Hargrave Park School
We Aim High

Friday 18th September

Message from Miss Baverstock
Attendance Focus!

We are now half way through September and establishing our expectations. The phrase we keep using is 'Now is the time'!

A key focus this academic year is on attendance. It a focus across the whole of Islington and indeed nationally. Now is the time to establish good habits.

Regular attendance at school is key to steady pupil progress and enjoyment of learning. We know that when pupils come to school every day, they do well. We take a whole school approach to improving attendance and it is the joint responsibility of parents and carers, pupils and all staff members to ensure that children are attending school as they should be.

Key to this approach is fostering a sense of belonging in all pupils. This week we began a series of assemblies with the pupils about belonging. Belonging is about feeling accepted, seen and valued. I asked the children to think of all the things in school that are here for them so that they have what they need and can feel accepted, seen and valued. I have asked children to think about who their trusted adults are who they can go to if they have a worry. Staff are attuned to children when they come to them with a worry.

Children will be asked to think about all the reasons they like coming to school and all of the opportunities that are here for them. This includes a range of learning opportunities, gardening, playtime, breakfast club, all the class trips, choir, trusted adults, the hub, calm corners, snacks, the list goes on….!

Save the dates: Parent Consultations will be held on 6th and 7th October More information will follow soon.



Upcoming events

Thu 24th Sep	Flu Vaccinations Rec – Yr6
Thu 24th Sep	Cardfields meeting for Y6
Mon 28th Sep	Y5/6 boys' football comp
Tue 29th Sep	UKS2 Chocolate museum workshop
Mon 5th Oct	Purple Class – Stone Age Workshop

Tues 6th and Wed 7th Oct
Parent Consultations

Tue 6th Oct	Lime Class – Stone Age Workshop
Wed 7th Oct	Y5/6 girls football comp
Mon 12th Oct	Orange Class – Stone Age Workshop
Mon 12th Oct	Flu vaccination catch up
Wed 14th Oct	Y3/4 boys football comp

Week beginning 19th October
Year 6 to Cardfields
Year 5 Bikeability

Wed 21st Oct	Y3/4 girls football comp
Thu 22nd Oct	Spooky and Sparkly Disco

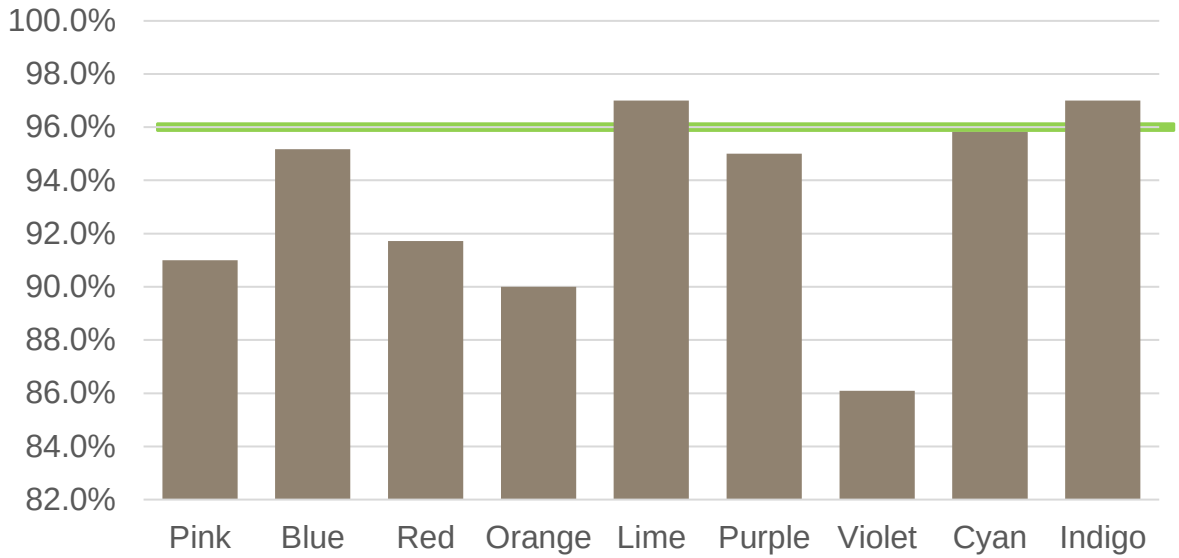
In the Newsletter today:

P1- Message from Miss Baverstock, dates
P2, 3, 4 – Attendance Matters
P5 – A Message from the Library
P6 –Under 3s
P7 – Friends of Hargrave Park
P8 – A message from our SENDCO
P9 – Habits of Mind: thinking Flexibly

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Attendance Matters

W/C 11/09/26 – 17/09/26



Best Class Attendance

Well done to both Lime and Indigo class.
They achieved 97% attendance this week.
We are aiming for all classes to exceed 96%

NB: Hargrave Park, along with all Islington schools, does not authorise holidays taken in term time. Unauthorised holidays will be reported to the local authority who will issue penalty notices.

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

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Did you know your child can attend school with…

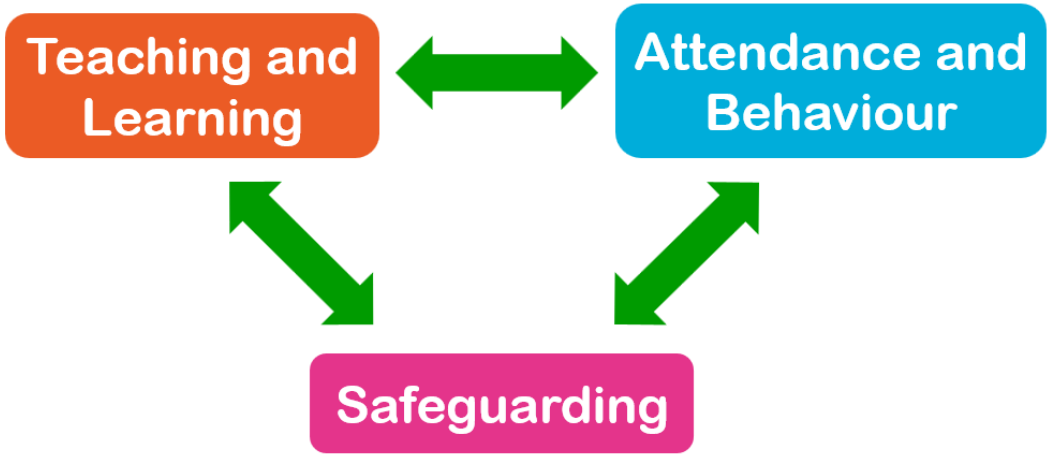
Toothache, Earache, Headache, Sore throat, Conjunctivitis, Glandular Fever, Head lice Molluscum Contagiosum (viral skin condition) Ringworm/Threadworm, Warts and Verrucae, Hand, Foot and Mouth, Cough/Cold – If your child has asthma, remember they may need their blue inhaler more often

If your child has been diagnosed with the following:

Chicken pox: can return to school 5 days from the onset of rash
Diarrhoea and vomiting: can return to school 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
Influenza (flu): return to school as soon as they have recovered
German Measles (Rubella): Keep off of school for 6 days from onset of rash
Impetigo: Keep off of school until lesions are crusted/ healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
Measles: Keep child off of school for 4 days from onset of rash
Mumps: Keep off of school for 5 days from onset of swollen glands
Scabies: Child can return after first treatment
Whooping cough: 5 days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment has been given.

Doctors notes will be required for the above

All staff are aware of the interaction between teaching and learning, attendance and behaviour, and safeguarding.



To support our whole school priority of improving attendance, staff will:

Ensure that the school provides consistency for all pupils – it feels safe, predictable, and enjoyable. They want to come to school.

Greet pupils by name in the playground and the classroom.

Celebrate effort, kindness, and participation to support a sense of belonging.

Ensure every child has at least one trusted adult in school.

Create or ensure a sense of 'belonging' for all pupils within the school culture – e.g. personal responsibilities- participation in sports, librarian etc.

Help with morning routines – promote our long-standing Breakfast club.

Be attuned to catch-up needs for pupils on return from absence.

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Improving school attendance - some facts

Our Education Welfare Officer, Martin Fullbrook, works in partnership with parents to improve school attendance. **Good attendance is essential for your child to achieve the very best now and in the future and sets up good habits.**

We all have a legal responsibility to ensure our children receive appropriate education suitable for their age, ability and aptitude. Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class.

Research shows that children who do not attend regularly:

- **Do not achieve well in school**
- **Find it difficult to maintain friendships**
- **Miss out on social events**
- **In extreme cases are more likely to be involved in crime**

Absence can only be authorised where there is good cause, for example if a child is too ill to attend school. Parents cannot authorise absence. Only the Head Teacher can do so.

Please remember that holidays during term time, parental illness, birthdays, going shopping, visiting family or not wanting to go to school are not acceptable reasons to be absent from school.
Late arrival at school after the registers are closed are classified as unauthorised absence, which could also have consequences for parents.

Hargrave Park regards children's school attendance for 190 days annually as a right and not in any way optional.
Hargrave Park, along with all Islington schools, does not authorise holidays taken in term time.
Unauthorised holidays will be reported to the local authority who will issue penalty notices.

Please contact Martin Fullbrook the School Education Welfare Officer if you wish to discuss any part of this letter.

You can call him on 07720996615 or email him via parents@hargravepark.islington.sch.uk

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Friday 18th September

Each class has a reading session with the library. These take place on the following days:-

Thursdays
HP House, Nursery, Orange, Lime and Purple.

Fridays
Pink, Blue, Red, Violet, Cyan and Indigo.

For Key stages 1 and 2, books can be borrowed from the library to take home. Please remember to look after these books and return them on a Thursday or Friday depending on the scheduled Library day.
Thank you

Orange, Lime, Purple, Violet, Cyan and Indigo We are looking for new Pupil Librarians. Applications are now open!

We are looking for pupils who are reliable, careful, friendly, hard-working, love books, enjoy helping people, happy to use computers, understand alphabetical and numerical order, good listeners and communicators. The job would take place Thursday mornings and one task during your own library class time.
The job will include:-

- Assisting pupils to use the library and find books they are interested in
- Promoting the library
- Recommending books
- Using the computer to scan in the returned books and shelve those books
- Helping with library displays



Applications forms will be given out during library sessions/ can be collected from the library. Closing date: Friday 2nd October

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Under 3's Friday 18th September

Safer sleep : new requirements



Safer sleep guidance, based on recommendations from **the NHS and The Lullaby Trust**, aim to help families create a safe and comfortable sleep environment for their baby at home.

Babies should be placed **on their back to sleep**, on a **firm, flat and clear sleep surface**, and kept at a comfortable temperature.

Avoid pillows, duvets, loose blankets and soft toys in the cot or bed, especially for children under 2 years old.

Parents are also welcome to provide a **TOG-rated sleep suit suitable for their baby and the room temperature** for use in the Baby Room.

Allergies & Dietary requirements

For children with dietary requirements or allergies, parents are kindly asked to complete the form here. (School Unit Number: 2401)

Bright Start Activities



Bright Start Islington offers a range of free activities for children to enjoy outside of school.
From sports and creative activities to SEN, outdoor, fun learning and social sessions, children can explore and develop new interests and make new friends !

For more information: Bright start Autumn timetable

Autumn outfits

As the weather becomes more changeable, please send your child in **comfortable, easy-to-wear layers** that can be added or removed as needed. Autumn can bring a mix of **warm, sunny days and cooler, wet weather**, so please provide a **suitable coat and waterproof clothing** for outdoor play.

To help your child become more independent, we encourage **simple clothing that is easy to manage**, such as elasticated waist trousers and shoes with Velcro.

Please also remember **to label all clothing, coats, shoes and spare clothes** with your child's name.



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Our Parent and Staff Association

Friends of Hargrave Park School

Want to get in touch? Email us at: friendsofhargravepark@gmail.com or find us on Instagram



Calling all parent volunteers

Sparkly & Spooky Disco

Thursday 22 October, 5.00-6.30pm

We need parents and carers to volunteer at the disco to help decorate the hall, serve refreshments, man the craft table and tidy away at the end. If you are available or would like to be with your child at the disco please consider helping out. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be in the next newsletter.

In the meantime we are looking for a fun, simple craft that children can do during the disco. If you have an idea of an autumn or halloween themed craft please let us know on friendsofhargravepark@gmail.com

Please note, the disco will be for years 1 - 5. Nursery and Pink class will have a disco in their classrooms and year 6 will have their disco at Cardfields.

Staying connected with your class

Our class WhatsApp groups help families support one another, share information and build a stronger school community for our children. To join your class WhatsApp or to become your class rep please email **friendsofhargravepark@gmail.com**

You shop online, brands donate to us

easyfundraising is a hassle-free way to raise money for our school. Just shop online with all your favourite brands as normal, and the they will donate to Friends of Hargrave Park School.

Visit **easyfundraising.org.uk** and search for Friends of Hargrave Park or scan the QR code below.

Once signed up there's nothing to remember. Simply shop online, or via their mobile up. No planning. No stress. Just free donations for our school.

Thank you to all who are already raising money for us by shopping online with **easyfundraising**.

Scan me

Friends of Hargrave Park School

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Friday 18th September 2026

A message from our SENDCO: Miss D'Orsi

Building Independence

One of the most important things we can do for young children who have SEN is to help them to develop independence and confidence in their skills. This means giving children the right support strategies and opportunities so they can gradually do more for themselves.

At home, small every day tasks can make a big difference. Encourage your child to get dress, organise their school bag, prepare a simple snack, tidy away belongings or follow a familiar morning routine. For some children these tasks may take longer or may require additional support.

Visual Support for Independence

Visual supports can be particularly helpful in building independence. A simple checklist, picture or visual timetable can help children understand what is expected and may reduce the need for repeated adult instructions.

For example – Morning Routine:

1. Get dressed, 2. Have breakfast, 3. Brush teeth, 4. Pack school bag, 5 Put on shoes







It can also be helpful to pause before stepping in. If your child is struggling with a task, give them a little extra thinking time before providing the answer or doing the task for them. You might offer a small prompt such as, "What do you need to do next? Rather than immediately taking over. Remember to celebrate the small steps. For a child who has SEN, something that appears simple to others may require considerable effort. Praise perseverance, problem-solving and attempts – not just successful outcome. Every small step towards independence is a big step forward.








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At Hargrave Park, we encourage children to consider different ideas, perspectives and possibilities. **Thinking Flexibly** helps children adapt to change, explore different approaches and find creative solutions. It encourages children to be open-minded, curious and confident in their learning.

Habits of Mind

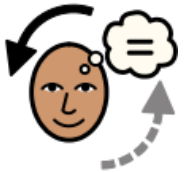


Thinking Flexibly

When might we use this habit?

We might show this habit when we...

- try a new way of doing something
- listen to someone else's ideas
- change our thinking when we learn something new
- find a different solution to a problem



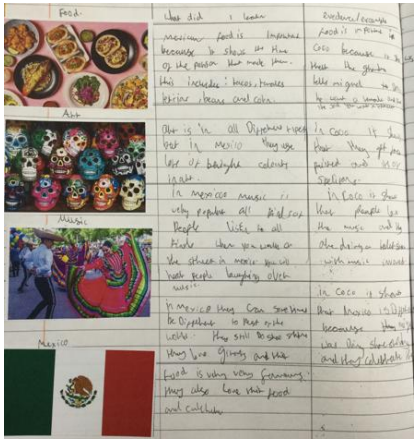
What does this Habit of Mind mean?

Thinking Flexibly means...

- considering different ideas and viewpoints
- trying different ways to solve a problem
- being open to change
- finding creative solutions
- learning from others
- adapting our thinking



Habit in action!



This week, Charlotte (Cyan) demonstrated **Thinking Flexibly** through her writing about Mexican culture. She explored different aspects of Mexican food, art, music and traditions, considering new ideas and perspectives as she developed her work. Her ambition was evident as she challenged herself to learn about a different culture, develop her ideas and proudly share her learning with others.