

# 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,

This week has been a very fun and exciting week.

Today all the children took really good individual photos and sibling photos and they were wearing our full school uniform that we are so proud of. You should buy the photos because the photographer worked really hard on them and lots of children were smiling.

Yesterday some children from Years 5 and 6 took part in a very fun rugby event and won lots of their games. Well done to Riley, Cairo, Hilton, Ronan, Amira, Eliza, Hope, Abigail and Reece for their excellent team work and sportsmanship. Also special thanks to Mr. Pett and Mrs Haria who took the team on their road to victory.

Last week we met with Mrs Harris-Coke and we talked about our roles and responsibilities of being Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy. We realised that these are important roles and we plan to be kind, respectful and brilliant role models. We look forward to meeting the Governors, showing visitors around and meeting parents at Parents' evening.

This week was the start of Black History Month, the theme for this year is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'. Each class has a person to research that has made a difference and has stood for what was right, to make things fair for everyone. We will show our learning at the end of the month at a special assembly. We are also looking forward to seeing our learning displayed around school.

On Monday our drumming teacher, Robert, led an exciting assembly all about the drums. He demonstrated different genres of music whilst playing the drums, such as Pop, Rock Heavy Metal, R&B and Jazz. We all loved it! Adanna and her sister Amara also played the drums to show the children in school what they had learnt. If you would like to play the drums, please contact the school office.

We are going to go now, we hope you enjoyed our first newsletter, see you soon, have a nice weekend and have fun.

**Borislava** (Head Girl), **Adrian** (Deputy Head Boy), **Adanna** (Deputy Head Girl) **Kajanan** (Head Boy)



## Week in Sport 29<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October—Year 5/6 Merton Tag Rugby Festival

On Wednesday, Mr Pett and Mrs Haria took 9 young warriors to Old Rutlishians Rugby Club to battle against other schools from Merton in a tag rugby festival. The children began the day taking part in a number of different activities to fine tune their skills and work on tactics for the games ahead. Led

by Y6 Riley the team recognised some of the important rules they needed to follow and encouraged each other to move up and down the pitch like a well-oiled machine. Despite a 1<sup>st</sup> game loss the team didn't let their heads drop and the camaraderie they showed for the rest of the day was excellent to see. Y5's Hilton and Cairo showed cheetah like speed

to sprint past opposing defenders to score 7 tries between them. Y5's Abigail, Reece and Hope

marshalled the defence expertly to halt any attacks with some superb last-ditch tackles. Y5's Ronan, Amira and Eliza showed great tactical nous to pass the ball

into our speedy wingers to capitalise on the open space. A great day was had by all and we received 2 votes from other schools for the respect and fair play spirit we showed throughout the day.



**Squad: Riley, Cairo, Hilton, Ronan, Amira, Eliza, Hope, Abigail and Reece**

## Calendar Dates

### October 2025

Mon 6th

Mon 6th

Tue 7th

Fri 10th

Mon 13th

Wed 15th

Fri 17th

Wed 22nd

Wed 22nd

Fri 24th

### November 2025

Mon 3rd

Wed 5th

Thu 6th

Mon 10th

Mon 10th

Tue 11th

Wed 12th

Fri 14th

Fri 21st

Fri 21st

Fri 28th

India Class Family Assembly

**World Cerebral Palsy Day - please bring a 50p donation for charity**

Year 6 residential presentation meeting at 3:30pm

Nigeria Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

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

Harvest Festival Assembly at 9:10am

Germany Class Family Assembly

Black History Month Parent Showcase Assembly for Group 1 at 9:10am

Black History Month Parent Showcase Assembly for Group 2 at 2:15pm

Spain Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

INSET Day, school closed to all pupils

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening

Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day

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

Remembrance Day Assembly at 11am

Year 6 Residential begins

Canada Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

China Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

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

South Africa Family Assembly at 9:10am

### December 2025

Mon 1st

Fri 5th

Mon 8th

Tue 9th

Tue 9th

Thu 11th

Fri 12th

Fri 12th

Mon 15th

Wed 17th

Thu 18th

Thu 18th

Fri 19th

Fri 19th

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

France Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

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

Whole School nativity for group 1 at 9:10am

Whole School nativity for group 2 at 2:15pm

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas School Meal

Italy Class Family Assembly at 9:10am

Christmas Fair after school

Christmas Carols outside school from 8:30am

Class Disco PM

Film Matinee PM

Christmas Concert for children having lessons in school

School finishes at 2:00pm

No Penguin Club after school club tonight

### January 2026

Mon 5th

Tue 6th

INSET Day, school closed to all pupils

School open as usual, Spring Term begins

### Monday 6th October is Cerebral Palsy awareness day

Cerebral Palsy is a condition where the brain has trouble sending messages to the body, making it hard to move smoothly. We will be raising money for Small Steps a charity that helps children with disabilities and their families. Please bring a 50p donation on Monday, if you can. Thank you!

### Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

Children have a right to be cared for and protected; protecting them is everyone's responsibility. Here at Gorrington 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

### 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.

## Stars of the week

### For: Writing

Nursery: Sia and Magizhisai

Scotland: Shalom

Wales: Keian

Italy Y1: Taqwa

Spain Y1: Mysha

France Y2: Marcus

Germany Y2: Ellie-Rose

South Africa Y3: Gabriel

Nigeria Y3: Hussain

China Y4: Derek

India Y4: Neev

Brazil Y5: Ashvin

Canada Y5: Rex

Australia Y6: Jasiu

New Zealand Y6: Marcus



## UPDATED PE Timetable Autumn Term 2025

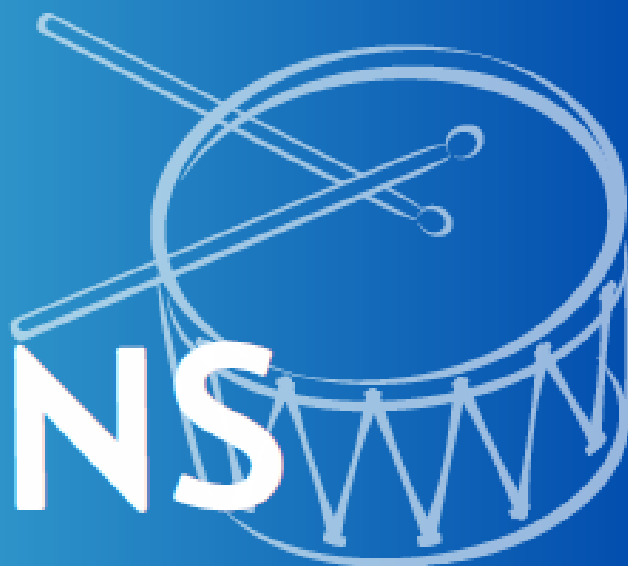
Due to Shine Cricket coaches being in school this term please see an updated PE timetable. PE kits must be worn for these lessons. Years 1 and 2 do not need their PE kit for ARTis (dance and movement) on Wednesdays.

| Monday                                      | Tuesday          | Wednesday                                                | Thursday         | Friday                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Shine Cricket with the class teacher</b> | <b>PE Coach:</b> | <b>Fulham Football Club Coach with the class teacher</b> | <b>PE Coach:</b> | <b>Teacher led PE:</b>                     |
| Year 1                                      | Year 5           | Year 3                                                   | Year 3           | England (Afternoon and full-time children) |
| Year 2                                      | Year 6           | Year 4                                                   | Year 4           |                                            |
| Year 5                                      |                  | <b>ARTis (Dance and movement)</b>                        |                  |                                            |
| <b>Teacher led PE:</b>                      |                  | Year 1                                                   |                  |                                            |
| Year 6                                      |                  | Year 2                                                   |                  |                                            |
| England (Morning and full-time children)    |                  | <b>Teacher led PE:</b>                                   |                  |                                            |
|                                             |                  | Reception                                                |                  |                                            |



## ROBERT OATES DRUMMING ACADEMY

# DRUM LESSONS



### What Will You Learn?

- \* Awesome drum beats.
- \* Different genres from around the world.
- \* How to drum along to your favourite songs.
- \* New rhythms, techniques and rudiments.

### Why learn the drums?

- ✓ It's FUN!
- ✓ Improves mental health.
- ✓ Develops coordination, creativity and cognitive development.
- ✓ Boost confidence and focus.

**ALL EQUIPMENT  
(INCLUDING DRUM  
STICKS) IS PROVIDED**

**SPACES ARE LIMITED,  
SO GET IN TOUCH NOW  
TO SECURE A SLOT!**

### What's on Offer?

- \* **1:1 Lessons** - Taught at your own pace.
- \* Mondays at Gorrington Park, 09:00-12:00, 20 mins (£14.99) or 30 min lessons (£22.99).
- \* **10% OFF** when you book your first term's block.

### About Robert

- \* 1st Degree from Leeds Conservatoire.
- \* Drum tutor for 10+ years.
- \* 10 years performing experience (TV, festivals and radio.)
- \* 5+ years working in schools.
- \* Enhanced DBS checked.

✉ [robertoatesdrumming@gmail.com](mailto:robertoatesdrumming@gmail.com)



[www.robertoatesdrumming.com](http://www.robertoatesdrumming.com)

☎ 07944 557336

# Physical activity for children and young people (5–18 Years)



BUILDS  
CONFIDENCE &  
SOCIAL SKILLS



DEVELOPS  
CO-ORDINATION



IMPROVES  
CONCENTRATION  
& LEARNING



STRENGTHENS  
MUSCLES  
& BONES



IMPROVES  
HEALTH  
& FITNESS



MAINTAINS  
HEALTHY  
WEIGHT



IMPROVES  
SLEEP



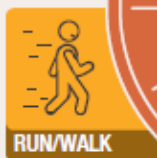
MAKES  
YOU FEEL  
GOOD

## Be physically active

Spread activity  
throughout  
the day

All activities  
should make you  
breathe faster  
& feel warmer

Aim for  
at least  
**60**  
minutes  
everyday



Include muscle  
and bone  
strengthening  
activities  
**3 TIMES  
PER  
WEEK**



## Sit less



## Move more

Find ways to help all children and young people accumulate  
at least 60 minutes of physical activity everyday

UK Chief Medical Officers' Guidelines 2011 Start Active, Stay Active: [www.bit.ly/startactive](http://www.bit.ly/startactive)

LONDON BOROUGH OF  
**MERTON**  
Supported By  
**CAPPAGH**

POWERED BY  
LONDON SPORT

**Activity Finder**

Hundreds of free or low-cost activities in Merton to choose from

Find Activities

Scan the QR code to search for activities in your local area. You can filter it to **FREE** activities and specific ages, plus more:





# JOIN US AT **ParkPlay** IN MERTON

**Make friends, have fun, play more for free  
every Saturday!**



## **ParkPlay in Merton**

At Canons House & Pollards Hill, and coming soon to Figges Marsh! Register at [park-play.com/register](http://park-play.com/register)

**Volunteer to help it happen:** Find out more by emailing [hello@park-play.com](mailto:hello@park-play.com)

**#MeetMovePlay**

## Year Group Blog - Nursery

This week, our learning focus has been on firefighters! The children have enjoyed a wide range of engaging activities and imaginative role-play.

We have been developing our oracy skills by practising speaking in full sentences. Linked to our fire theme, we explored new vocabulary including crackle, swirl, and flicker, discussing what these words mean and how they describe the effects of fire. In the small world area, we transformed our Nursery space into Mitcham Fire Station, where the children had great fun role-playing as firefighters and using hoses to put out fires.

In maths, the children showed a real interest in numbers through nursery rhymes. We have been singing Five Little Firefighters Standing in a Row, which inspired the children to use magnetic numbers and practise ordering numbers 1 to 5, linking their learning and imaginative play directly to the rhyme.

In the Creative area, the children used boxes, cards, scissors, glue, and other collage materials to design and make their own fire engines. They carefully looked at photographs of real fire engines before creating their models, which gave us a wonderful insight into their creative processes.

In the construction area, the children built on last week's learning about using shapes for a purpose. Using shape blocks, they worked together to build Mitcham Fire Station. As they constructed, they used positional language such as 'next to' and 'on top' to describe where they placed their blocks, strengthening both their mathematical and language development.



## Year Group Blog - Reception

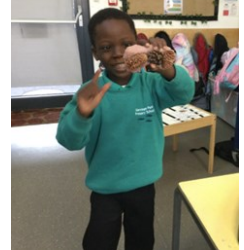
This week, our learning focus has been Autumn and its changes. We have loved exploring all the natural resources and the different ways we can use them.

In maths, the children have been exploring shape by comparing circles and triangles. They explored how they could create different pictures and patterns using only these two shapes. The children used mathematical language such as 'corners', 'big' and 'small' to describe their shapes. We have also been learning about making 3 and how it can be seen as '1, another 1 and another to make 3'. This helped them learn how to recognise when they have a collection of 3 objects without counting.

We have been practicing our storytelling skills through our talk through stories book 'Who are you Stripy horse?'. The children have joined in with our favourite phrases as we read the story. The favourites were 'Atishoo!' and 'crack!'. They have been exploring all the characters and setting in our role play area of 'Mrs Weevil's Bric-a-brac shop'.

In the Creative area, our topic of Autumn continues as the children created leaf rubbings using crayons. They developed their fine motor skills by practicing the rubbing motion forwards and backwards. It was tricky at first but everyone persevered.

Thank you for all of the wonderful Autumn treasures you have been collecting. The children have enjoyed sharing them with each other and adding them to our Autumn trays. Have a lovely weekend everyone. From the Reception Team.



## Year Group Blog - Year 1

This week in year 1 we have been writing captions from our story Pig The Pug. We are including lots of descriptive words and using our phonic knowledge to help us spell. In maths we have been using part part whole models to help us represent addition calculations. In science we have been exploring absorbent and waterproof materials. We have then been predicating what materials would be best to create a rain jacket or an umbrella. In history we have been finding out what happened to make the dinosaurs extinct and looking at different theories. In PE we had our first session with Shine Cricket and developing our catching, rolling and throwing skills.



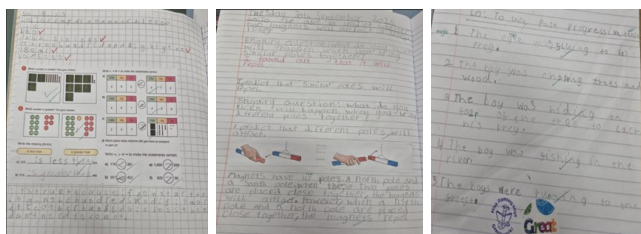
## Year Group Blog - Year 2

Year 2 have become superheroes this week as they were introduced to their new literacy book 'Traction Man'. The children have loved learning about the adventures of Traction Man and thought that it was hilarious when he jumped on the evil pillows and dived into the dirty sink. They even had a go at designing their own Traction Man outfits, using expanded noun phrases to make their writing exciting and descriptive. In maths the children have enjoyed learning about comparing numbers and have practised using vocabulary such as 'greater than' 'less than' and 'equal to'.

In RE, Year 2 learnt all about Christmas symbols and found out the symbolic meaning of the Christmas tree, Christmas presents and a Christmas candle, and how this is linked to Christianity. During this week's cricket lessons, Coach Mo taught the children about overarm and underarm throwing.

## Year Group Blog - Year 3

This week in Year 3, the children began exploring the book *The First Drawing*, which is set in the Stone Age. As part of their English lessons, they learned how to use the **simple past tense** and the **past progressive tense**. They also practised writing sentences with conjunctions to show cause and effect. The children enjoyed creating their own sentences using these new skills. In Maths, the children have been comparing and ordering numbers and objects up to 1000. They used important mathematical vocabulary such as *greater than*, *less than*, *more than* and *smaller than*. They also worked with the symbols < and > to write their own equations. Science was all about **magnets**! The children investigated to determine what happens when magnets of the same and opposite poles are placed close to each other. They discovered that magnets attract opposite poles but repel like poles. In History, the children stepped back in time to the **Iron Age**. They role-played what life was like, discovering that Iron Age people cooked with a large pot called a *cauldron*, Celtic people wore close-fitted trousers, and they built hillforts to protect their possessions. During RE, the children explored **Muslim beliefs** through movement. They worked in groups to discuss and role-play the Salat prayer to God, thinking carefully about how movements can express faith and meaning. In Art, the children got creative with clay! They learned how to make a simple **pinch pot** using traditional techniques, carefully shaping their designs with their hands. It has been a busy and exciting week of learning. Have a wonderful weekend! **The Year 3 Team**



## Year Group Blog - Year 4

Dear Parents and Carers,  
We've had a busy and exciting week in Year 4, full of new learning and skills to celebrate!  
In Maths, we explored *Roman numerals* and practised *rounding numbers* to the nearest 10, 100, and 1000. We also used number lines and estimation strategies to help strengthen our understanding. The children worked really hard to explain their reasoning and apply their skills to problem-solving tasks. In English, we focused on *authorial language* and explored how *personification* brings writing to life. The children practised reading aloud with *prosody*—using expression and tone to showcase emotions. We are especially proud of their published pieces of writing, where they applied everything we've learned so far: expanded noun phrases, subordinating conjunctions and direct speech with accurate punctuation. The results were fantastic!  
Our science lesson centred on *states of matter*. The children investigated the difference between *reversible* and *irreversible* changes and enjoyed discussing real-life examples. In PSHE, we thought about *rewards and consequences*. The children reflected thoughtfully on how their actions affect themselves and others. In RE, we continued consolidating our knowledge of *different religions* and deepened our understanding of faith and belief. In History, we delved into the fascinating discovery of *Sutton Hoo* and explored what it reveals about the beliefs of the Anglo-Saxons. The children were full of curiosity and asked excellent questions!  
It has been a truly productive week and we are so proud of Year 4's hard work and enthusiasm.  
Wishing you all a lovely weekend.  
Warm regards,  
**The Year 4 Team**

## Year Group Blog - Year 5

This week in Year 5 we have been busy learning across many exciting subjects!

In English, we started reading *The Lost Thing*. We focused on how authors add extra detail by using relative clauses, such as "The creature, *which looked very strange*, shuffled along the beach." This helped us make our sentences more descriptive.

In Maths, we practised rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, 100,000 and even to a million! We learned how rounding helps us to estimate quickly and check answers.

In Science, our topic was friction. We explored how friction slows things down and why it is useful in everyday life, such as when we walk or ride a bike.

In History, we travelled back to the time of the Shang Dynasty. We studied different artefacts and thought about what they could tell us about people's lives thousands of years ago.

In Computing, we discussed internet safety and made up stories about how to stay safe online. We learned the importance of protecting personal information.

In RE, we explored how Christians use the Bible for guidance, learning, and worship, and we discussed how it helps them in daily life.

In PE, we played cricket and practised our batting and fielding skills.

Finally, in Art, we studied the paintings of Pierre Auguste Renoir, looking closely at how he used colour and light to create lively scenes.

It has been a fantastic week full of learning and creativity!

## Year Group Blog - Year 6

Australia class have made fantastic progress during their second week of swimming lessons.

Our new focus book this week has been 'Windrush Child' by the author Benjamin Zephaniah. The children have learnt about the Windrush Empire during English and Guided Reading this week. We went on a sense walk around our school site. We used our plan to write a poem in the style of John Agard's 'Windrush Child'. We created some brilliant poems using a range of figurative language.

In Maths, we have begun to explore prime numbers and have applied our knowledge of times tables, multiples and factors. We have also recapped some key arithmetic questions and looked in detail as to how to lay out the formal methods.

Throughout the week in New Zealand, we have covered a wide range of curriculum topics and have continued to look at trailblazers in Art and understanding the history around the British role in the slave trade and the impact this had globally.