Hargrave Park School
We Aim High

Friday 2nd October

Message from Miss Baverstock

October is Black History Month in the UK. The national theme this year is 'honouring communities'. Black history month 2026

This year our pupils will have a chance to refine our curriculum to enhance representation of Black authors and artists. This will leave a legacy which will last the whole year round for years to come.

Spotlight on attendance… I am delighted to say that I have a **very** long list of names to read out in assembly on Monday of pupils who currently have 100% attendance! 100% can be challenging so the target across the year for all pupils is 96%. Cyan class have spectacularly exceeded this target this week with a staggering 99.2%.

Well done Cyan class!

Parent consultations are coming... Make sure you have booked your slot. This is a valuable opportunity to work in partnership with your child's teacher.

We also look forward to inviting families in for phonics workshops – where you will see phonics learning in action with the pupils. See p6 for details.

At Hargrave Park we remain committed to working in partnership with families. Online safety must be a team effort. Please ensure that your children's online activity is monitored and that they are not accessing content or apps which are inappropriate. Expectations of behaviour online are the same as expectations of behaviour face to face. Kindness online is expected. Unkindness online will be addressed.

We have had reports of late-night phone use by pupils. We strongly recommend that phones/screens are turned off and put away outside of the bedroom at least an hour before bedtime.

Upcoming events

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
Wed 14th Oct Violet Class Parent Cons

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 – Black History Month
P6 – Phonics workshops
P7 - Habits of Mind: Creating, Imagining and Innovating
P8 - A Message from the Library
P9 –Under 3s

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Improving school attendance

Research shows that children who attend regularly:

- **Achieve well in school**
- **Find it easier to maintain friendships**
- **Have more opportunity for social events**

Great news, there are currently 107 pupils with 100% attendance so far!
This is fabulous news.
The plan is to read out all of their names in assembly on Monday!

There are an additional 17 pupils with 96% attendance or above. This percentage will go up if they continue to come to school every day.

There are a number of pupils sitting just below our target of 96%. Their number will also go up if they continue to come to school every day.

Currently Purple and Cyan classes are top of the league with 18 pupils each at 96% attendance or more
Blue Class has 16 pupils with 96% attendance or more
Red Class have 12 pupils with 96% attendance or more

This is a great start and we look forward to seeing those numbers go up…!

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Did you know your child can attend school with…

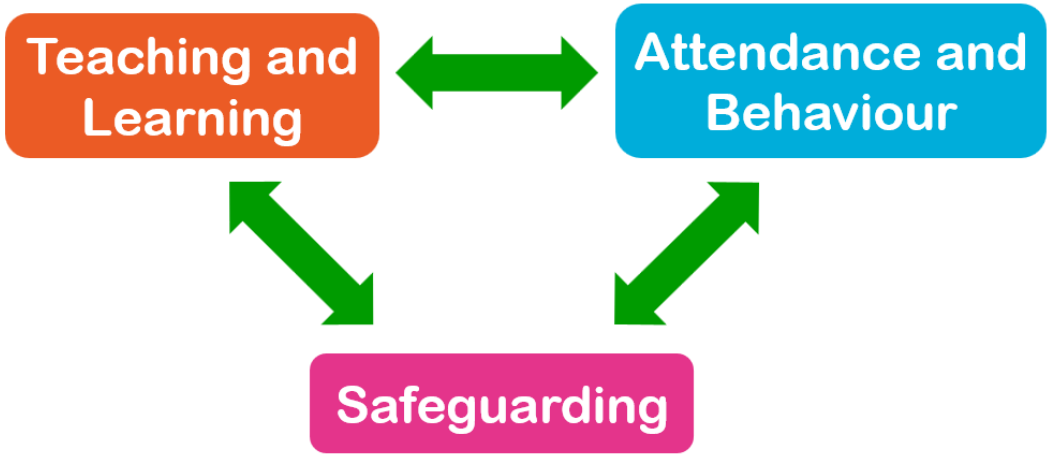
Toothache, Earache, Headache, Sore throat, Conjunctivitis, Glandular Fever, Head lice Molluscum Contagiosum (viral skin condition) Ringworm/Threadworm, Warts and Verrucae, Hand, Foot and Mouth, Cough/Cold – If your child has asthma, remember they may need their blue inhaler more often

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.

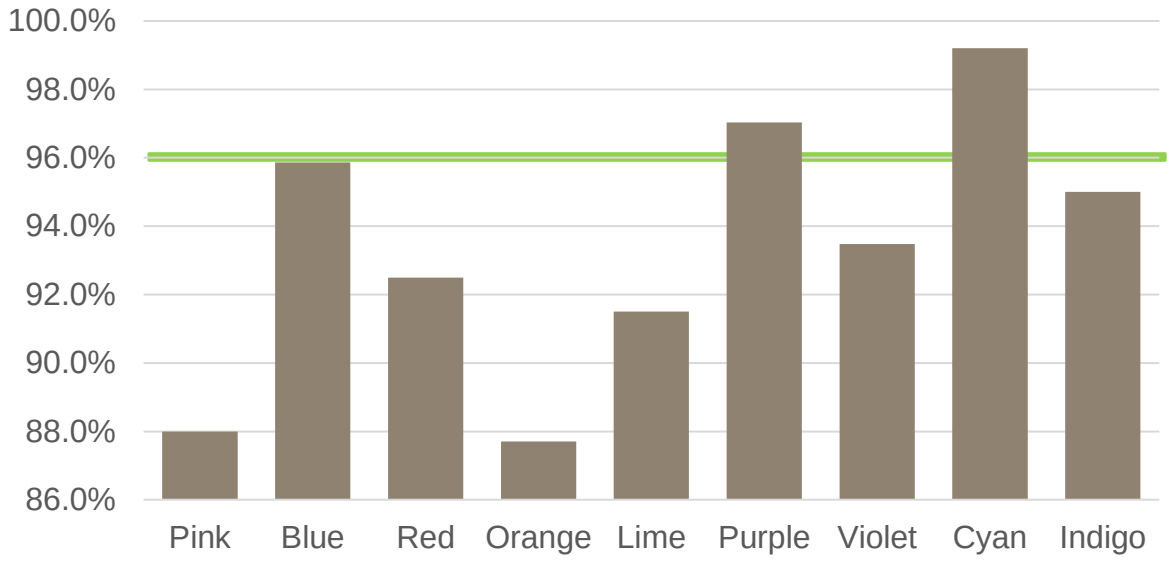
Help with morning routines – promote our long-standing Breakfast club.

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

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Attendance Matters

W/C 25/09/26 – 01/10/26



Absence can only be authorised where there is good cause, for example if a child is too ill to attend school.

Remember -
School is the best place for a child to be when there are problems at home eg housing issues, a family member's illness.

Best Class Attendance

Well done to Cyan class,
a fabulous 99.2% attendance this week!

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 the school office or Martin Fullbrook - our School Education Welfare Officer - if you wish to discuss attendance issues. You can call Martin on 07720996615 or email him via parents@hargravepark.islington.sch.uk

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

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B:M2026

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Activities in school throughout Black History Month this year include an opportunity for pupils to refine and enhance the representation of Black authors and artists in our collection of whole class reading books and artists linked to our curriculum themes.

Some questions being asked by Key stage 2 pupils include: Is there a diverse range of authors? Characters? Perspectives? If not, which topics' book could we change? Similarly, through researching and learning about Black British Artists, pupils will have a chance to identify which artists we could introduce to our curriculum theme maps.

Black History Month 2026

https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/black-history-month-2026/

Theme 'honouring communities.

"Telling stories and hearing voices that might otherwise go unheard"



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Phonic workshops for families

Phonics is a key part of our reading curriculum. Children in Reception and Year One are taught phonic skills to teach them how to read. At Hargrave Park we use a phonic scheme called Little Wandle to do this. We are inviting families of children in Reception and Year One into school this term to learn how we use phonics so you can best support your child at home.

Reception workshop – Thursday 15th October
Year One workshop – Thursday 22nd October

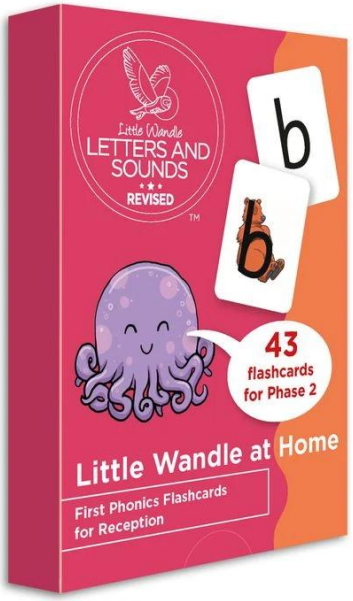
All workshops will start at 9am and be 30 minutes with time for questions afterwards.

The workshops will provide an introduction to phonics here at Hargrave Park with Miss Jones and then a chance to observe a small group take part in a phonics session.

To book a place on a workshop please email parents@hargravepark.Islington.sch.uk with your name and which session you would like to attend.

Families who attend will be given a pack of Little Wandle at home flash cards to take home!

Little Wandle LETTERS AND SOUNDS REVISED ™





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At Hargrave Park, we encourage children to explore their imagination, develop new ideas and think creatively. **Creating, Imagining and Innovating** helps children look at things in new ways, experiment with possibilities and turn their ideas into something new. It encourages children to be curious, creative and confident in sharing and developing their ideas.

Habits of Mind

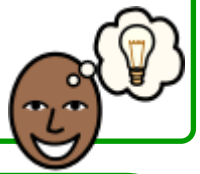


Creating, Imagining and Innovating

When might we use this habit?

We might show this habit when we...

- think of a new way to do something
- create, design or invent something
- imagine what might happen next
- experiment with different ideas and materials
- find a creative solution to a problem
- build on someone else's idea
- ask "What if...?" and explore different possibilities



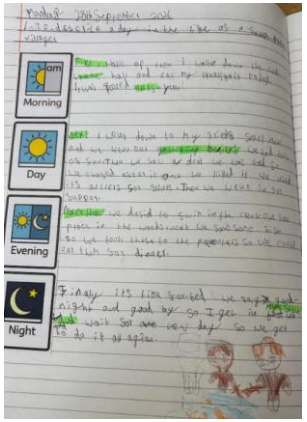
What does this Habit of Mind mean?



Creating, Imagining and Innovating means...

- using our imagination to develop new ideas
- thinking of different possibilities
- experimenting and trying new things
- finding new and creative ways to solve problems
- building on and developing ideas
- turning our ideas into something new

Habit in action!





This week, Ayla (Lime) demonstrated **Creating, Imagining and Innovating** through her home learning and Stone Age topic lessons. She used her imagination to explore Stone Age life, showing curiosity and creativity as she developed ideas and presented her learning in different ways.

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The 500 words competition is back!

Can you write a story in 500 words or less?
There are two age categories:
5-7 and 8-11 year olds
Write a story you would love to read yourself
Your own original ideas
Be as creative as you can and have fun!
One entry per child

This year, the judges include: Sir Lenny Henry, Malorie Blackman, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Rose Ayling-Ellis.

The prizes:-
The bronze, silver and gold winners will have their stories read by celebrities on the BBC in early March.
The gold winner will receive 500 books for their school library
Each of the winning stories will receive a framed illustrated cover produced exclusively by a top children's illustrator and will be published in a special 500 words winners book. Winners will take home a National Book Token – Gold - £75, Silver £50 and bronze winners £25

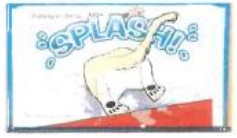
Please provide your stories to Mrs Johnstone, the Librarian, by Friday 30th October.

For further information on the competition:-
https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words

Libraries
ReadLearnConnect



LOTE4Kids is an online database of children's books, that is available to all Islington Library members for free.



With over 3,000 digital picture books in more than 65 languages including Dari, Pashto and Ukranian, there is something for everyone. Each book can be read or listened to aloud, and comes with English translations to help with language learning and development.

lote4kids.com/uk-islington-libraries

ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

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Under 3's Friday 2nd October



Simple ways to support your child's language at home

From 2 to 3 years old, children are learning new words and practising how to put words together. This is a sensitive period of development for communication and encouraging opportunities for use of language, vocabulary development, focus, attention and curiosity can have a lifelong impact on your child's development. Luckily, at this age, opportunities to support language are everywhere and can be as simple as talking, listening, playing and sharing everyday moments together :

- **Talk about everyday life**: Comment what you are doing: "I put your shoes on." "This apple is red."
- **Share a book**: Look at pictures together and talk about what you see.
- **Sing and rhyme**: sing nursery rhymes and songs together. Encourage your child to join in with words, sounds and actions.
- **Have an uninterrupted 10 to 30 minutes play together**: follow your child's interests and add new words to their play such as when your child comments "Car!" you can answer "Yes, a red car! It's going fast!"
- **Listen and respond**: Always give your child time to speak. Repeat what they say and add a little more for example : "Dog !" - "Yes, that's a big dog!"
- **Self-confidence is key**: praise your child's attempts to communicate and always encourage their use of different words, expressions and tones.
- Ensure that they have time to speak, listen carefully and show them that their voice matters.



Gardening session

Our Under 3s enjoyed a lovely gardening session with Caroline this week! They explored our fruit and vegetable allotment, spotted tomatoes and cucumbers, and got hands-on with repotting and planting seeds.

Saying goodbye to the dummy !

At 2–3 years, children are learning lots of new words and practising speech sounds.

Using a dummy reduce opportunities to **talk, make sounds and practise moving the lips and tongue**. Long-term dummy use can also affect the **development and position of the teeth**. The NHS recommends aiming to **stop dummy use by 12 months**.

How can I help my child stop ?
•Start by **reducing dummy time** to only sleep/nap time.
•Keep the dummy **out of sight during the day**.
•Encourage your child to **take it out when talking and playing**.
•Offer a **cuddle, favourite toy, book or song** instead.
•Praise your child when they manage without it.
•Once you stop, **stay consistent**.

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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 is on Instagram

Every parent and carer of a child at the school, as well as staff, are automatically a member of Friends of Hargrave Park School.

Run by a committee of parent volunteers, we organise events and activities that aim to build the school community and raise funds to help enhance all Hargrave children's experience of school life.

Being part of the committee or becoming a class rep is a great way to get to know other families while supporting the school. You can also get involved through the year helping to support our events and activities.

Hello and welcome back!

We hope you had a great summer and start to the new school year. Friends of Hargrave Park is the school's parent and staff association. It brings parents, carers and staff together to support the school, build a community, and enhance opportunities for every child so they can thrive at the school. We'd love you to get involved this year, no matter how much time you can give.

Whether you can spare an half an hour or take a more active role through the year every little bit of support makes huge difference. Please get in touch if you can.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of Hargrave families and staff we raised over £3,000 allows us to fund new equipment for the Home Corners and the Huband subsides the cost of the coaches to Frinton.

Keeping in touch with your class family

To help you stay connected and informed of school life we have class What's App groups from the baby & toddler rooms to year 6. If you would like the link to join yours, please email **friendsofhargravepark@gmail.com** and let us know which class your child is in.

Could you help strengthen our parent community by becoming a rep for your class. If you are interested please email **friendsofhargravepark@gmail.com**

Upcoming Event Dates for your Diary



Friends of Hargrave Park School