

Message from Miss Baverstock

We have continued our series of assemblies learning about how we learn. New learning happens when we make new connections in our brain. The first time we try something new it takes a lot of effort, but each time we practise it gets a little easier. When we have practised many times, it becomes easy. Children thought about things they are good at now, but were difficult at first. We thought about things like learning to swim. We have learned the word neuroplasticity which means our brains are always 'under construction' - we can always learn new things!

Reading is the key to all learning and 2026 is the National Year of Reading. See page 3 to find out more about how you can support your child to read.

Attendance is a key priority for us and for Islington as a borough. At Hargrave Park School, when children are here, they learn! Please make sure your child comes to school every day. There are only very few reasons for authorised absence. Well done to Red Class for meeting our attendance target.

Miss Hatchett-Ricketts – our new Pastoral Care Manager - started with us yesterday. Improving attendance will be one of her projects! You may have already met her in the playground. I am sure you will join me in helping her feel welcome to Hargrave Park.

Next Tuesday is Safer Internet Day. The children will share their learning from Online Safety Week in a special assembly on that day led by Mr Harney.

Educational visits continue – with visits to the Royal Courts of Justice and to the Houses of Parliament. Thank you as ever to the parent volunteers who make this possible.



Upcoming events

- Week of 9th Feb** Lime Class Swimming
Week of 9th Feb Children's mental health week
Mon 9th Feb FOHP Cake sale and uniform sale
Tue 10th Feb Safer Internet Day
Wed 11th Feb Cyan Class to Parliament
- 16th – 20th Feb – Half Term Holiday**
- Mon 23rd Feb** **INSET Day** School closed to children
Tue 24th Feb **Children return**
Tues 3rd Mar Lime Class - Woodberry Wetlands
 Red Class - Camley Street
Wed 4th Mar **Orange Class Assembly**
Thur 5th Mar World Book Day
- Week of 9th March** **Parent Consultations**
Week of 9th March **British Science Week**
- Mon 9th Mar** Maamulaha Tag Rugby tournament
 Cyan class - Woodberry Wetlands
Tue 10th Mar Violet Class - Woodberry Wetlands
Wed 11th Mar Green Class - Camley Street
Wed 18th Mar **Purple Class Assembly**
Thu 12th Mar Indigo Class - Woodberry Wetlands
Mon 23rd Mar Purple Class - Woodberry Wetlands
Tue 24th Mar Orange Class - Woodberry Wetlands
Wed 25th Mar **Red Class Assembly**
 Blue Class - Camley Street
- Fri 27th Mar** Last day of term: 2pm dismissal
Mon 30th Mar – Fri 10th April – Easter Holiday

In the Newsletter today:

- P1- Message from Miss Baverstock, dates;**
P2 – Healthy Early Years Award;
P3 – Library page – National Year of Reading;
P4 - Friends of Hargrave Park; P5 – Presentation;
P6 and 7 – Attendance Matters; P8 - Habits of Mind

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Julie and the Under 3s team have been awarded the Healthy Early Years Bronze award. Here is the certificate and rosette!

Congratulations – this represents a great deal of dedication and hard work.



The report noted the work that has been happening to support sleep routines, healthy eating, physical movement and development and the impact of speech and language input and gardening sessions. Also highlighted were: excellent partnership working with parents and carers; good examples of partnership working with health care professionals; a real sense of dedication, innovative working practices and commitment to ensuring the best outcomes for every child and family.



National Year of
Reading 2026

<https://goallin.org.uk/get-involved/families/>

Turn what they love into a love of reading

You don't always need to read the words in books. Looking at and talking about picture books is a great way to encourage your child to enjoy stories. If you speak another language at home, talk about the pictures and story in your own language.

Children come alive when they're exploring the things they're passionate about. From superheroes and football to cooking, dancing and dinosaurs – every word counts.

Have fun sharing books with these tips

- Talk about the book's cover and point out the title.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Encourage them to talk about the pictures.
- Use different voices for different characters. Add in sound effects like splashing in puddles, beeping car horns or animal sounds.
- When the story is finished, you could ask them if they liked it and if they had a favourite character.
- Make a den together, like a cloth over a table, with space for both of you to share. You can make your den part of the story – it could be a monster's cave, a rocket ship, or a princess' tower.
- Talk to your child about what you did as a child. Involve the whole family – grandparents may have stories to share from when they were growing up!

The National Year of Reading 2026 is your chance to help your child discover new worlds, grow confidence and build a lifelong love of reading – all through the everyday moments you already share.

Did you know?

- Children who were read to regularly by their parents at age five performed better in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who were not helped in this way.
- Children often have a favourite story they want to hear again and again. This helps them to learn the word order and link the written word to the story – which are the first steps in learning to read!



Our Parent and Staff Association
Friends of Hargrave Park School

Want to get in touch? Email us at:
friendsofhargravepark@gmail.com

HARGRAVE PARK SCHOOL

VALENTINE'S CUPCAKE SALE

Monday 9 February 3.30pm
In the playground

Bring in your best Valentine's themed cupcakes, biscuits and sliced traybakes for your chance to be our 'Star Baker' chosen by Miss Baverstock

Deliver your bakes to the playground at 3.20pm, or drop them off in the morning at reception, to be included in the judging.

Absolutely
NO NUTS



Cupcakes
£1 each



Friends of Hargrave Park School is the school's parent staff association that aims to enhance the education of our children by fostering cooperation between parents and staff, and building a supportive community for all at Hargrave Park School.

Cupcake & Uniform Sale

Monday 9 February 3.30pm, in the playground



Bake with love for our Valentine's themed cupcake sale this Monday. The best bake will be awarded the Hargrave Park 'Star Baker' wooden spoon, as judged by Miss Baverstock.

Please make sure your bakes are clearly label and do not contain any nuts. Deliver your cupcakes or pre-slice traybake to the playground at 3.20pm or drop them off in the morning at the office to be included in the judging.

Alongside the cakes, if we have enough items, we will be selling pre-loved school uniform. All Hargrave branded items will be £1 and everything else free. If you have uniform you want to donate please bring these in on Monday freshly washed so they can be added to the sale.



Could you help run a cup cake sale next half term?

Sign-up to Easyfundraising and raise free donations for us when you shop online or via their app at no extra cost to you

Visit easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Friends of Hargrave Park or scan the QR code here. Thank you to those who are already raising money by shopping online with Easyfundraising.



Upcoming Event Dates for your Diary

Monday 9 February - 3.30-3.45pm
Valentine Cupcake & Uniform Sale

Through-out March
FOHP Reading Challenge

Friday 13 March - 8.50-9.30am
Parent & Carer Coffee Morning

Monday 27 March - 3.30-3.45pm
Spring Cupcake & Uniform Sale

Friday 15 May
Dare to be Different Day

Coming up

- ★ Summer Cupcake & Uniform Sale
- ★ Rainbow Raffle
- ★ Summer Fair



Handwriting and Presentation @ HP

At Hargrave Park, we want children to be proud of their work as this feeling is linked with having confidence in themselves as independent, ambitious learners.

The language of letter formation!
This week's letter is **E**.

E: Down, and across, lift, across at the top, lift, across in the middle.

e : Start near the bottom. Go up, around, and down.

Practice at home!

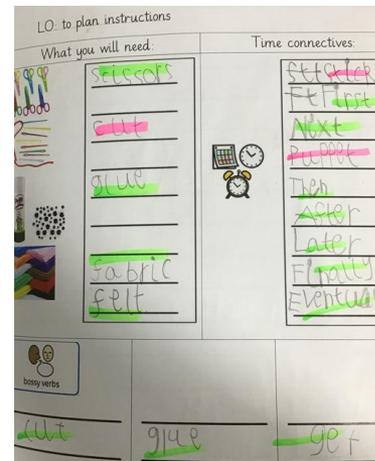
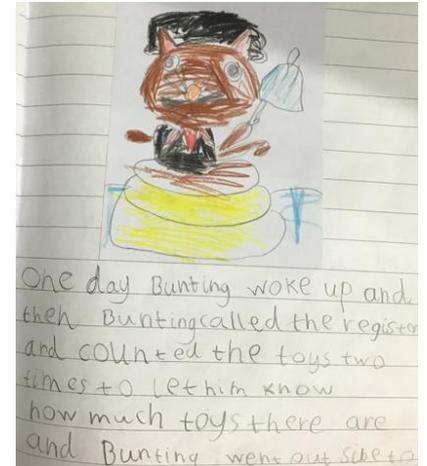
The school uses the Nelson Handwriting scheme from Oxford Owl. Take a look at the videos below for tips on practice at home and fine motor warm-up exercises. Encourage children to verbalise what they are doing to understand their thought processes as they write.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/oxford-owl-videos/handwriting-videos--1/>

Practicing Presentation!

Hoor (Blue Class, right) and Helena (Green Class, below) have both been working hard in the presentation of their recent work.

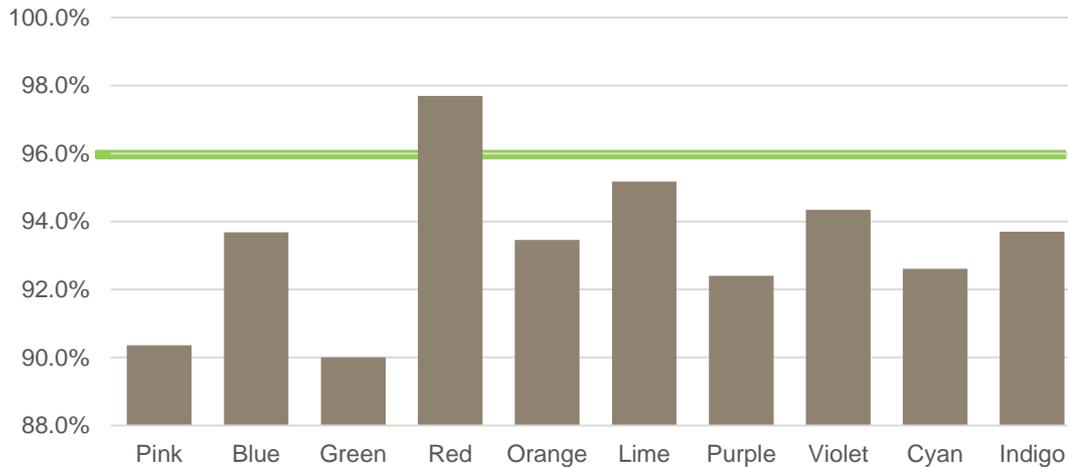
Hoor has worked hard to produce a high quality, published narrative. She has worked hard to ensure that her letters are on the line and paired it with a lovely illustration.



Helena has been working hard on the organisation of her writing. She had organised her vocabulary during planning and ensured that all letters are formed correctly.

Well done to both of them!

W/C 30/01/26



Best Class Attendance

Well done to Red class
They have achieved 97.7% attendance
this week

Medication in School

Please ensure your child has their asthma pump and spacer in school. Children may need them more in the cold and damp weather.

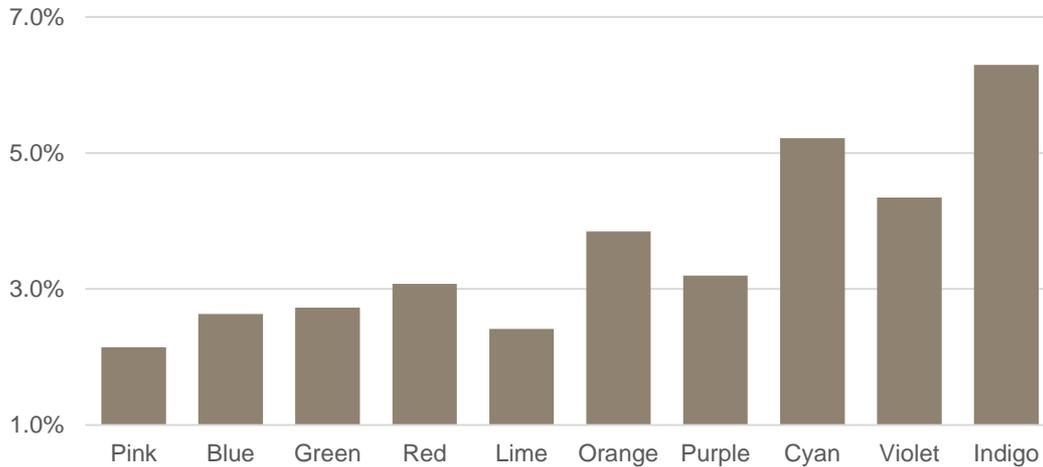
If your child has prescribed medication that they may need in school eg asthma pump, epi-pen, buccolam or antibiotics, a medical form must be completed on the Piota app.

You may be asked to complete a medical care plan and provide supporting documents.

All medication must be handed in to the school office.

Punctuality Matters

Percentage lates - W/C 30/01/26



Best Punctuality this week goes to...

Pink class

They were on time and ready to learn 97.9%
of the time

Since the 3rd September 2025, we have had **156**
children arrive late to school.

That is **19,274** lost minutes of learning!
Please try your best in arriving on time to school

Prepare the Night Before

Lay out your clothes, pack your school bag, and put your PE kit in your bag to reduce morning tasks.

Involve the whole Family

Make being on time a family commitment and work together to establish a routine that everyone can follow.

Avoid Distractions

Stay focused on getting ready to leave for school and avoid getting sidetracked by screens or other distractions.

Be Ready Early

Aim to finish your morning tasks a few minutes before you need to leave

Have a Consistent Bedtime

Establish a regular bedtime to get adequate sleep and wake up feeling refreshed and ready for the day.

Set Alarms

Use an alarm clock to help wake you up at the right time and act as a reminder to keep moving through your morning routine.

Email your appointment letters to:
parents@hargravepark.islington.sch.uk

If your child is ill, please call the office on 020 7272 3989 choose option 1 to report your child's absence. All calls should be recorded before

