

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,

We've had an exciting week at Gorrington Park Primary School! On Tuesday Kevin Vickers came into school and talked to us about the meaning of Harvest and why this is a special time of year. The children were thanked for their donations which will help to support the local community. Thank you once again for supporting this worthy cause, it will mean a lot to families that need it.

On Tuesday Steve Witherden MP visited the school, he visited every class and looked at our learning provision, both indoor and outdoor. He was impressed with our teachers and teaching assistants and how they were working effectively to meet the needs of all our pupils.

This morning Year 5 went to the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon. They had an amazing opportunity to watch Dweeb-A-Mania a story about friendships. Thank you to the parents who came along to support this event. We know the children had a great time!

Thank you to France class for their amazing assembly this morning. The children were able to share their learning. We really liked the song at the end and their lovely acting. Thank you to Miss Sterling, the support staff, and all the children in Germany class.

Please look out for communication from the office with regards to booking your slot at Parents' Evening, which will take place on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th November.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Harris-Coke
Headteacher



Calendar Dates

October 2025

Wed 22nd	Black History Month Parent Showcase Assembly for Group 1 at 9:10am (please see the next page for details of which classes are in group 1)
Wed 22nd	Black History Month Parent Showcase Assembly for Group 2 at 2:15pm (please see the next page for details of which classes are in group 2)
Fri 24th	Spain Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

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

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: PSHE



Nursery: Siyan and Tianny



Scotland: Nikalas



Wales: George



Italy Y1: Efremia



Spain Y1: Amiira



France Y2: Atanus



Germany Y2: Riley



South Africa Y3: Alisha

Nigeria Y3: Taysha



China Y4: Karolina



India Y4: Sasha



Brazil Y5: Michaela



Canada Y5: Jake

Australia Y6: Adanna

New Zealand Y6: Aarthika

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.

Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content. The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site. It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link. We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

Black History Month Showcase

Wednesday 22nd October

Group 1 – 9.10 am	Group 2 – 2.15 pm
Nursery full time and am	Nursery full time and pm
Wales class	Italy
Scotland class	Spain
France	Nigeria
Germany	India
South Africa	Brazil
China	New Zealand
Canada	Australia

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.



Aspire Awards House Points

London Eye: 43

Big Ben: 59

Tower Bridge: 60

60

The Shard: 61



Week In Sport 13th October to 18th October

Year 3 and 4 Girls Football Festival

Last Friday Mr Pett and Miss Tinsley took some year 3 and 4 girls to compete in their first football tournament of the year. The girls were excited and in good spirits as we were the first team to arrive at Tooting and Mitcham FC. During the warm up the girls were keen to show their skills off with Prachi and Amara showing their powerful shooting whilst Luma showed cat like reflexes in goal. The girls would play 3 matches in the morning in the preliminary round before also playing 3 other schools in the afternoon in the competition round. The day started off excellently with Hilda scoring a hat trick in our first game. In the second game we narrowly lost out 1-0 despite some superb defensive work from Emma and Aiza to stop wave after wave of attack. In our last group game, we scored a fantastic last-minute winner through Haneen who's tenacity broke through the opposition defence.

During the afternoon games we came up against some strong opposition. The girls didn't let their heads drop though and they showed fantastic team spirit to keep going and keep on enjoying themselves no matter what the score. We came away with two 0-0 draws with Taysha unlucky not to score after some great close control and dribbling. Overall the girls had a great time at the tournament and showed improvement in their skills and teamwork as the day progressed. They are looking forward to competing in more sports events soon.

Squad: Amara, Haneen, Luma, Hilda, Aiza, Emma, Taysha, Prachi

#TEAMGP



Year Group Blog - Nursery

This week in Nursery, we have been learning all about doctors and nurses. The children have enjoyed dressing up as doctors and using medical instruments such as stethoscopes, bandages, and syringes to care for one another and help their friends and teacher feel better! It has been lovely to see their care, teamwork and empathy shine through during their role play.

The children have also been using the fruit boxes as ambulances, pretending to drive to emergencies to help those in need. Their imagination and teamwork have been wonderful to observe. They also made ambulances using the stickle bricks!

As part of Black History Month, we have been learning about Mary Seacole, a remarkable nurse who cared for soldiers during the war. The children listened carefully to her story and discussed how she helped others, making thoughtful links to how we can show kindness and help those around us.

In maths, we have been developing our counting skills by exploring the numbers 1, 2, and 3. The children have been practising counting objects and joining in with fun start-and-stop games to reinforce number recognition and sequencing.



Year Group Blog - Reception

This week we have become explorers of the wide world! The children have loved role playing, researching and building all things linked to our topic.

We introduced our learning by looking at the world as a globe. The children loved looking down on earth from space and told adults where the ocean and the land was. They explored maps and globes to see what animals lived in each place and if they could find countries their families are from and where we are. This linked wonderfully to our key person for Black History Month as Matthew Henson was an arctic explorer and one of the first people to reach the North Pole. The children were fascinated to learn how hard the journey would have been and what objects he had to use to get there.

In maths we have been looking at 'more than' and 'fewer than' to compare objects. The children recognised when a group has more using their subitising and by seeing the 'moreness' of a group. We practiced by playing games in the garden and seeing who had more points.

Our book this week has been 'The snail and the whale' by Julia Donaldson. We have loved roleplaying the story in the small world using the character puppets. The children really got into character as the snail using a tiny voice to say 'I am so small'.

Have a lovely weekend everyone! From the Reception Team.



Year Group Blog - Year 1

This week in English and History we have been researching our black history representatives Marcus Rashford and Claudia Jones. We have been talking about how they made an impact on society and writing fact files explaining key details about them. We have also been looking at why it's important we look at black history as a whole. In Maths we have been consolidating our number bonds of 7, 8 and 9. We can represent these number bonds in many ways using numicon, bar models and part part whole models. In RE we have been planning a celebration using our knowledge of festivals this half term. We have included the key features of celebrations and thinking of ways we can all be included. In our science we have been linking the 3 little pigs houses to the properties of materials and exploring why the bricks were the best materials to use to stop the wolf from getting in. In music we have been continuing to learn and sing songs whilst recognising pulse and following a beat.

Year Group Blog - Year 2

Year 2 have dived into Black History Month and have had a great time learning all about our chosen black individual. We spoke about the impact that we can have on the world and we found many links to our class charter and responsibilities.

In maths we have been focusing on counting in 3s. The progress over the week has been incredible and we are becoming more confident in counting forward and even backwards!

In English we have continued to explore the exciting missions that Traction Man goes on. We learnt how to use the conjunction 'if' in our sentences and how to use time words to sequence our writing. In this week's music lesson, we were excited to learn different beats using the Bamboo Tamboo. We impressed all of the teachers with our super listening and rhythm. Well done to all of the children in Germany Class for their super class assembly!

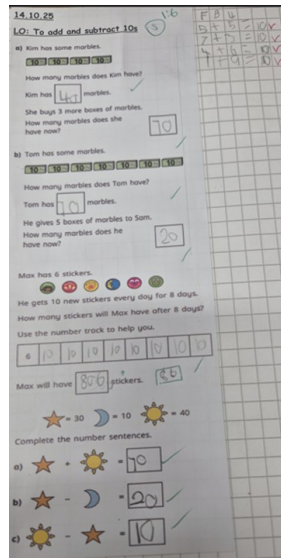
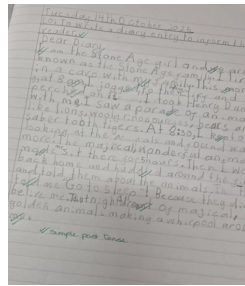
Year Group Blog - Year 3

This week in English, Year 3 have been adapting the story *First Drawing* by changing the main character and the animal that the Stone Age boy met. The children produced some amazing and creative stories!

In Maths, we have been learning to add and subtract 1s and 10s, as well as identifying number patterns.

In Science, the children carried out another investigation to test different surfaces — smooth and rough — to see which surface a marble would travel fastest on. In RE, we learned about symbols in our everyday lives and what they mean to us. In History, the children have been researching their Black History Month figures, Nelson Mandela and Malorie Blackman, to understand the important contributions they made to the lives of others.

The children have worked very hard this week. Well done to them all!



Year Group Blog - Year 4

This week, we worked hard on subtracting two 4-digit numbers, using exchanges when needed. We practised lots of questions and helped each other check our answers. Everyone is becoming subtraction superstars! We also had some extra maths practice time to make sure we understand everything — because practice makes perfect!

In English, we've been writing diary entries — just like real authors! We imagined what it would be like to write from another person's point of view. Some of us wrote from Mum's or the son's perspective and we used interesting adjectives to bring our writing to life.

In Geography, we learned about different regions and how people live in them. We also talked about the water cycle in Science, learning how water travels around our planet. (Evaporation, condensation, precipitation — and back again!) In History, we explored the Ancient Maya, discovering how they lived and what made their civilization so special. Art was one of our favourite lessons this week! We learned weaving techniques using yarns and paper plates. It was a bit tricky at first, but once we got the hang of it, our patterns looked beautiful.

We stayed active with Basketball in PE. Everyone showed great teamwork, passing carefully and cheering each other on. It's not just about winning — it's about having fun and working together. Our Science lesson was all about the water cycle — we even had diagrams and practical activities to help us remember each stage such as evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

Year Group Blog - Year 5

What an exciting and busy week it has been in Year 5! In English, the children have been exploring how to use *descriptive language* to create suspense in their writing. They experimented with powerful adjectives, short sentences, and dramatic pauses to build tension in their stories — keeping their readers on the edge of their seats!

In Maths, we tackled *multi-step addition and subtraction problems*. The class worked hard to decide which operations to use and practised explaining their reasoning clearly. It was fantastic to see everyone developing their confidence in solving real-life mathematical challenges.

Our Science lessons focused on *forces*. The children investigated how pushes, pulls, friction, and gravity affect movement. They enjoyed seeing these forces in action and began to use scientific vocabulary to describe what they observed.

In History, we continued our study of the *Shang Dynasty*. The children became historians, enquiring and gathering information from *primary sources*. To bring the topic to life, they created their own *oracle bones* from salt dough, carving messages just like the ancient Chinese did thousands of years ago.

During Art, we learned about the famous impressionist *Claude Monet*. The class experimented with colour and brush techniques to recreate the soft, light-filled style seen in Monet's beautiful landscapes.

We ended the week with a fantastic trip to the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to see *"Dweeb-a-mania."* The children loved the lively performance and were full of smiles and stories on the journey back. What a wonderful way to finish a week of creativity, curiosity, and learning!

Year Group Blog - Year 6

This week, Year 6 have continued their journey through *Windrush Child* by Benjamin Zephaniah, diving deeper into the story and its powerful themes. In English, we explored the use of modal verbs, inverted commas (speech marks), and relative clauses, while also analysing the rich vocabulary used by the author to convey emotion and setting.

In Maths, we began by recapping short division and applying our understanding of factors. Building on this, we tackled long division, using our knowledge of times tables to solve more complex problems with confidence.

Our RE lesson focused on the Day of the Dead, learning how different cultures celebrate and honour those who have passed. The children summarised the key events involved in this celebration and then went onto to create vibrant 3D skulls out of paper, showcasing their creativity and understanding of this meaningful tradition.

In Computing, we discussed online safety, particularly how to respond to unkind comments and the steps we can take to protect ourselves and others in digital spaces.

During this week's Science lesson, we continued to investigate electrical circuits, exploring how cells and lamps affect the performance of a circuit. The children showed great curiosity and teamwork in their experiments.

To round off the week, Year 6 took part in a virtual boot camp with BT, learning valuable skills about being work ready and preparing for the future.

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils for another week of hard work, creativity, and thoughtful learning!

