise taking calm, steady breaths.



The session supported pupils to develop strategies for managing big feelings, improving focus and finding moments of calm during a busy school day.



A big thank you to *Lesley Ann*, who led the session so brilliantly and helped create such a calm and positive experience for the children.



APPLE CLASS

Apple Class made shields and helmets to dress up as scary Roman soldiers for last half term's class topic.



3G MURPHY

Year 3 have been working hard making some Roman shields to conclude our topic.

They planned their own designs and painted them before making their finishing touches.

We can't wait to see the end results!



4M LEWIS

Year 4 had an amazing visit to the London Eye! We were lucky enough to get a whole pod to ourselves.

We saw lots of iconic landmarks such as the Elizabeth Tower and Big Ben, BT Tower, the Shard, Houses of Parliament and more!



Afterwards, the rain stopped long enough for us to enjoy the park before having lunch in the Royal Festival Hall.

What a fantastic day out!



2S FOREMAN

Dancing Dragons and Whooshing Umbrellas

As part of our topic 'Let's go to China', Year 2 and children from the Cedar Base took part in a wonderful workshop focusing on the celebrations of Chinese New Year.

The children learnt how to dance with fans and umbrellas and were incredibly graceful with their movements.

However, the highlight was the incredible dragon dance! The children formed the dragon with one child leading the dragon around the hall. They worked very hard to be in time and work as a team!

Gong hei fat choi! This phrase is often said at Chinese New Year, wishing people to prosper in the new year.



Houses! Fire! London!

2S have created fantastic replicas of the houses which burnt down during the Great Fire of London as part of their holiday homework. Their projects contain fire erupting from the buildings as well as fairy lights representing the fire.

Some children have even created a timeline of events leading up to the fire and what happened afterwards.

They've produced brilliant work and showcased the amazing artistic talents of Year 2! We can't wait to find out more about how the fire started!



CHERRY CLASS

This week, we learned about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated around the world. We explored the Chinese zodiac and found out which animal represents the year we were born.

We really enjoyed discovering our zodiac signs and sharing them with our friends. We also made our own Chinese lanterns.



OPEN MORNING AT CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

Christ's Hospital is delighted to invite you to their **Open Morning**, a wonderful opportunity to discover what makes Christ's Hospital such an inspiring place to learn.

Christ's Hospital is a **boarding school for students aged 11–18**, known for combining academic ambition with a deep belief in opportunity for all. Named Independent School of the Year 2024/2025. They welcome students from all backgrounds, with around 650 of their 830 students receiving financial assistance.

 **Date:** Saturday 7th March 2026

 **Christ's Hospital**
HorshamWest, Sussex RH13 0LJ

During the morning, you will have the chance to:

- Meet *Matthew Judd*, Head of Christ's Hospital
- Hear directly from students about life at the school
- Enjoy a student-led tour of our remarkable campus
- Experience their iconic Band Parade, a vibrant tradition that brings the whole school together

To book your place, please [click here](#).



SIGN UP
NOW

Premier League Kicks

Free community football sessions for young people
aged 8–18

Girls only sessions available

**Furzedown Recreational
Centre**
SW17 9BP

Monday (Girls)
5 - 7pm
8 - 14yrs

Churchill Gardens Estate
SW1V 8RY

Tuesday (Girls)
5 - 6pm
8 - 16yrs

Westway Sports Centre
W10 6RP

Wednesday (Girls)
6 - 8pm
8 - 16yrs

Saturday (Girls)
5 - 6pm
8 - 16yrs

Ashburton Youth Club
SW15 4JE

Wednesday (Mixed)
6 - 7:30pm
8 - 14yrs

Worlds End Estate
SW10 0EQ

Wednesday (Mixed)
6 - 7:30pm
8 - 14yrs

St Lukes Gardens
SW3 6NH

Thursday (Mixed)
5:30 - 7pm
8 - 13yrs





Come and tell us about your estates

Residents of Ashburton South, Ashburton Chartfield & Roehampton estates. Do you have an idea on how to improve your estate?

4pm to 7pm, 26 March 2026

Boyd Court, 101 Carslake Rd, London SW15 3DD

Come along to meet the council officers who maintain your estates

- Meet your Estate Managers and Area Housing Manager
- Ask about or request works on your estate
- Raise repairs, find out about works, or give feedback on repairs
- Find out about cleaning and waste services and give feedback
- Find out about other council services and support available
- Find out about how you can get involved in your community and shape council services.

Open to all estate residents!

Before the event, there will be an estate walk about on Ashburton South with the Estate Manager at 3pm, meet outside the venue.



For more activities in your area



If you can't make it, join our feedback group

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing