

Gorrington News

Our school inspires our children to achieve in a safe, fun environment, so that they can take their next steps in life with confidence.

Dear Families,

South Africa class shared their learning with us this morning in assembly. We were impressed by the quality of the work that has taken place in Year 3 and we look forward to their next assembly in the summer term. Thank you to Miss Ramsay, Mrs Pandya, Miss Lowe and of course, the superstars in South Africa Class.

2026 is the National Year of Reading. This campaign has been taking place across the country to address the decline in children and adults reading for pleasure. Year groups 1-6 at Gorrington Park all visit the library and have enjoyed listening to stories being read and looking at different books. Where possible, please read with your child every night for 5 or 10 minutes. Reading allows us to gain information, travel to different places and provides us with knowledge. This year our Staff, Governors and the Friends of Gorrington Park will share in our weekly newsletter the book they are currently reading and what they are enjoying about it. Please look out for this spotlight feature each week.

Those of you who know Ms Young, know that she has been unwell for sometime. As a result of her health, she has decided not to return to Gorrington Park and to instead focus on getting better. She will be missed by her current class and the classes that she has taught, along with the staff and I'm sure many parents. Ms Young will be back to visit us in the next few weeks where we can say goodbye to her in a special assembly.

Happy Chinese New Year, this is the year of the Horse. We will be having a special celebration next week from the Confucius Institute with martial arts, singing, dancing and performances on musical instruments. This will be followed by various workshops on music, martial arts, calligraphy and dance across the school. We will share pictures on Instagram.

Ramadan Mubarak! As the holy month begins, may it bring peace, reflection, and abundant blessings to all those celebrating.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Harris-Coke
Headteacher



Calendar Dates

March 2026

Tue 3rd	Wales & Scotland Class Family Assembly, 9:10am
Tue 3rd	Chinese New Year Lunch
Thu 5th	World Book Day
Wed 11th	Italy Class Family Assembly at 9:10am
Fri 13th	INSET Day, SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri 20th	Red Nose Day
Mon 23rd	Early Years Easter Egg Hunt, timing TBC
Tue 24th	AM Nursery Eight Rhyme Challenge at 11:00am
Tue 24th	PM Nursery Eight Rhyme Challenge at 2:45pm
Wed 25th	Easter Bonnet Parade, timing TBC
Thu 26th	Spain Class Family Assembly at 9:10am
Fri 27th	End of Term Assembly, by invitation only
Fri 27th	Last day of term

April 2026

Mon 13th	First day of term
----------	-------------------

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

Children have a right to be cared for and protected; protecting them is everyone's responsibility. Here at Gorrington Park Primary School we have a duty of care to ensure that all users of the school are kept safe from harm.

We are committed to provide a secure and supportive environment in which children can develop and grow into mature and responsible people. Safeguarding children is an essential part of our holistic approach to ensure that children are protected from abuse and neglect and that every child reaches their full potential.

To report a safeguarding concern or for any queries contact:
safeguarding@gorringtonpark.merton.sch.uk

Stars of the week

Art and Design

Nursery: Mateo/David

Scotland: Piraiith

Wales: Maria

Italy Y1: Ja'lil

Spain Y1: Adam

Germany Y2: Noah/Parishka

South Africa Y3: Anamta

Nigeria Y3: Amara

China Y4: Elexandro

India Y4: Cisco

Canada Y5: Fedir

Australia Y6: Isaiah

New Zealand Y6: Aarthika

Aspire Awards

House Points

London Eye: 312

Big Ben: 319

Tower Bridge: 313

The Shard: 309

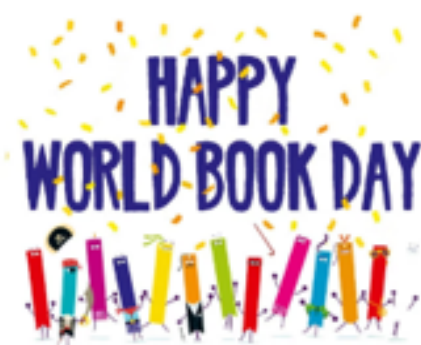


Perimeter Fencing Works – Streatham Road & Sandy Lane

We wanted to let our families know that the school will be having new perimeter fencing installed along Streatham Road and Sandy Lane.

The school will continue to operate as normal throughout the works. Our contractors will be on site during the day and will make every effort to avoid interfering with access at drop off/ collection.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make these important improvements to the safety and security of our site.



We are celebrating World Book Day on

Thursday 5th March 2026!

We would like to invite children to dress up as their favourite book character. There is no need to buy anything new. No football kits or sports clothes.

Here are some ideas:



This year we are exploring oral story telling traditions from all around the world. We are planning an exciting and unforgettable day!

We need you!

We are looking for parents/family members that are willing to share a traditional tale from their own culture. This could be:

- Sending in a book of the story for us to share in class
- A video recording of you/your child retelling the story
- Coming into school at **2.30pm on Thursday 5th March 2026** to tell the story in person

We really want to bring these traditional tales to life and having our school community involved, would make the day even more special.

If you are interested in coming in to share your story, please email the school office with the story you would like to share.



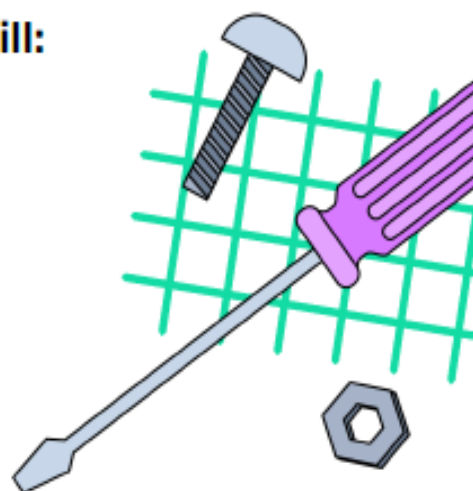
FREE Eco-Workshop for Kids!

Take apart broken objects &
transform them into something new!

x
**For curious
young
creators
aged 5-9**

A fun, hands-on workshop where kids will:

-  **Explore** broken objects & recycled materials
-  **Discover** sustainability & innovation
-  **Get creative** with a hands-on upcycling activity!



**Book a
workshop spot!**



Limited spaces available
– sign up today!

WHEN?
Fri 13th March, 4-5:30PM

WHERE?
Mitcham Library
157 London Rd
Mitcham
CR4 2YR

Year Group Blog - Nursery

This week, our learning has been all about firefighters! The children had so much fun singing our new nursery rhyme "Five Little Firemen Standing in a Row", joining in with the Makaton actions, repetitive phrases, and counting down from 5 to 1.

They enjoyed small-world firefighter role-play, using pretend hoses, helmets, and fire engines to act out exciting scenarios, which helped them practice talking, sharing ideas, and storytelling. They also worked together to build a fire engine using the large community blocks, showing great teamwork and creativity.

In maths, we explored patterns, making AB finger print repeating patterns. The children were proud to show their patterns to their friends.

The garden role-play was full of fun as the children pretended there was a fire to put out! Using spray bottles, they worked together to "extinguish" the fire, which helped make their fingers strong and supported hand-eye coordination. The children were great at taking turns and pretending they were real firefighters, practising teamwork and enjoying imaginative play.



Year Group Blog - Reception

We have had a great first week back after half term. We have introduced our new topic for the term which is all about 'Growing and Changing'. Over the next two weeks we are going to be learning all about farms. This week we learnt what farms are, the jobs that farmers may have and what you might do in a farm. The pupils have enjoyed learning in our farm shop about different fruits and vegetables that farms produce and in the sand tray they have been digging up and cleaning different types of vegetables like carrots, broccoli and of course a gigantic turnip. Linked to this we read the book The Gigantic Turnip in Talk through stories. We really loved saying our favourite phrase, "they pulled and heaved and tugged and yanked." In Maths we have been looking at how numbers above 5 can be made for example 5 and 1 make 6, 5 and 2 make 7, 5 and 3 make 8 and 5 and 4 make 9. On the creative table we used apples to make fruit pressings we spoke about the shapes that it made when stamped, one child noticed they looked like poppies. Lastly in the construction area we learnt to use hammers and pins safely with tap taps. Look at some of the pictures our children created. Some made trees, or houses and people one child even made a farmer. It has been a great start to the topic, we can't wait to see where it will take us next!



Year Group Blog - Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been introduced to our new story 'Yeti and The Bird' by Nadia Shireen. We have been using the conjunction because to give reasons as to why we should or should not be friends with the Yeti. We have also developed writing in the past tense by using the suffix 'ed'. In Maths we have been using resources to represent numbers from 20-50. We have been counting in tens and recognising the difference in value between tens and ones. In Geography we have been learning about the different types of physical features we might find in a picture and ways of explaining what they are. For example, we know a hill is a grassy slope. In science we have been learning about vertebrates and invertebrates and which animals we can place in to each group. In DT we have begun our new topic focusing on structures.

We have found different examples around the school and looked at what keeps these structures strong and what we might need when designing our own structure. In PE we have begun our new sport of Athletics. We have begun to develop our jumping skills by using hurdles and ladders to help us jump higher using a safe technique to land. A reminder children should come in to school in uniform and change in to PE kit later in the day.

In Phonics we have been learning our new sound or and the different ways we can spell it. For example, or in torch, oor in door, au in August, aw in saw, and a in ball. Please keep reading everyday with your children at home and signing their reading records.

Year Group Blog - Year 2

Welcome back to all of our Year 2 children and their families. We have loved hearing all about your half term adventures and it has been great to see both France and Germany class return to school with an excitement towards their learning! We kicked off this week with our brand-new English story 'If All the World Were' by Joseph Coelho. This story explores a variety of themes but we will be focusing on reflecting on the relationships that we have with our family and friends, and exploring the different memories that we share. We ended the week with writing our own diary entries about a special day that we have shared with a close family member or friend. It was great to see so many children using time words and puzzle words to extend their sentences.

As mathematicians we have continued to explore multiplication and division, using 'arrays' to help us solve different maths questions. We enjoyed looking a double and using the concrete resources to help make different amounts.

As scientists our new topic is Living Things and Habitats. We have kicked off this term's science by going outside and seeing what minibeast call Gorrington Park Primary School their home. We ensured we followed our science rules by only using our eyes to inspect the different habitats.

In Geography we have enjoyed learning about Coastlines, and using Google Earth to explore the Human and Physical features in Falmouth.

Year Group Blog - Year 3

This week, Year 3 have started learning about the book *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit. The children wrote a diary entry using key diary features, along with the skills they have been practising in class. They included prepositional phrases to describe time and place, multi-clause sentences, and conjunctions to express cause. In Maths, the children began their new topic, Length and Perimeter. They completed an independent learning task which required them to answer questions using metres, centimetres and millimetres. In RE, the children labelled the features of a church and discussed their importance. In Science, the children created dens using blankets to make darkness and then used torches to create light, helping them to explore how light works. In Geography, the children learned about the layers of the Earth and labelled a diagram showing its different layers.

Year Group Blog - Year 4

This week, Year 4 explored *The Iron Man* through reading, discussion, and creative writing. Pupils practised using homophones, articles, possessive pronouns and expanded noun phrases while sequencing events and describing how Iron Man rebuilt himself.

In maths, the focus was on equivalent fractions, fraction families, and adding fractions and mixed numbers—supported by daily 7× table practice. Science brought an investigation into different types of teeth, while in Geography we compared physical and human features. Creative learning continued through designing 3D mountain-and-river models, appraising *Lean on Me* in Music and athletics in PE.

We had a full, lively week of learning, curiosity and creativity!

Have a good weekend.

Year Group Blog - Year 5

Year 5 have come back after half term with good energy and enthusiasm for learning. It has been wonderful to see everyone so focused and ready to challenge themselves! In Maths this week, we have been building our confidence with fractions. The children have been learning to multiply unit and non-unit fraction by integers and find a fraction of a number.

We explored different strategies to help us solve problems, including using visual models and breaking calculations into smaller, manageable steps. The class worked hard to explain their reasoning clearly and show their working out. In English, we have been reading *Robot Girl* by Malorie Blackman. The story has sparked some thoughtful discussions about friendship, responsibility and understanding others. It was fantastic to see the children debate and clearly show their thoughts and opinions. The children have been developing their writing skills by using conjunctions to create multi-clause sentences including **modal verbs** (such as *could*, *should*, *would*, *might*) to show possibility or obligation. We practised turning simple sentences into more detailed ones by joining ideas together. For example, instead of writing one short sentence, the children learned how to extend their ideas to make their writing more engaging and mature.

In Science, we explored the difference between soluble and insoluble substances. The children investigated what happens when sugar is added to water at different temperatures. They carried out a fair test to see whether sugar dissolves faster in hot or cold water and discussed why this happens. The class showed excellent teamwork and scientific thinking during their investigation. In Geography, we began learning about different types of farms. We discussed arable, pastoral and mixed farming, and explored how farms vary depending on their location and climate. During RE, children learned about Christian denominations. The children explored how Christianity can be practised in different ways and discussed similarities and differences between denominations. In PE, Year 5 have been developing their skills in rounders. They have been practising throwing, catching and batting techniques and have shown great sportsmanship and teamwork. In DT, the children have been learning about seasonal vegetables. They enjoyed tasting a variety of vegetables and discussing which are in season at different times of the year. It was wonderful to see so many pupils willing to try new foods!

Year Group Blog - Year 6

In English, the children have begun to explore Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, with a particular focus on understanding and writing play scripts. Early in the week, pupils examined the features of a play script, identifying elements such as stage directions, character lists, dialogue layout and movement cues. They then analysed how Shakespeare's scenes are structured and how playwrights convey action through minimal description. Using these examples, the children began rehearsing and performing extracts, experimenting with the use of body language, voice projection and expression to bring the characters to life. Towards the end of the week, pupils took part in a practical session, performing part of Act 1 Scene 1, which allowed them to build confidence and deepen their understanding of how drama differs from narrative writing. Their engagement and enthusiasm during performances were particularly impressive.

In Maths, Year 6 have been working hard on their unit exploring the link between fractions, decimals and percentages. Pupils practised identifying decimal and fraction equivalents, beginning with tenths and moving on to hundredths. They explored common equivalents and used visual models to support their reasoning, gradually building confidence in converting between the three forms. Later in the week, the children moved on to understanding percentages, recognising them as 'out of 100' and using this knowledge to make connections across the topic. Throughout the week, pupils also took part in daily times-table fluency sessions, helping them sharpen recall and apply multiplication facts to more complex problems.

In RE, the class learned about the Christian story of Palm Sunday. They explored the events of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and discussed why this moment is so significant for Christians around the world. Pupils examined symbols associated with Palm Sunday, such as palm leaves, and reflected on themes of humility, celebration and hope. The children enjoyed sharing their thoughts and considering how different people might have reacted to the events in the story.

In Science, Year 6 have been investigating how plants adapt to their environments. The children examined a range of examples, learning how plants develop specific features that help them survive in particular habitats—whether hot, cold, wet or dry. They studied adaptations such as thick waxy leaves, deep root systems, spines, water-storage tissues and camouflage. Using this knowledge, pupils then worked through classification and comparison activities, applying scientific vocabulary to explain the survival advantages of different adaptations. Their curiosity led to thoughtful discussions about the diversity of plant life and how living things cope with challenging conditions.