

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,

Thank you to Spain class for their super assembly! Well done to all the children Mr Pett and Y1 staff, we really enjoyed finding out about your learning this term.

Thank you to Mrs Pandya for her brilliant Diwali assembly, this was a lovely assembly led by Mrs Pandya, staff and children who talked about Diwali and the different ways to celebrate. Thank you to everyone that took part.



We had a great time this month learning about Black History. Every year group researched and presented their learning to parents and pupils on Wednesday 22nd October. The classes produced some excellent posters that will be available for parents to view in our gallery next term. Thanks you to Miss Ramsay and Mrs Dabengwa for organising this event.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of our families at Parents' Evening next term. Please contact the school office if you have any problems booking your appointment with your child's class teacher. We will also have a book fair at school during the first week back after half term, which will be based in the studio.

We have lots planned for the term ahead, please check the newsletter and website for any updates.

Please remember that Monday 3rd November is an INSET day. Staff will be in that day receiving training around phonics and writing. We welcome all of our children back on Tuesday 4th November, starting with reading club as usual at 8.35 am.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break.

Mrs Harris-Coke
Headteacher



Calendar Dates

November 2025

Mon 3rd

INSET Day, school closed to all pupils

Wed 5th

Parents' Evening

We 5th

Special School Menu—Bonfire night

Thu 6th

Parents' Evening

Mon 10th

Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day

Mon 10th

Reading Together morning Years 2-6 at 9:00am

Tue 11th

Remembrance Day Assembly at 11am

Wed 12th

Year 6 Residential begins

Fri 14th

Canada Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

Fri 21st

China Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

Fri 21st

Children in Need Day - pupils can wear spots and make a donation for charity

Fri 28th

South Africa Family Assembly at 9:10am

December 2025

Mon 1st

Reading Together Morning Years 2-6 at 9:00am

Fri 5th

France Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

Mon 8th

Early Years Christmas Sing-a-long at 9:00am and 2:15pm

Tue 9th

Whole School nativity for group 1 at 9:10am

Tue 9th

Whole School nativity for group 2 at 2:15pm

Thu 11th

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas School Meal

Fri 12th

Italy Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

Fri 12th

Christmas Fair after school

Mon 15th

Christmas Carols outside school from 8:30am

Wed 17th

Class Disco PM

Thu 18th

Film Matinee PM

Thu 18th

Christmas Concert for children having lessons in school

Fri 19th

School finishes at 2:00pm

Fri 19th

No Penguin Club after school club tonight

January 2026

Mon 5th

INSET Day, school closed to all pupils

Tue 6th

School open as usual, Spring Term begins

Gorrington Park Foodbank -

If you need access to our Gorrington Park Foodbank, please contact the school office. Your message will be treated in the strictest confidence. We want to help our families that need some support. Please contact us via email or telephone if you need any help at all.

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

Do you need support claiming benefits?

Would you like to undertake training to find work?

Are you concerned about your child's development?

Are you experiencing money worries?

Do you need help with your child's behaviour?

If so, we can help!

For advice and guidance with any of these issues, please book an appointment with Annabel, our Early Help Co-ordinator, who is in school on Monday afternoons. Please call the School Office or email office@gorringtonpark.merton.sch.uk to book a time.



Stars of the week

For: Geography/History

Nursery: Amenah and Arham

Scotland: Georgia

Wales: Iustin

Italy Y1: Hussien

Spain Y1: Nihal

France Y2: Michael

Germany Y2: Tabitha

South Africa Y3: Aylla

Nigeria Y3: Marcel

China Y4: David

India Y4: Hridhaan

Brazil Y5: Alisha

Canada Y5: Veselin

Australia Y6: Adriel

New Zealand Y6: Riley

Reading Workshops

During Parents' Evening on **Thursday 6th November**, we will be holding reading workshops for families. These will be led by Mrs Barrett and will give you an overview of how we teach reading at Gorrington and how you can help at home.

The workshops will take place at:

3.30pm-3.50pm

4.10pm – 4.30pm

4.50pm – 5.10pm



We will also have our **book fair** open to browse and buy some fantastic books!

We look forward to seeing you there.

FREE STREET CRICKET

WHEN:
Wednesdays
4-5pm - Under 10s
5-6pm - Under 15s

WHERE:
Tooting Leisure Centre
Greaves PI
London
SW17 0NE

All abilities welcome
Wear what you want
Make new friends
No equipment needed
Explosive action

CHANCE TO SHINE
SURREY CRICKET FOUNDATION

CONTACT | Steven La Roche | slaroches@surreyccricket.com | 07708 395924

2025 HALF-TERM SPECIAL CHILDREN'S DAY @Lillywhite Dental

OCT 20th - 31st
INCLUDING WEEKENDS



FREE EXAMINATIONS

For ALL PATIENTS Under 18 years old
LIMITED SPACES CALL TO BOOK
020 8685 1200

LILLYWHITE
Dental Practice

64 Middleton Rd,
Morden, SM4 6RT

This Sunday, 26 October at 2pm, **AFC Wimbledon Women** begin their **FA Cup campaign** against Chatham Town at Cherry Red Records Stadium, Plough Lane, SW17 0NR.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR FREE TICKETS

Visit tickets.afcwimbledon.ltd.uk and enter code **WRD1COMP** in the Promotional Code field at the top of the page (under the blue header). You can select up to 10 free tickets, and you also have the option to purchase tickets should you wish to contribute to the club.

Gates open 1pm, Kick-Off 2pm.

Remembrance Day

The children will take part in a Remembrance Day assembly on Tuesday 11th November 2025.

Every year the country comes together for Remembrance Sunday. A period of silence is held at 11am to remember the people who have died in wars around the world. Remembrance Day – is on Saturday this year – and marks the actual day World War One ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918.

Poppies and other Remembrance Day items are on sale in the school. If you would like to buy a poppy, please come and see us in the school office. All monies raised will go to the British Legion.



BONFIRE NIGHT
5TH NOVEMBER 2025

OPTION 1
BONFIRE BANGERS AND MASH
WITH ONION GRAVY

OPTION 2
FIRECRACKER VEGGIE CHILLI

ON THE SIDE
PEAS AND SWEETCORN

DESSERTS
CAMPFIRE CHOCOLATE
CRISPY CAKE

caterlink

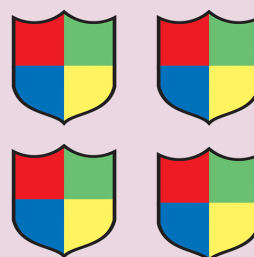
Aspire Awards House Points of the term

London Eye: 299

Big Ben: 216

Tower Bridge: 373

The Shard: 317





Parent and Child Stay and Play (SEND)* **October Half Term**

Come and enjoy spooky activities and autumnal play as we celebrate Halloween and Autumn at our October half term Stay & Play SEND* sessions for families with a child aged 5 to 11 years.

This is an opportunity for your child to experience a safe and fun range of activities alongside you and supported by our experienced staff. Parents can also find out about other support provided by Merton Council for children with SEND and their families.

*These stay and play sessions are for children aged 5 to 11 who either attend one of the Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) bases or who have SEND and are not attending a HAF programme or eligible for a short break. Up to two siblings aged under 11 may attend and one parent/carer. No more than 4 places per family.

Wednesday 29 October, 9.30am to 11.45am
Newminster Children Centre, Morden SM4 6HJ &
Friday 31 October, 9.30am to 11.45am
Church Road Children Centre, Mitcham CR4 3BH



To book a place scan the QR code or copy the links below

29th October <https://send-s-and-p1.eventbrite.co.uk>

31st October <https://send-s-and-p2.eventbrite.co.uk>

Sept 25

ONLINE PARENT/CARER WEBINARS

Jointly run by Off The Record and Croydon Drop In

Join us online for the following free workshops. Sign up via Eventbrite by scanning the QR code below. Cameras and microphones can be turned off.



Supporting your Child with Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA)

Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 1:30pm

Helping your Child with Anxiety and Worries

Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 1:30pm

Helping your Child with Behaviours that Challenge (Primary age)

Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 1:30pm

Introduction to Neurodivergence

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 1:30pm

Supporting your Young Person with Low Mood

Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 1:30pm



TALK TO US

OFF THE RECORD



**Are you OK
Croydon?**



**You Talk,
We Listen**
Croydon Drop In

Week in Sport 20th October to 25th October

The Power of Sport #YesSheCan

This week's focus is on encouraging girls and women to play sport in their local community and engage in a new activity.

Women's sport is thriving here in the UK and success and momentum are starting to build.

This summer our women's football team became European football champions for the 2nd time and our women's rugby team also won the world cup. England's women's cricket team are also through to the semi-finals of the cricket world cup.



A recent Guardian article reported that UK girls who play after-school sports are 50% more likely to land top jobs later in life. This is attributed to skills like resilience, confidence, and adaptability developed through sports.

Here at Gorrington Park we offer a wealth of sporting opportunities to the girls at our school but there is so much more out there for them to try.

For anyone interested in finding a sport outside of Gorrington Park, please see below a list of clubs in the local area including a variety of different sports.

<https://mertonssp.org.uk/club-links/>

If you play sport outside of school and achieve any success such as taking part in tournaments, leagues, competitions or festivals let Mr Pett know and bring him a picture to add to our Gorrington Sporting Hall of Fame.

#TeamGP

Year Group Blog - Nursery

This week, we have continued learning about Mary Seacole and her amazing kindness and bravery. The children learnt how Mary built a caring place for soldiers to eat, rest, and get better, and we talked about how we can show kindness and bravery in our own lives too. The children shared lovely examples such as using kind words with friends, helping to tidy up, and being brave when visiting the dentist.



We were so proud to present our learning at the Black History Month showcase. The children were excellent at recalling facts and remembering that Mary Seacole was a hero in history.



To continue our theme of nurses and doctors, we explored the human skeleton. The children were fascinated by the facts they discovered and enjoyed making their own skeleton pictures using cotton buds, naming different parts of the body as they worked.



In maths, we have been learning about subitising — knowing how many objects there are without counting. The children looked carefully at pictures and practised recognising small groups of objects up to three. They especially enjoyed playing a dice game, showing the number with fingers or claps.



Year Group Blog - Reception

What a wonderful first half term we have had in Reception. We can't believe we have already come to the end and these 8 weeks have flown by. We are so proud of how well all the children have settled into the routines and their independence is growing so much. This week saw us celebrating our learning for Black History Month in our showcase. We have loved being explorers and learning about Matthew Henson and his important trip to the North Pole. Well done to our brave speakers and a big congratulations to all the children for being so confident singing the song in front of the audience. Thank you to all parents that came along to support our super stars.

In Maths this week we have been focusing on the number 5. We learned a rhyme about the 5 little peas using our hand to 'grow' the peas and then the children practised recognising 5 in their environment. We realised we have 5 fingers on our hand and that we can give each other 'high fives' with our 5 fingers. It has been great fun!

In PSHE, we explored responsibilities and how we can be responsible. All children planted their own cress seeds that they are bringing home to be responsible for over the half term. We talked about how it is their job to water them every day and care for their seeds. Please upload any pictures to tapestry of their plants!

We set sail on the high seas in our garden boat singing 'row, row, row your boat' to get us to places all over the world. Some children rowed to the arctic, some children rowed to Asia and some even rowed to the jungle! We have loved our boat role play this week!

Thank you for all your support this half term. A gentle reminder that Monday 3rd November is an inset day so school will be closed. Have a lovely half term everyone! From the Reception team.



Year Group Blog - Year 1

This week in English we have been focusing on using 'and' in our sentences to create descriptions of dinosaurs. We are really improving our vocabulary and improving our use of finger spaces in our writing. In Maths we have been consolidating our number bonds to 10 and focusing on how this may look using a variety of different resources. In Phonics we have been consolidating our knowledge of the diagraphs sh, ch, th, ng, ck and wh. In Science we have been consolidating our knowledge of materials and exploring what material we would use to make different objects. In PE we have been playing varied games of cricket and developing our striking skills to hit the balls as far as we can. This week we have had 2 assemblies. We loved showcasing our learning from Black History Month and telling everyone about Marcus Rashford and Claudia Jones. Spain class then took part in their class assembly and Mr Pett was very impressed with how everyone spoke and could talk about what we have learned this half term.

We have had a great first half term in year 1 and our teachers are very proud of the progress that we are making.

Year Group Blog - Year 2

This week at Gorrington Primary School, the children in Year 2 have been very busy and hardworking! In Maths, they have been consolidating comparing numbers and using the part-part-whole model. They have also been practising their 3 times tables and singing them proudly. In English, the children wrote their very own mission story about *Traction Man* coming to our school playground. They used time words like *first*, *next*, *after that* and *finally* to make their stories exciting. In Phonics, they have been practising the "oe" sound and learning the different spellings, such as *toe*, *go*, and *snow*. In PE, Year 2 enjoyed their last cricket session. They practised throwing, catching, and batting with great effort. In PSHE, they spoke about following the class charter. They learned that we must always use kind words, kind hands and feet, and think about each other's feelings.

For Black History Month, they had a special History showcase. The children were brave and confident when they spoke in front of everyone.

- France Class made a poster and spoke about Mae Jemison, the first African American woman astronaut.
- Germany Class created a poster and talked about Rosa Parks, who stood up for fairness and equal rights.

In Music, the children used bamboo tamboo instruments and practised copying and repeating clapping patterns.

In RE, they acted out the Christmas story and also made the Easter story using LEGO, which was very creative. In Science, they learned about how animals depend on their habitat to live and survive. In Computing, they designed a colourful poster to show how to be internet brave and safe online. In Art, the children used warm and cool colours to create their own Black History Month pictures.



Star of the Week for France Class was Michael.
Star of the Week for Germany Class was Tabitha.
Well done to both of them!

What a fantastic and busy week!

Year Group Blog - Year 3

It has been another fantastic week in Year 3! The children have been working incredibly hard and showing great enthusiasm in all their learning. In English, we started exploring the cautionary tale 'Jim.' The children used conjunctions to express time and subordinating conjunctions to make their writing more interesting as they retold the story. In Maths, we have been practising adding and subtracting across a ten, learning how to cross place value boundaries with confidence. In History, the children collaborated to create wonderful Black History Month posters about their chosen inspirational Black figures. They proudly presented their work at our Gorrington Park Black History Month Showcase. In Computing, we focused on online safety, learning how to stay safe and protect personal information while using the internet. Well done to everyone for their hard work this half-term. Have a restful and enjoyable break!

Year Group Blog - Year 4

What an amazing week we've had in Year 4! It kicked off with the celebration of Black History Month and a Diwali Assembly! The children have worked incredibly hard across all subjects. In Maths, we've been using a range of strategies to check our subtraction answers and developing our problem-solving skills. In English, we have been busy writing diary entries and publishing our final pieces—everyone should feel very proud of their writing! Guided Reading sessions have helped us explore different texts with enthusiasm, and in Science, we've been learning about states of matter with some fun quizzes and experiments. Our PE lessons, including basketball and fitness, kept everyone active and engaged, while History lessons helped us understand why the Vikings invaded Lindisfarne. We finished the week with handwriting practice, times table challenges, and some well-deserved fun during our assemblies and golden time. A big well done to all the children for their fantastic effort this half term—you've shown great determination and teamwork! We wish all our Year 4 families a happy and restful one-week half term break.

Year Group Blog - Year 5

What an exciting week it's been in Year 5! As we come to the end of this half term (and look forward to some Halloween fun), we've been busy learning across all our subjects.

In English, we've been practising how to write a narrative to entertain our readers. Inspired by the beautiful picture book *"The Lost Thing"* by Shaun Tan, we explored how to create imaginative characters and settings. Everyone worked hard to include feelings and descriptive language to make their stories come alive!

In Maths, we have been learning how to recognise common factors and multiples. We used number grids and patterns to help us spot the connections between numbers. It was a great way to strengthen our multiplication skills and logical thinking.

In Science, we explored different forces and how they affect movement. We carried out investigations and discussed examples like gravity, friction, and air resistance. It was fascinating to see how forces are part of our everyday lives—from kicking a football to riding a bike!

In History, we looked back to the Shang Dynasty in ancient China. We learned about their inventions, writing system, and how their discoveries still influence us today, such as bronze work and early forms of Chinese writing.

On Wednesday, we attended a special Black History Month assembly. It was inspiring to learn about influential figures who have made a difference and to celebrate diversity and equality.

It's been a busy and brilliant half term full of curiosity, creativity, and teamwork. Have a wonderful break, Year 5—and a spooky, safe Halloween!

Year Group Blog - Year 6

In our final week of our Autumn 1 term, Year 6 have delved further into the story 'Windrush Child' written by Benjamin Zephaniah. In English, we have looked at persuasive writing techniques in the form of letters. We designed our own monument to represent the key historical event of Generation Windrush. We then used our own knowledge of persuasive writing to write a letter to our local MP to encourage her to erect our monument so that key historical events are never forgotten. We used a range of persuasive devices in our writing such as rhetorical questions, emotive language and hyperbole (exaggeration).

In Maths, we have looked at the order in which we should calculate a calculation using BIDMAS. We understand that this stands for brackets, indices, division, multiplication, addition and subtraction. We found it fascinating that adding brackets to different parts of a calculation could completely change the product/answer.

Our RE lesson focused on what different religions believed happens after death. We reflected on the different religious views and considered our own thoughts on the topic. Some of the religious views we looked at were the belief in heaven and hell in Christianity and the Islamic teachings about paradise and judgment as well as the Hindu belief of reincarnation and karma. The children took part in respectful discussions which deepened their understanding of spiritual perspectives. They showed great empathy and curiosity during this lesson.

We had an exciting trip to the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon on Wednesday where we went to watch Dweeb a Mania. This interactive theatre performance was about a group of primary school children who were considered to be 'dweebs' and the story of how each individual realises their own talent and how this should be something to be celebrated. The children loved the performance and it was fantastic to see both children and adults laughing and getting involved in all the fun.

As part of Black History Month, each class was given a different Black figure to research. On Wednesday afternoon, the children along with other classes across school had the opportunity to present their findings about their Black History figure. New Zealand class spoke about Benjamin Zephaniah and his role in raising the profile of the historical event of the Windrush Generation. Australia class presented their findings about Sir Lenny Henry and his pivotal role in being the co-founder of Comic Relief and the fact he has now gone on to write children's books as he felt black children were underrepresented in stories when he was growing up.

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils for another fantastic week! :)

Missed the flu vaccine?

**Do you have a child who lives in or attends
school in Merton? Aged 4–16?**

Come along to a flu clinic and protect your child!

NO appointment required.

Tuesday 28 October, 12:30 - 16:00
5th Sutton Scout Hall, SM1 4JN

Thursday 30 October, 10:00 - 14:00
Liberty Primary School, CR4 3EB

Saturday 22 November, 10:00 - 14:00
New Horizon Centre, CR4 1LT

**Call 020 3903 3371 / 3373
for more information!**

