

Message from Mrs Horton

I would like to wish everyone in our community a very happy New Year! I hope that families enjoyed the break over Christmas and had a chance to re-set and refresh after a long Autumn term. It has been lovely to see the children – and staff – return looking ready for a new term. This half term is very short – only 5 weeks! – but as ever there is a lot to do 😊 Next week we have quite a lot of trips happening, which is great! We continue our sustainability project with the Garden Classroom – CC4K – ‘Climate Change For Kids’. All classes will be visiting King Henry’s Walk at different times next week to build on their visits to Whittington Park in the Autumn term. My thanks in advance for the support of parents who are able to volunteer to help supervise the trip – your contribution is much appreciated!

Later in this half term we have our annual Online Safety Week – a really important part of our calendar and a key part of our work to safeguard children – helping them to understand how to use the internet safely. As part of our preparations for that we have reviewed and updated our Online Safety Policy. Nearer the time we will ask children, staff and parents to sign our Acceptable Use Policy statements, which clarify how we must all work together to keep children safe online. More details in the next newsletter.

Reception Starters 2024

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, they are due to start Reception in September 2024

The closing date for applications is 15th January - very soon!

You need to apply through your local authority.

Follow the link and enter your postcode.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-primary-school-place>

Upcoming events

Week beginning 15th January

Orange Class daily swimming lessons

Climate Change for Kids project: Garden Classroom

Tues 16th Lime Class to Royal Courts of Justice

Wed 17th Violet Class Assembly

Wed 17th Purple Class to Royal Courts of Justice

Week beginning 22nd January

Lime Class daily swimming lessons

Tues 23rd Red Class visit to ‘The Toy Project’

Wed 24th Green Class visit to ‘The Toy Project’

Wed 24th EYFS – puppet making workshop

Thurs 25th Blue Class visit to ‘The Toy Project’

Fri 26th Online Safety workshops for all classes

Week beginning 29th January

Online Safety week, Mid-year assessments

Mon 29th Orange Class to Royal Courts of Justice

Wed 31st Purple Class Assembly - **change of date**

Wed 31st Phonics workshop - Year 1 families

Week beginning 5th February

Children’s Mental Health week

Tues 6th Safer Internet Day

Wed 7th Phonics workshop - Reception families

Fri 9th INSET day – school closed to children

Week beginning 12th February – Half Term Break

In the Newsletter today:

P1 – Message from Mrs Horton; upcoming dates;

P2 – Themes and trips;

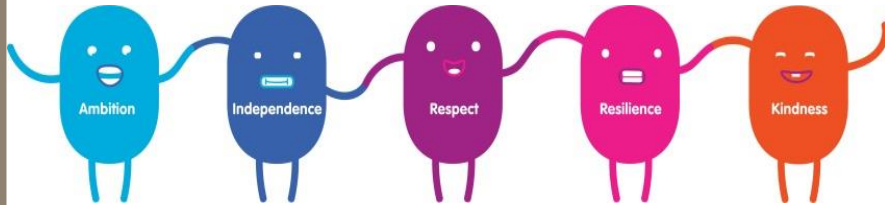
P3 – Liaising with families, Upcoming workshops;

P4 – Friends of Hargrave Park; P5 – Reading recommendations;

P6 - Online safety; P7 – Attendance Matters;

P8 – Free early learning and childcare info;

P9 – Parenting groups



Teaching and learning this half term.

Phase	Spring 1
EYFS	Traditional Tales Expressive Art and Design Equalities
KS1	Toys History, DT Eco-action
LKS2	Crime and Punishment History, Art Equalities
UKS2	Rule Britannia Hist/Geog, DT PSE

The new themes are underway and there are a number of trips happening next week – including Lower Key Stage 2 going to the Royal Courts of Justice to support their learning and part of the theme ‘Crime and Punishment’.

Key stage 1 will be visiting the Toy Project in the coming weeks and EYFS will be having a puppet making workshop to support their learning about traditional tales.

As ever, our school’s key drivers of PSE, Equalities, Celebrating London and Eco-action are woven into the learning within each theme, along with our school values of Ambition, Independence, Respect, Resilience and Kindness.

Eco-action will be having a particularly high profile next week as all children will be visiting King Henry’s Walk in Islington for their second Garden Classroom workshop in our ‘Climate Change for Kids’ project.



Speech, Language and Communication Coffee Morning Workshop

A big thank you to all those parents who attended the Speech, Language and Communication Coffee Morning on Friday 15th December 2023.



Speaker Ellie Matthews (Speech Therapist) gave a short presentation about the development of language and communication in young children and spoke about how children can be encouraged and supported to develop their language skills through various activities at home.

Parents were given an opportunity to ask questions, to participate in discussions and to share thoughts and ideas.

The Coffee Morning was informative, useful and interesting and we hope to be able to hold further workshops soon. I look forward to seeing you at the next one - Rose D'Orsi (SENDCo)

Upcoming phonics workshops

Interested in learning more about our approach to teaching reading in Reception and Y1?

We are pleased to announce that we are going to be running a series of small group phonics workshops. These have been designed to share how we teach using the 'Little Wandle' Letters and Sounds programme within a small group.



Each session will demonstrate how reading is taught in Reception or Year 1. You will see a teacher teach a small group session using the resources used in classrooms.

Dates:

Wednesday 31st January at 9:30 – 10am - Reception

Wednesday 7th February at 9:30 – 10am - Year 1

Please book on to your preferred session by emailing parents@hargravepark.islington.sch.uk

There will be 5 spaces per workshop.

Places will be filled on a first email, first booked basis.

Working with families

We prioritise building positive relationships and working effectively with our families. A cooperative approach between home and school supports the best outcomes for our children.

There are times when relationships between family members are complicated. We will do our best to support the children through these times, but we cannot mediate between family members. Please continue to communicate with us effectively and we will continue to do our best for the children.

Our Parent and Staff Association

Friends of Hargrave Park School

We are your parent and staff association organising events and activities to build the school community and raise funds to enhance our children's experience of school life.



Socialise & have fun

- Become a class rep
- Join the class WhatsApp group
- Come to a coffee morning
- Attend the school fairs



Volunteer & take part

- Help with events like the pre-loved uniform sale or winter fair
- Bake cupcakes or traybakes
- Buy raffle tickets or be a sponsor

Look out for our page in the school newsletter to find out more about our events and how you can get involved.



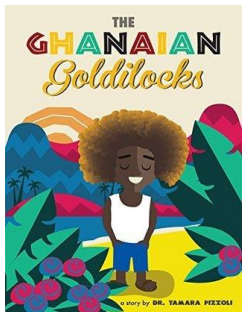
friendsofhargravepark@gmail.com



EYFS and KS1 Book recommendations

(These books can be found in the school library)

Looking for a new book to borrow?

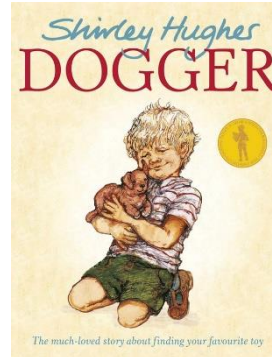


The traditional tales topic is well underway in EYFS, here are some books to ignite further enthusiasm!

Set in Accra, Ghana, The Ghanaian Goldilocks is a modern twist on the classic Goldilocks fairy tale.

If you're up for something a little more silly then The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig is for you! Get ready for the classic fight between pigs and wolves as you've never seen it before!

Recommended for EYFS



These books are perfect to continue discussions at home about the new KS1 topic 'Toys' Dogger is a classic that has delighted children for generations, it is all about Dave and his favourite toy.

Recommended for Years 1&2

Recommended for a gentle bedtime story!

The Traction Man books are high quality texts full of detailed comic-style illustrations. The stories follow the adventures of an Action-Man style hero with an outfit for every occasion.

Highly recommended for KS1!



Library



Please take the time to look for any overdue library books.

If books are 'lost' please let the school know.

Online safety

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/> is recommended as a place to find dedicated resources and advice around keeping your child safe online. Sometimes it is hard to keep track of our children's online activity and keep up with all the apps and games that our young people are interested in. Here is some good advice from Parentsafe:

What even is Fortnite (or Roblox...or Minecraft...)?

The best way to find out is to **get your child to show you** how any app or game works, what happens and if it's appropriate. It could be quick, or you might even find you enjoy playing or watching together!

Common Sense Media has **thousands of expert reviews of apps, games** and even films and what parents and children think about them. [Take a look](#) ...and this year, look at their review of the main [generative-AI](#) tools too.

Parents - follow this link for some funny and thought provoking videos promoting the importance of a 'device free dinner'!
[devicefreedinner](#)

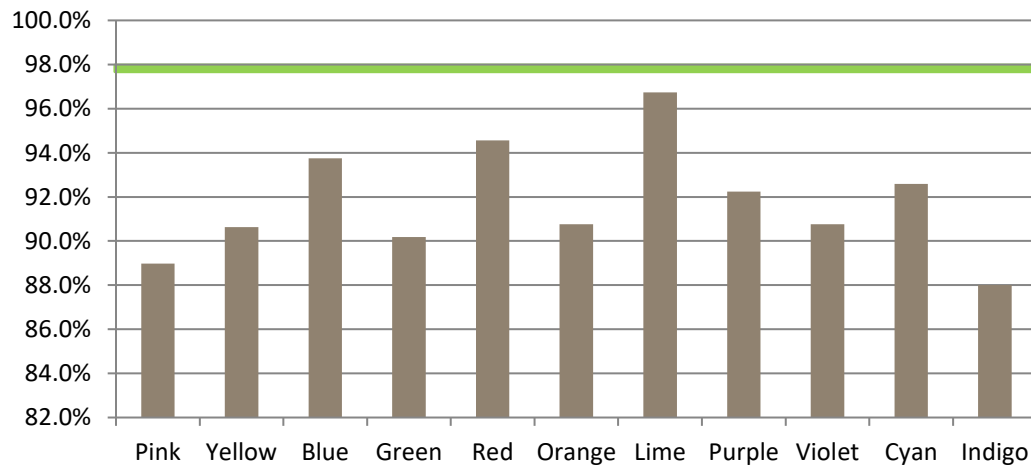
It can be hard to talk to children and especially teens about their online lives, but it's so important. This is why:



So what can you do? We recommend a family agreement [digital-family-agreement](#) to make clear what is allowed...or not, how much time you can spend on devices, and ground rules like no phones at the table or in the bedroom at night-time. Shared expectations will reduce arguments and keep everyone safe & healthy.

You may find the Internet Matters parent-child quiz iPad app useful for its quiz that is fun and full of conversation starters.

W/C 08/01/24 – 11/01/24



Best Class Attendance

Well done to Lime class for achieving the highest attendance this week, achieving 96.7%

Lime class will be rewarded with a prize for their great efforts.

Islington
Community of Schools



Even when you're very **small**
good attendance makes a

BIG difference!

"Children in the Early Years have little chance of catching up their peers if their attendance is bad.

If they fail to succeed early on in their school careers they are likely to get further behind; disillusionment with education sets in and they become excluded or begin to truant."

Regular attendance helps children to:

- Make friends and learn social skills
- Feel settled and happy
- Enjoy their learning
- Benefit from good routines
- Get ready for school

Charlie Taylor,
Government's expert advisor
on attendance and behaviour

**Help your child to succeed in the early years,
at school and in adult life**

Free early learning and childcare is increasing



Free early learning and childcare is increasing

Free early learning with a nursery or childminder supports your child's development.

Social skills: spending quality time with other children and adults

Learning: young children learn while they play and explore

Routines: children gain confidence, independence, and a sense of security

Free hours are available for 38 weeks a year, or some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over more weeks, using fewer hours each week.

How many hours of childcare can you get a week?

Age 3-4 years				Age 2 years				Age 9-23 months	
All parents				Families receiving some additional forms of government support				Working families	
15 hours Now	15 hours Apr 2024	15 hours Sept 2024	15 hours Sept 2025	15 hours Now	15 hours Apr 2024	15 hours Sept 2024	15 hours Sept 2025	15 hours Sept 2024	30 hours Sept 2025
Working families				Working families				Free hours are available from the start of the term after your child turns the relevant age by 31 March, 31 August, or 31 December.	
30 hours Now	30 hours Apr 2024	30 hours Sept 2024	30 hours Sept 2025	15 hours Apr 2024	15 hours Sept 2024	30 hours Sept 2025			



Sign up for updates at childcarechoices.gov.uk



Age 3-4

15 hours a week – for everyone; no need to apply. Contact early years providers to ask about a place.

30 hours a week – for eligible working parents*. Apply at Childcare Choices – childcarechoices.gov.uk

Age 2

15 hours a week – for families receiving benefits or on a low wage. Also, for children looked after, families with no recourse to public funds, children receiving DLA or with an EHCP. Apply at islington.gov.uk/free2

New expanded childcare offers

Age 2

15 hours a week – for eligible working parents*; both parents need to be working. Available from April 2024. You can apply from January 2024 to take up a place from April 2024. **You must apply by 31 March 2024.** Go to childcarechoices.gov.uk

Age 9-23 months

15 hours a week – for eligible working parents*; both parents need to be working. Available from September 2024. You can apply from April 2024 to take up a place from September 2024. **You must apply by 31 August 2024.** Speak to your local childcare providers to find out what they are offering.

30 hours free childcare

From September 2025 eligible working parents* of children from the age of 9 months until they start school, will be able to get 30 hours free. Eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds can already receive this.

*Eligible working parents – this means that each parent is working and earning under £100k per year and at least £167 per week (equal to 16 hours at National minimum or Living Wage)



Links: ChildcareChoices.GOV.UK – National information islington.gov.uk/free2 - Islington applications



Incredible Years Parenting Group

For parents of primary school children age 6-10 years

Tuesdays 9.30am -12.15am (9.45am start)

January 23rd-May 14th 2024

(14 weeks with breaks for school holidays)

Michal Ruzansky; Clinical Psychologist, Islington CAMHS

Sonia Kadi - Outreach support practitioner, Bright Futures, Islington

❖ For further information, please contact

Bright Futures on 020 7527 4343, sonia.kadi@islington.gov.uk

Islington CAMHS on 020 3316 1824, michal.ruzansky@nhs.net



Parenting group – ‘The Incredible years’

Please see this advertisement for a parenting group called “Incredible Years”. We work very closely with both CAMHS and Bright Futures and have seen some fantastic work happen with these services. If you would be interested in attending this course, please email parents@hargravepark.islington.sch.uk for the attention of Mr Bond and he can register your interest with the appropriate professionals.

Aims of the group?

- To improve parenting skills and knowledge
- To support positive parent child relationships, communication and bonding through quality time, child-directed play/activities, praise and rewards
- To improve parents’ understanding of child development
- To improve parents' ability to understand challenging behaviour and set appropriate limits.
- To meet other parents, share skills and ideas and develop friendships