

Granard Primary School and Cedar Base

"Growing together; Achieving together"

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was good to see a number of parents at my meeting last week and to have the opportunity to explain how Granard is moving to becoming a one form entry mainstream school with an 84 place ASD Base over the next couple of years. The benefits of this have included fully-funded refurbishments of many parts of the school buildings, the latest being the ground floor of the Westleigh Avenue building, including developing the outdoor space which runs along the length of Westleigh Avenue, replacement windows throughout the school, with the last phase of window replacements planned for the two halls and the top floor of the Cortis Road building, which should be completed over the next few months.

Other benefits have included maintaining a large staff team which means that we are able to continue to provide numerous opportunities, experiences and support for all children.

Three of our Base classes are currently being taught in the mainstream part of the school. These classes will move over to the ground floor of the Westleigh Avenue building in September, once the renovations have been completed.

We also now have SEN Nursery provision, which is gradually growing. When it is at full capacity, there will be 24 part-time places. From September, they will have their own classroom, adjacent to our mainstream Nursery, which will allow for integration, where appropriate.

Over the past few years there have been a number of building projects across the school to facilitate these changes, and we have managed to keep any disruption to the children's learning and the spaces they are able to use to a minimum. From September, there should be a reduced amount of renovation works taking place across the school and we look forward to having full access to our KS2 playground once again.

I would like to remind you about the importance of children's attendance at school. We frequently receive requests for absences from families who are travelling abroad for various reasons. These absences cannot be authorised. Should you wish to travel, please do so during the school holidays. Thank you.



020 8788 3606



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

SAFEGUARDING SEGMENT

The UK government has launched a major consultation on children's social media use, exploring options like an Australian-style ban for under-16s, alongside immediate actions, including new school phone bans and evidence-based screen time guidance for parents.

Here are some concerning facts, which you may like to consider when considering your own children's screen time:

- 97% of children own their own mobile phone by age 12 (2025)
- 9 in 10 children own a mobile phone by the age of 11 (Ofcom 2024)
- By age 2, 40% of children have their own tablet (Common Sense Census, 2025)
- By age 4, 58% of children own their own tablet (Common Sense Census, 2025)
- Worldwide average daily screen time: 6 hours 40 mins (aged 16-64); 9 hours for Gen Z (2025)

In recent years, whilst we have seen this dramatic increase in babies' and young children's use of devices, there has been a huge increase of children with Mental Health issues, SEND and concerns about children's emotional development and social interactions:

- The number of children in touch with Mental Health services more than doubled from 2018 to 2024: 218,764 to 453,127 (2024)
- Children in touch with Mental Health services in June 2025: 515,458
- Children in contact with SEND services almost tripled from 96,916 in 2018 to 279,308 in 2024 (NHS Data)
- Children in contact with SEND services in May 2025: 292,447
- 1.9 million (20%), children awaiting speech and language support (2024)
- 2 million children, 1 in 5, need support for speech and language difficulties (2025)
- Children with an Education & Healthcare Plan 638,700 (Jan 2025) compared to 390,900 in 2020.
- 740,000 Children have ADHD (Aug 2025)
- Studies link screen time use and poor concentration (2025)
- 33% of children are not 'school ready' (2024)
- 36% of children struggle to play and share with other, 45% have difficulty sitting still (2025)
- 34% of children don't know how to listen or respond to others
- 43% of parents and 54% of teachers identify screen time as a major factor in children not being school ready (2025)

Whilst screens may offer some benefits, they lack the crucial face-to-face interaction, real-world experiences, and physical play which is vital for healthy child development, often leading to potential issues such as anxiety, sleep problems, and reduced social skills, emphasising the need for balance with offline activities and parental involvement for holistic growth.

Our Educational Psychologists are running a parent session about screen time on Wednesday, 18th March at 9 a.m. Please do come along to find out more.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

-  Tuesday 27th 12.30 – 1.30 p.m. Base Parent workshop – Feeding support
Holi assembly for children
-  Wednesday 28th 2.45 p.m. Year 3 book share in school with parents
-  Friday 30th Oral Hygiene assembly for children

FEBRUARY

-  Monday 2nd 2.45 p.m. Year 4 book share in school with parents
-  Wednesday 4th 2.45 p.m. Year 5 book share in school with parents
Reception Roehampton Library trip to see author
-  Thursday 5th Year 2 Chinese workshop
-  Friday 6th 2.45 p.m. 4B Dahl assembly
Closing date for Nursery 2026 applications
-  Monday 9th 2.45 p.m. Year 2 book share in school with parents
-  Tuesday 10th 9.30 – 11 a.m. Parent workshop – ‘Picky Eaters’
After School Care Pizza party
-  Wednesday 11th Art Exhibition – private viewing
-  Thursday 12th Year 4 trip to the London Eye
-  Friday 13th Nursery offers go out
Reception curriculum share event with parents in school
1.10 p.m. **Base children leave – end of half term**
1.30 p.m. **Mainstream children leave – end of half term**
-  Monday 23rd **Children return to school**
-  Tuesday 24th Year 2 – ‘Into the Woods’ with WHS
-  Thursday 26th PPSSA Girls’ Football starts – after school at Dover House Road
playing fields (weekly)

MARCH

-  Tuesday 3rd 9.30 a.m. Parent workshop – Introduction to Makaton – **all parents welcome to attend**
1.30 p.m. Mainstream children leave
1.45 p.m. **Parents’ Evening – mainstream**
-  Wednesday 04th 3.30 p.m. **Parents’ Evening – mainstream**
-  Monday 9th Year 3 Roman Artifacts – virtual session
-  Tuesday 10th Parent workshop in school – Total communication – **all parents welcome**
-  Monday 16th 2.45 p.m. Year 2 curriculum share with parents
-  Tuesday 17th Year 5 trip to Wimbledon Synagogue

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Wednesday 18 th	9 a.m. 11.45 a.m.	Parent workshop about screen time Brass concert – parents invited
Thursday 19 th		ASC Easter party
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	6.30 p.m.	Reception trip to the Polka Theatre Lion King performance
Thursday 26 th	6.30 p.m.	Lion King performance
Friday 27 th	1.10 p.m. 1.15 p.m. 1.30 p.m.	Reception Book share with parents Base children leave – Break up for Easter holidays Mainstream children leave – Break up for Easter holidays

INSETS & HALF TERM DATES

- ✓ Friday 20th March 2026 - INSET Day
- ✓ Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026 - Spring Half Term
- ✓ 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

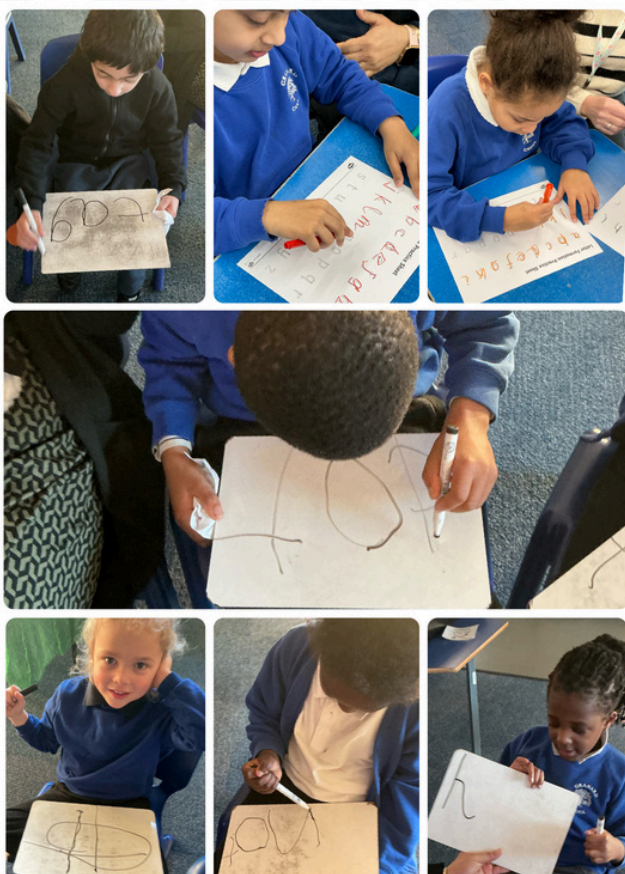
Scan this QR code to go straight to the **Parents Menu** on our school website.

[Or click here](#)



WILLOW CLASS

Willow Class have been practising their CVC words and letter formation! They are remembering the rhymes to form their letters and are having a super go at writing by themselves!



ASH CLASS

The children in Ash Class made pizzas during food lab. They spread tomato paste over wraps and sprinkled cheese on top. The pizzas were then put in the oven for a few minutes to allow the cheese to melt. We all enjoyed eating them afterwards and thought they were delicious.



APPLE CLASS

Apple Class have been sorting 2D shapes. We used mini post boxes to sort pictures of shapes. See if you can spot rectangles, squares, triangles and circles at home or on your journey to school!



RM ROSEN

Road safety in Reception

On Monday, Nursery, Reception and Year 1 had a special visit from Georgia who led a special road safety workshop. In Reception, Georgia started by asking them about the different vehicles they might see on the road. The children were able to name cars, vans, lorries, bicycles and all the different types of emergency vehicles.

After this, we spoke about the importance of holding hands with their parents while walking anywhere, especially to and from school when the roads are incredibly busy.

Then Georgia introduced a wonderful song with a very memorable line **'Stop, look, listen and think before you cross the street!'** We had a good discussion about the different types of crossing and making sure you wait for the green man before crossing.

Finally, Georgia read a story called 'Teddy takes a tumble' where the children were reminded to always wear a seatbelt when travelling in a car.



Georgia's session was fantastic and the children were delighted to receive a special road safety sticker and pencil for excellent participation.

Georgia also said she thought the Reception children were in Year 1 because of how well behaved they were and how well they sat during the session. **Well done, Reception!**

3G MURPHY

'We have been making some incredible flags for art this week for the art project this year. Our class are making mosaics. We have used coloured paper, tissue paper, and other card with lots of different patterns.

I like mine because its colourful. It was a bit difficult because cutting the shapes so little could be tricky.

~**Jamila 3G**~



1A MCKEE

Year 1 were delighted to welcome parents in for our Book Share event! The children loved having their parents in to read some of their favourite books.



Thank you to all the parents who came in.

We look forward to inviting you in to more events like this in the future.



LSU

During our LSU OT sessions, we bring out the apparatus and practise our skills. We enjoyed climbing the ropes, doing somersaults, showing off what we can do, as well as learning new skills from our friends.

These activities help us build our strength, coordination, confidence and the ability to stay calm and focused.



What do course attendees say...?

"As a mother of a newly diagnosed son, I found this course incredibly valuable, insightful, practical and beneficial."

Our new one day course is intended as an introduction to autism, this includes:

- ⦿ Promoting early communication skills
- ⦿ Understanding sensory processing differences
- ⦿ Reducing levels of anxiety through co-regulation strategies

...as well as understanding best practice in



Do you live in the London Borough of Wandsworth and have a recently diagnosed autistic child?

P.A.C.T

Parenting Autistic Children Together

Upcoming course date:

Friday 23rd January 2026 10am– 2:30pm IN PERSON

Location: Conference room 1A Wandsworth town hall,
Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2PU

Refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits) provided!

For course enquiries or to secure your place please email:
Charlotte.Richardson@RichmondandWandsworth.gov.uk

Education
Wellbeing
Service

wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk

NHS
South West London and
St George's Mental Health
NHS Trust

Parent/Carer Webinars

Early Years Spring/Summer Term Schedule

Scan the QR code to sign up to any of these
free local NHS webinars for nursery/reception parents & carers

We also provide free 1:1 early support
for parents of primary aged children
to support their child's common
worries and anxieties, or support
children's everyday challenging
behaviours.
Speak to your school to find out more.



**Feeding and its
difficulties in the
Early years**

14TH January 12.-1.30pm

23RD February 8.15 – 9.30pm

27TH February 12.00 – 1.00pm

**Starting early - how to help
your child learn practical
skills at a young age**

**Managing big feelings in
small people; tantrums,
aggression & how to
respond**

20TH April 8.00 – 9.00pm

24TH April 12.00 – 1.00pm

Respectful
 Open
 Collaborative
 Compassionate
 Consistent

COOKING UP NEED VOLUNTEERS COULD IT BE YOU?



Boyd Court, Ashburton Estate

Thursday March 12th

10am - 1pm

2pm - 5pm

Friday March 13th

10am - 1pm



Each volunteer session is 3 hours.



Help a local resident cook a delicious meal they can proudly take home.



No chef skills needed — just enthusiasm!

Come make a real difference in your community.



Email us at: info@cookingup.org