

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 children take part in the **'Harvest picture competition'** before half term. I was very impressed with the entries from the children and it was a very difficult task to select the winners. All the children who took part were presented with a 'Headteacher award' and the winners received an art set – well done to our winners, Alex from Year 2 and Alana and Elijah from Year 5.



In the lead up to the Christmas holidays, there are lots of fun events planned. Information has been sent out this week about our **Children's discos** which are taking place after school on **Thursday, 4th December**.

Just a reminder that there will be **Mufti days on Friday, 5th and Friday, 12th December**. In exchange for bringing in items (or £1) for the Christmas Fair, children may wear their own clothes.

We are also taking part in the **'Santa Dash'** on **Friday, 5th December** – children are encouraged to bring in a Christmas hat to wear for this.

A big thank you to our PTA who are organising **Hot Chocolate sales** after school on **Friday, 28th November and Friday, 5th December**, as well as preparing for the Fair which is on **Friday, 12th December**.

SAFEGUARDING SEGMENT

Important information was sent out to all parents and carers earlier this week about our focus on improving attendance across the school.

Attendance is a safeguarding issue because persistent or unexplained absence can be a sign of neglect, exploitation or other risks to a child's welfare. Schools are expected to view absence as a potential safeguarding risk and use attendance data as an early warning system to identify when a child may be in danger or needs support.



020 8788 3606



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



facebook



@granardprimary

HOW ABSENCE INDICATES A SAFEGUARDING RISK:

Vulnerable children: Persistently absent children are more likely to be vulnerable.

Neglect: The Department for Education has stated that persistent failure to send children to school is a clear sign of neglect.

Exploitation: Absence can indicate that a child is at risk of child criminal or sexual exploitation.

Loss of support: When a child is not in school, they are less likely to receive the support they need and their ability to reach their full potential is compromised.

HOW SCHOOLS RESPOND:

Identify patterns: Identify trends, such as sudden declines in attendance or absences that coincide with specific events.

Use data: Attendance data is treated as a safeguarding tool, not just an administrative task.

Cross-reference: Absence data should be cross-referenced with other safeguarding concerns.

Take action: Have timely conversations with families and refer to external services when appropriate.

Formalise intervention: Poor attendance can lead to interventions such as Child in Need assessments or Child Protection plans.

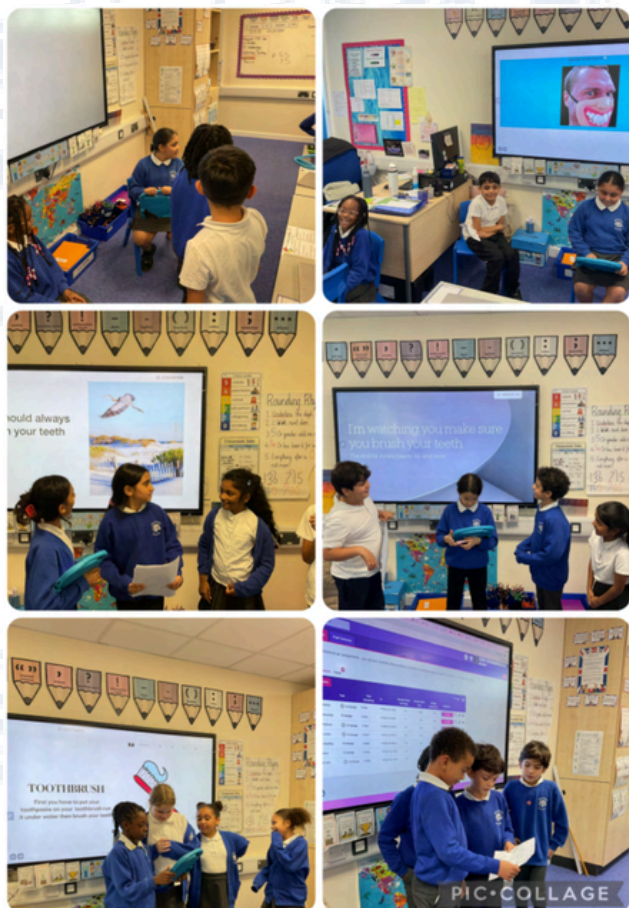
ASH AND WILLOW CLASS

Ash and Willow enjoyed their drumming workshop last week! They listened well and loved following the beats.



4M LEWIS

Year 4 created their own way of sharing messages about keeping teeth healthy. They needed to make their presentations fun, interesting and memorable. It was also really important that the messages were factually correct. The children first learned how to keep teeth healthy and then, in groups, they needed to think about how to present their messages. We had drama, slideshows, posters and more! The children to put together their chosen way of presenting the information, practised it, and used their oracy skills to present it to the rest of the class.



2S FOREMAN

Strong Legs in 2S

This week in our DT lesson, we explored which shape would make the best leg for a chair. We had to compare a cylinder, a triangular prism and a cuboid. We began by creating these shapes from card and then the fun began, stacking books on top of the shapes!

We quickly realised that the triangular prism couldn't hold any books, but the cuboid and cylinder were strong and stable. Eventually, we discovered that the cylinder was the best shape as it held 65 books!

Maybe next time you sit on a chair, take a look at the legs and see what shape they are. We can't wait to see what's next!



5F MORPURGO

On Thursday 20th November, Year 5 had an exciting trip to the Wandsworth Civic Centre, where they met the author *David Walliams*.



The children enjoyed hearing all about the various things that inspired David to become an author, and how he came up with the ideas for each of his books.

Scan here for a **short video** of David Walliams reading an extract from one of his books, **Ganster Granny**.



We would like to give a special thanks to the 170 bus driver, Nigel, who managed to get us all on the bus.

Also thank you to our parent volunteers and Jeremy, our reading volunteer for accompanying us on the trip.

CHERRY CLASS

Our current topic is ancient Egypt and this week we have been making our own small sarcophaguses. The children will be decorating them just as the Ancient Egyptians decorated the sarcophaguses of their pharaohs. It was a messy but very enjoyable activity, and Cherry class showed great creativity and enthusiasm!



RM ROSEN

Reception have been embracing the cold weather! They all make sure they are wrapped up warm in coats, hats, scarves and gloves. Here they are practising their letter formation in the frost using the other end of a paintbrush.

Which sounds can you spot?



APPLE CLASS

Apple Class have been learning all about fossils and Mary Anning, a famous fossil hunter. This culminated in digging for their own fossils!



3G MURPHY

As part of our topic 'Extreme Earth' Year 3 have been learning about natural disasters. This week we have been learning all about volcanoes! After learning about how volcanoes are formed, what better way to consolidate our learning than by making our own. As you can see, we had a lot of fun watching each others' volcanoes erupt!



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](#)



LOCAL FREE CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR FAMILIES

CHRISTMAS AT THE YARD

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER CRAFTAFTERNOON 2-4PM



All ages welcome to make fun Christmas crafts while enjoying festive music.

- Materials provided
- Free festive snacks

FIND OUT
MORE
swlv.org.uk



SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER CAROL SERVICE 4-6PM

THE YARD

401-403 Tildesley Road
London, SW15 3BD

MEET AT 4PM
PARADE 4:30PM

ARK PUTNEY ACADEMY

Pullman Gardens
London, SW15 3DG

ONE HOUR SERVICE 5-6PM

Join us at The Yard at 4pm for hot drinks and a donkey parade to Ark Putney Academy for our Christmas Carol Service. Kids can dress up!

After the service:

- Free festive snacks & drinks
- Meet the donkey
- Petting farm animals

FIND OUT
MORE
swlv.org.uk



THE YARD



**SOUTH WEST
LONDON
VINEYARD**

We are a local church community who meet on Sundays at Ark Putney Academy at 10.30am. **Everyone is welcome.**

The Yard is our community space on Tildesley Road where we run Tea + Toast, Job Club, Foodbank, Growbaby & Exploring Faith.

www.swlv.org.uk

SW London Vineyard is a charitable company registered in England and Wales under Company No 3020873. Charity No. 1045257.

WWW.WANDSWORTH.TOWN
 @wandsworthtown

WANDSWORTH TOWN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

JOIN US FROM 10 AM

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON
 MEET SANTA
 LIVE PERFORMANCES
 FESTIVE FARM
 MARKET & STREET FOOD
 FUN & GAMES
 AND MORE



Delivered in partnership with





Shop. Eat. Watch. Enjoy.





Sponsored by





supported by





Charity partner



WANDSWORTH MUSIC – MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES FROM SPRING 2026

Give your child the chance to continue their *musical journey* next year.

With pathways of progression supported by *Wandsworth Music* and the National Plan for Music Education, every student can access high-quality opportunities to learn, grow, and shine through music.

www.wandsworthmusic.co.uk



school music lessons

to discover the options in your school, scan this QR Code





Learn a Musical Instrument!

Wandsworth Music in Partnership with your school



Wandsworth Music are offering the opportunity for your child to study a musical instrument in school with one of our expert tutors.

... So what are you waiting for?

Scan the QR code to find out more or visit wandsworthmusic.co.uk/lessons



#MakingMusicMatter



SECOND-HAND BIKE MARKET

Granard will be holding a second-hand bike market on **Thursday, 11th December**, run by *Peddle My Wheels!* After school on the 11th December, you will be able to buy a serviced, affordable, used bike (you can pay by cash or card), with all profits going to Granard. If you have a bike that you no longer want or need, please consider donating it to our bike market! Bikes can be repaired by Peddle My Wheels on the day, if needed.



SECOND-HAND BIKE MARKET

GRANARD PRIMARY
THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER



Our second hand bike markets are an excellent way to create affordable bike stock for your community and to help everyone to experience the joys of cycling.

Donate your outgrown, unwanted bikes in the morning - Peddle My Wheels will spend the day getting them ready. Proceeds from the sale of donated bikes will go back to your school.

After school you can buy a serviced, affordable, used bike (you can pay by cash or card).



The bike markets are run by Peddle My Wheels
For more information visit peddlemywheels.com

  @peddlemywheels

supported by
Wandsworth
Council





BIKEABILITY TRAINING – YEAR 5 & 6



This week, Years 5 and 6 have been taking part in cycle training with Bikeability! Bikeability is a cycle training programme designed to give pupils the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on the road.



Year 5 have taken part in level 1 Bikeability, which has given them the skills to control and master their bikes in an off-road environment. Year 6 took part in learning how to safely cycle on-road and deal with traffic on short journeys. **It looks like our cyclists have had a great time!**



With heartfelt gratitude, we thank everyone who contributed and supported this year's Poppy Appeal. Your generosity helps keep the memory alive and makes a real difference.



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£ 140.42
was collected by you.

Without **your** help, we would be unable to continue **our** vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely

LMW
Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £

Registered Charity No. 219279

YEAR 5 11+ FAMILIARISATION TESTS AT TIFFIN SCHOOL

The programme aims to allow current Year 5 students to experience the format and content of an 11+ exam, sitting Maths and English tests in a real secondary school entrance exam environment.

The tests are suitable for all students who will be taking entrance exams in the 26/27 academic year, not just those who plan to apply to Tiffin, and large discounts will be available for students who are eligible for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium.

To find out more, please visit <https://www.11plustestkingston.co.uk/>




11+
Familiarisation Tests

9th April
or
10th April
2026

Held at
Tiffin School
KT2 6RL

- ✓ English and Maths tests
- ✓ Exam day experience
- ✓ Feedback by topic area
- ✓ Reduced ticket price available for Pupil Premium Students

! Booking Deadline: Friday 6th March 2026

Contact Us
info@11plustestkingston.co.uk
www.11plustestkingston.co.uk

Book now!



Terms and conditions apply. Please ensure you have read our FAQs before booking. For reduced-priced Pupil Premium tickets, please contact us before booking.




11+
Familiarisation Tests

26th August
and
27th August
2026

Held at
Tiffin School
KT2 6RL

- ✓ English and Maths tests
- ✓ Exam day experience
- ✓ Feedback by topic area
- ✓ Reduced ticket price available for Pupil Premium Students

! Booking Deadline: Friday 10th July 2026

Contact Us
info@11plustestkingston.co.uk
www.11plustestkingston.co.uk

Book now!



Terms and conditions apply. Please ensure you have read our FAQs before booking. For reduced-priced Pupil Premium tickets, please contact us before booking.

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SCHOOLS - PINES AND NEEDLES

We are excited to share that **Pines and Needles** has kindly donated a beautiful Christmas tree to Granard. As part of their gift, they are also offering parents **10% off Christmas trees** from their London pop-up stores and online shop.



Discount Code: SCHOOL10

Follow **@pinesandneedles** for festive activities at local stores, and visit www.pinesandneedles.com for full details and all store locations across London.

WANDSWORTH GOODBYES AND GOOD NIGHTS ONLINE PARENT GROUP

Wandsworth Education Wellbeing Service is offering a 4-week online parent/carer group, "Goodbye and Goodnights" beginning **January 2026**. This is designed for parents/carers of **Reception–Year 2** children. The group will give parents/carers the opportunity to connect with others and learn new ways to support their child/children towards their independence.





Goodbyes and Good Nights Online Parent/Carer Group

Do you find it hard to get your child through the school/nursery gate?
Does your child struggle to separate from you?
Are you worried that your child might find it difficult to settle back into a routine after the school holidays.



Join our 4-session online group to connect with other parents/carers and learn new ways to support your child towards their independence.

Date and Time:

Session 1: Friday 16/01/2026 at 12-1pm
Session 2: Friday 25/01/2026 at 12-1pm
Session 3: Friday 30/01/2026 at 12- 1pm
Session 4: Friday 6/02/2026 at 12- 1pm

If you are interested but cannot attend these dates/times please sign up below and we will be in touch.



In many schools, we also provide free 1:1 early support for parents/carers of primary aged children to support their child's common worries and anxieties or support children's tricky or challenging behaviours. Please speak to your school to find out more.



Scan the QR code or follow the link for further details and sign-up form or please [click here](#)

Sign up via this link: [Wandsworth Goodbyes and Good Nights Online Parent Group](#) or scan the QR code for details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

✓ Tuesday 2 nd Dec	12.30 p.m.	SOS feeding principles (session for Base parents) – <i>online</i>
✓ Wed 3 rd Dec	9–11 a.m.	ADHD talk/question time with Educational Psychologists – all parents welcome
	11.45 a.m.	Brass concert: Year 4 Brass players and Year 5 and 6 continuers
✓ Thurs 4 th	9.15 a.m.	Open Morning
	4–5 p.m.	Children's Christmas discos after school: EY/KS1/Base
	5.15–6.15 p.m.	KS2
✓ Friday 5 th	9.45 a.m.	Cedar Base Winter assembly in KS1 Hall Year 4 Egyptian workshop Mufti Day (<i>please bring in donations for Christmas Fair</i>) Santa Dash – Daily mile
✓ Tues 9 th Dec		Year 3 trip to Natural History Museum
✓ Wed 10 th		Year 2 trip to London Transport Museum
✓ Friday 12 th		Christmas Fair after school
✓ Monday 15 th	2.20 p.m.	KS1 Nativity
✓ Tuesday 16 th	9.30 a.m.	KS1 Nativity Christmas Lunch Day After School Care Christmas party
✓ Wed 17 th	9.15 a.m.	Christmas Jumper Day Nursery Winter Concert
	2.45 p.m.	Reception Winter Songs
✓ Thursday 18 th	10 a.m.	Carol Service at St Margaret's Church Reception – eye tests
✓ Friday 19 th	1.30 p.m.	Children finish – break up for the Christmas holidays

INSETS & HALF TERM DATES

- Friday 20th March 2026 - INSET Day
- Monday 20th July 2026 - INSET Day
- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026 - Spring Half Term
- Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026 - Summer Half Term