



Granard Primary School and Cedar Base

"Growing together; Achieving together"

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very proud to let you know that we have been awarded the **Primary Science Quality Mark**. This is a prestigious accreditation, awarded to us by the University of Hertfordshire, and recognises our commitment to excellence in primary science education. Our report states that *'It is clear that the impact of the PSQM process has been wide ranging at Granard. Children's voice shines throughout the evidence, indicating a love of the subject. Staff, leadership and children, recognise the importance of science, and as a result are able to articulate the vision, as well as their own ideas and thoughts.'* Thank you and well done to Miss Breeze for all her hard work in supporting our school to achieve this.

On Saturday morning, I had the privilege of attending the **Putney school's cross-country event**. Well done to *Amina, Tia, Chloe, Alana, Elijah, Bradley, Mohamed and Joaquim* for giving up their Saturday morning and representing Granard.

On Monday, I was invited to a conference at the **Apple HQ at Battersea Power Station** to find out more about the great work that *Miss Smith* is undertaking with Apple, in our school and at Sacred Heart in Battersea, promoting the use of technology across Wandsworth to make the curriculum more accessible to our pupils. On Tuesday, we had a visit from *Gus*, Marketing Program Manager at Apple, who was very impressed with our use of technology across the curriculum to support and enhance children's learning and how well staff use iPads to support individual learners. *He commented on how engaged all the children were with their learning and how calm the school felt. He said the thing that impressed him the most was the energy in the school; he felt there was a real sense of positivity towards learning and children seemed very motivated to learn (and not just specific to using iPads).* He also picked up on the teachers' connections with the pupils and their efforts to ensure that learning is inclusive, as well as everyone being so polite and welcoming.

Our parents' evenings are taking place after half term. This week, you should have received a link to sign up for your appointments. Please do book these up as it is important that we are able to meet with you to discuss your children's progress and achievements.

Please can we request that children do not wear body creams on their swimming days as it is really detrimental to the pool water quality. Thank you!

As we come to the end of a very busy and productive half term, we wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing you back in school again on **Monday, 3rd November**.



020 8788 3606



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GOVERNOR BLOG

This month I thought it would be a good time to update you on recent and upcoming changes to the School's governing board.

We have had a fairly stable membership for a number of years, but that inevitably means that we are due a number of changes as some long-serving governors reach the end of their terms.

Over the last 18 months or so we have said goodbye to **Hannah Gomersall**, who expertly looked after safeguarding for a number of years, and who is succeeded in this role by **Laura Polglase** and to **Claudia Mendez-Barros** who is now studying full time.

Last year **Jane Fawcett** and **Judith Parker** joined the board. They are both teachers at *Wimbledon High School*. We have a great relationship with that school, a number of our Year 5 and 6 pupils taking part in Wimbledon High's "**Thrive, Strive**" programme.

We will be very sad to say goodbye to **Jackie Savage** at the end of this year. Jackie has been on the board for many years and has been both an invaluable vice-chair and the link governor for Inclusion, including SEN, among many other things.

We are happy that **Frankie Smith**, the School's IT lead and Head of Spanish, has been elected for a second two year term as our staff governor.

Further good news is that we are delighted to say hello to three new governors this term. They all live locally - **Tahira Amini** who speaks a number of languages and is a keen gardener and who is going to focus on community engagement and pupil voice, **Jennifer Asah**, a qualified Occupational Therapist, who has already started taking over Jackie's role looking after Inclusion and SEN for the board, and last, but certainly not least, is **Alison Grealis**, a former litigation lawyer and modern languages secondary school teacher who will be joining the Curriculum and Attainment Committee.

I am sure that this new composition of our board will be as engaged and effective as ever and I look forward to working with the new governors over the next few years.

Malcolm Turner, **Chair of Governors**

SAFEGUARDING SEGMENT

After half term, so that we can ensure that our gates are staffed at the end of the day, our Nursery finish time will be changing from 3 p.m. to 3.10 p.m.

When we hand your children over to you at the end of the school day, we do ask that you supervise your children carefully so that they do not get 'lost' or harm themselves. Thank you.

4B DAHL

In September, Year 4 started learning how to play a brass instrument. 4M are learning to play the trumpet and 4B are learning to play the trombone. Both classes were excited to be doing something new. Both classes have been learning how to read music, learn musical notes and how to use the mouthpiece to make a buzzing sound that will produce a good note.

During Autumn 2 (3rd December 2025), both classes will be performing at our end of term brass concert to the parents. They will be able to demonstrate the fantastic progress they have made in only 9 weeks. The children are learning 5 pieces of music to play that we hope you will enjoy when you attend.



CHERRY CLASS & LSU



This October, we proudly celebrated Black History Month across the school.

In Cherry and the LSU classes, the children learnt about Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman to travel to space. Her incredible story inspired the pupils to think about their own dreams and ambitions.

To mark the occasion, we also enjoyed a Black History Feast with Year 2, where the children helped prepare and cook a delicious spread including jerk chicken, rice and peas, banana fritters, plantain, pepper pot and more.

A huge thank you to our wonderful reading volunteer, Madame Michelle, and to Joyce, Miss Smith's mum, Miss Ashleigh, Ms Sally and all the adults for their fantastic help and support during the event. It was a joyful and memorable celebration for everyone!



WILLOW CLASS

Willow Class loved their session with the Digital Leaders using the Spheros! They were able to watch and mirror what they were shown and had a great time with the shaving foam and glitter!



2S FOREMAN

As part of Black History Month, the children in Year 2 and the LSU put on an Afro-Caribbean feast! Year 2 were in charge of making the refreshing salad for our lunch. For most of the children, it was their first experience of chopping vegetables. We spoke lots about the correct way to hold a knife and the action that was required. Some of our children told us that they often help their parents cook at home. We can't wait to do more cooking as the year progresses!



HEY SIRI – SHOWCASE OUR LEARNING!

Our Digital Leaders this week had the pleasure of welcoming Gus from Apple to our school. Bachir, Olivia and Maks helped to showcase the wonderful work that our pupils have been doing on the iPads. Gus was kept very busy as he visited classes in the Base and in our Mainstream. He saw Apple class blast off into space in their rocketship as well as seeing the LSU children produce creative writing via voice typing and drawings on the iPad. It was fantastic to share all the hard work from our pupils and staff. We hope to see him again!



6B PULLMAN & 6R ROWLING

As Part of Black History Month, Year 6 had the opportunity to take part in a workshop with Chelsea FC.

It was really interesting to learn about famous black sporting legends and we thoroughly enjoyed finding out more about some of our favourite football players!



INTER-SCHOOL TOURNAMENTS

A huge congratulations to our football and netball teams for their outstanding effort in this term's weekly inter-school tournaments!

We're incredibly proud of the commitment, resilience and sportsmanship they showed week after week.

5F MORPURGO

Year 5 visited Burntwood Secondary School on Friday, 17th October 2025. We had a fun time meeting the author Cressida Cowell, hearing all about her work, and what inspired her to become an author.



CROSS COUNTRY RACE

Well done to the Year 5 and 6 children who ran in the Putney Primary schools' sports association cross country race last weekend!

'I came 3rd in cross country this weekend. It was good fun but challenging. We had to run over a bridge and into the forest. Then there was a path in the forest we ran through. I am so happy I came 3rd and I'm very proud of myself because I pushed myself. I tried my absolute best.' Tia, 6B Pullman



ECO WARRIORS AT PUTNEY HEATH

On Thursday, our Eco Warriors partnered up with Eco Monitors from Wimbledon High School to plant bluebells, snowdrops and a wide variety of spring seeds at Putney Heath. It was hard work but lots of fun. Please come and see our flowers when they start to bloom next year.



PIC-COLLAGE

BATTERSEA PARK FIREWORKS 2025



Battersea Park Fireworks returns to light up the sky in 2025, bigger, brighter and more spectacular than ever!

Join in on Saturday, 1st November and Sunday, 2nd November for an explosive weekend packed with dazzling fireworks, live performances and plenty of family fun. Whether you are looking for a sparkling Saturday night or a family-friendly Sunday, this year's event is guaranteed to light up the sky in an unforgettable fashion.

There are **5000 discounted tickets** available for those who qualify through their '**Access for All Scheme.**' Don't miss out!

[**Book Your Spot**](#)

FINAL REMINDER: APPLY FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE

Year 6 parents, please remember to submit your application for a secondary school place for entry in **September 2026** by **31 October 2025**.

Application Details:

- For information on how to apply and to complete your application, please follow this link: [Apply for a secondary school place](#)
- Some schools may require a supplementary application form to be filled out.

Ensure that your application is submitted by **31 October 2025**.

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](#)



COMMUNITY SAFETY DROP-IN EVENTS

- Meet your local Community Safety Officer.
- Free resources for crime prevention.
- Raise concerns of anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder.
- Work together to make the Ashburton Estate a safer place to live, work and play.

LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE PROVIDED

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 10AM - 12PM
TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2PM - 4PM
TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 5PM - 7PM

**BOYD COURT 101 CARSLAKE RD,
LONDON, SW15 3DD**



FLU COMMUNITY CATCH-UP CLINIC SCHEDULE

The NHS South London Children and Young People's Immunisation Team is running **flu catch-up clinics** across Wandsworth this autumn for children aged 4–11 (**Reception to Year 6**).

NHS
South London Children and
Young People's Community
Immunisation Service

Missed your flu vaccine?

Live or attend school in the borough of Wandsworth? Aged 4 – 16?
Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect yourself!

Thursday 16 October, 15:30 – 17:15
St John's Therapy Centre, SW11 1SW

Saturday 1 November, 10:00 – 15:00
Balham Library Hall, SW12 8QY

Saturday 15 November, 10:00 – 14:00
Faylands Children's Centre, SW16 1SY

Call 020 3903 3374 or scan the QR code for more information or to book an appointment



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South London Children and
Young People's Community
Immunisation Service

Missed your flu vaccine?

Live or attend school in the borough of Wandsworth? Aged 4 – 16?
Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect yourself!

Friday 28 November, 15:30 – 17:15
St John's Therapy Centre, SW11 1SW

Saturday 20 December, 10:00 – 15:00
Balham Library Hall, SW12 8QY

Call 020 3903 3374 or scan the QR code for more information or to book an appointment



NAVIGATING HALLOWEEN WITH SENSORY SENSITIVITY



Halloween is an exciting time of year, but it can be challenging for those who struggle with unexpected changes or who have sensory differences, such as being noise sensitive.

The unpredictable nature of Halloween events can trigger unpleasant emotional responses, such as feeling overwhelmed. Follow the link below to see a list of handy tips to help everyone have a 'wickedly' good time this Halloween.

[Click here for tips for an autism-friendly Halloween](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Fri 24th

INSET day

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October HALF TERM

NOVEMBER

Mon 3rd

Children return

Tues 4th

Reception visit to Roehampton Library
Year 5 swim at Putney Leisure Centre

Wed 5th Nov

Whole School Harvest assembly

Thurs 6th Nov

Cherry class and LSU trip to Barbican

Friday 7th Nov

Diwali assemblies in school
PTA Hot Chocolate Sale **after school**

Tues 11th Nov

1.30 p.m. Mainstream children leave
1.45 p.m. Mainstream Parents' Evening

Wed 12th Nov

3.30 p.m. Mainstream Parents' Evening

Thurs 13th Nov

a.m. Year 1 'Out of the Woods' day
Whole School Anti-bullying assembly

Fri 14th Nov

Reception and Year 6 Heights and weights checks

Mon 17th Nov

9.15 a.m. Open Morning

Tues 18th Nov

3.30–6p.m. Base Parents' Evening
Base Drumming workshop

Wed 19th Nov

Year 3 Poetry workshop at Wandsworth Civic Suite

Thurs 20th Nov

Year 5 trip to Town Hall for author event – *David Walliams*

Fri 21st Nov

p.m. Eco Warriors planting on Putney Heath
2.45 p.m. 5F Morpurgo class assembly – parents invited

Mon 24th Nov

Year 5 Cycling proficiency training

Tues 25th Nov

2 p.m. Year 6 Cycling proficiency training
Base Parent workshop – *Implementing therapeutic principles at home*

Wed 26th Nov

Year 6 Cycling proficiency training

Thurs 27th Nov

Year 6 Cycling proficiency training
Ash class Parents' Evening

Fri 28th Nov

Flu immunisations
Year 6 Cycling proficiency training
Mufti Day (please bring in donations for Christmas Fair)