



Headteacher's Letter

As we come to the end of an incredibly busy and joyful autumn term, I'd like to say a huge thank you to our pupils, families and staff for the energy, teamwork and warmth you've brought to school life. This term has been packed with learning, enrichment and opportunities to celebrate the unique strengths of every young person at Grange Park - and it's been wonderful to see so many moments of confidence, kindness and progress.

We began the term with a strong focus on building consistency and expertise across our team, including a series of professional development twilights for staff as we continue to grow and develop our expertise. Alongside ProAct training and instructor development, our aim is always the same: to ensure every child is supported by skilled adults who understand communication, regulation and learning - so pupils can feel safe, understood and ready to thrive.

This term also brought a brilliant range of trips and visitors. Highlights included our whole school visit to Chessington, curriculum trips to Kent Life, Hever Castle, Bodiam Castle and the Science Museum, as well as theatre and pantomime experiences. We were equally delighted to welcome special visitors and workshops including Alice Gleave from KCC, Charlie's Promise knife crime workshop, African workshops, Alex Partridge, founder of LadBible, gave sessions for pupils and staff, and the incredible speaker and author Chris Bonello also ran workshops. Experiences like these deepen learning, build independence, and create the kind of memories that last long after the term ends.

We've also made sure wellbeing and community have stayed at the heart of everything we do. Wear it Yellow Day and the Big Mental Health Conversation reminded us how important it is to keep talking and listening. Our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon which raised £465.67 showed the power of coming together for a cause, and it was lovely to see pupils enjoying Children in Need and the school disco raising £511. Behind the scenes, milestones such as our UNICEF Gold Assessment and IQM reassessment reflect our continued commitment to inclusion, pupil voice and high-quality provision.

I welcome Mrs Sandeford as our new Business Manager who will work with Mrs Jones who remains in post one day a week as a finance expert. I am delighted to welcome back Mrs Martin who has returned as a Learning Mentor.

A particular thank you goes to families for your partnership during a busy season of reviews, interviews and key meetings, including interim reviews, parents' evenings, and annual reviews across the school. These moments matter so much, because the very best outcomes happen when home and school work closely together.

As we look ahead to our festive finish - our whole school cinema trip, Stansted afternoon tea with Santa, our Christmas church service, Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper days - I hope you feel proud of everything achieved this term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas break and a happy, healthy New Year.

Best wishes

Miss Renukah Atwell

Executive Headteacher

Upcoming Events:

12th - 16th January 2026: Mock week	4th February 2026: Year 8 HPV Vaccinations and Years 9 - 11 catch up
23rd January 2026: Year 11 Star Award Trip	4th February 2026: Table Cricket Tournament
23rd January 2026: Year 8 & 9 Kent Fire & Rescue Workshop	7th - 13th February 2026: Italy Ski Trip
26th - 30th January 2026: Year 10 Annual Reviews	11th February 2026: KS5 Preparing for Adulthood Trip
30th January 2026: Year 11 Globe Theatre Trip	13th February 2026: Year 5/6 Farm Visit
	9th - 13th February 2026: Year 9 Annual Reviews

Message from the Chair of Governors

It's that time of the year when some might hear the jingle of bells and the stamp of reindeer hooves on the roof and so I begin my "piece" for our Christmas Newsletter!

Governors were delighted to receive confirmation that our Gold Rights Respecting reassessment passed with flying colours. This award is given to acknowledge our teaching pupils their rights and help them to self-advocate and to also spread this out further into the community. We are also awaiting confirmation that following a visit from Inclusion Quality Mark assessor, we continue to hold this accolade too. A further accolade the school has received is that of Beacon Status from the National Autistic Society (NAS). This is an extremely rare award and is a reflection on the care and dedication our staff put in to give our pupils the very best education possible and as governors we are extremely proud of this achievement and all accolades given to us.



We are also proud of the many off-site visits our pupils are able to take part in – from whole school visit to the theme park at Chessington in September, the successful trip to EuroDisney at the end of Term 6, the anticipation of the skiing holiday in the New Year, theatre trips etc, etc. The list of various outside visits is impressive and all help to give our pupils skills to prepare them for life after school.

The results of the various exams taken this year were quite spectacular and worth all the time spent in the various revision classes that were held for several months in advance of the exams – worth every moan and groan uttered by our students most of whom expressed their appreciation to staff on receiving their results.

We had hoped that solar panels would be fitted during the two week Autumn holiday – sadly we were let down by the contractor and we have yet to be given a firm date when the work can be carried out without disrupting school life. Once these panels are installed and connected, there should be a massive energy costs saving which will no doubt assist in budget setting in time to come.

Negotiations continue with the purchase of premises to house our Post-16 students in a building that we could adapt to meet their needs and grow their independence outside of the school premises. It is envisaged that we should be able to "open our doors" for this new venture in September 2026.

With regard to the possibility of the school opting for Academy status, for the time being this is being paused which allows us to explore other avenues. We live on shifting sands currently with matters SEND the DfE putting back their revised national SEND offer and County in a similar situation locally. We continue to strive to get the best for our school.

The governing board wish to recruit two Parent Governors and invite you to consider putting yourself forward as a candidate. The Full Governing Body (FGB) meets 6 times a year with Resources Committee and Teaching & Learning Committee also meeting six times a year, our meetings last approximately 2 hours and as well as attending FGB meetings you would also sit on either of the two Committees. We are, I believe, a welcoming bunch of governors, training is available most of it on-line also you would be provided with a Governor Mentor to ease you in to Governorship. Our school is successful and if you would like to be a part of shaping the future why not give it a whirl? Please contact either Miss Atwell or myself for further details.

It has been a very busy time for all – our pupils, our staff both teaching and admin, also governors so all it remains for me to do now, is to wish everyone the compliments of the season.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sue Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mrs Sue Murray

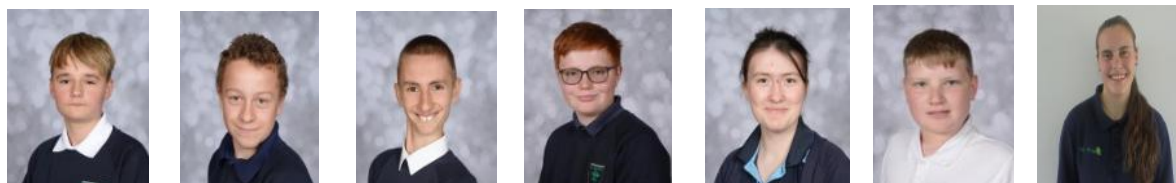
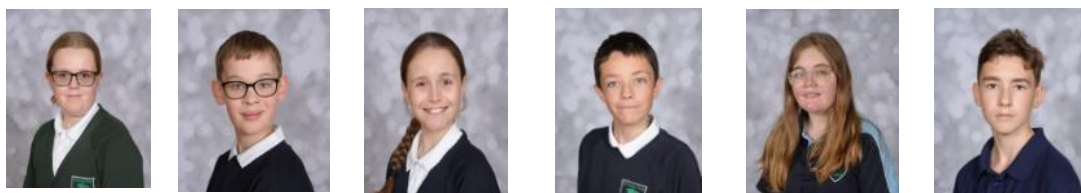
School Council

The newly elected school council have had a busy first term. They have been integral in the re-assessment process for Our Rights Respecting Gold Award and IQM Award. School councillors spoke to the assessors about life at Grange Park and answered their questions in a mature and responsible way. They also wrote letters to thank our guest speakers, Alex Partridge and Chris Bonello, for coming in and sharing their experiences with us.

The school council met in term 1 to outline the roles and responsibilities of school councillors and to discuss the importance of school council in collecting pupil voice and sharing this with Senior Leaders to create positive changes within the school. In term 2, the school council reps collected suggestions from their classmates and met to discuss the feasibility of these. Following the meeting, several changes have been made:

- New benches have been put on the playground
- New sports equipment has been ordered
- Lunch clubs have been updated, including the introduction of an Uno Club, Disco Club, Lego Club, Drama Club and Girls Just Dance Club

Meet our new Council Members



Oak: Elsie

Class 1: Jack

Class 4: Oakley

Class 7: Tom & Lacie

7a: Edward

Class 2: Kayla

Class 5: Daxton & William

Class 8: Harry

7b: Liv

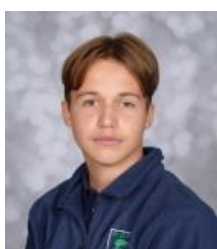
Class 3; Jacob

Class 6: Cameron

KS5: Indiana

Pupil Leadership Team

Each year, we select a Pupil Leadership Team from applicants who are in Year 11. This year we also have a KS5 pupil as our Rights Respecting Lead.



AJ

Head Pupil



Lucas

Head Pupil



Harley

Sports Captain



Matthew

Rights Respecting Lead

Stansted

Oak Class: World Citizens Making a Winter Difference

This term, Oak Class have truly demonstrated what it means to be World Citizens and active Rights Respecting pupils. As part of our journey towards the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award, the children have been learning how their actions can uphold and promote children's rights locally and globally.

We chose to champion the charity 'Wrap Up London', which supports vulnerable people by providing warm coats throughout the winter. This links closely to Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): *Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical needs.*

Understanding that warmth, dignity and safety are essential for all, Oak Class organised a whole-school coat collection to support those who may be struggling during the colder months.

We are delighted to share that the pupils collected five large bags of coats, filled to the top! These have now been delivered to Wrap Up London (using Sidcup Fire Station drop-off point), who will ensure they reach individuals and families who need them most.

This project has helped Oak Class recognise the power of collective action, empathy and responsibility - all key values of a Rights Respecting School. By raising awareness and taking practical steps, they have shown how young people can actively help uphold the rights of others within their wider community.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this initiative. Your kindness will help keep people warm and cared for this winter.

Wishing all our families a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

UNCRC Article 27



Kent Life Trip - Ancient Greece Day

Upon arrival at Kent Life, Years 5 and 6 we were eagerly greeted by the team, who welcomed us and escorted us to our first planned activity of the day.

Our first workshop focused on medicine and doctors in Ancient Greece. The children were fascinated to discover the unusual treatments used in those times, and how ailments were often linked to the seasons. Everyone had great fun practising a bit of "Ancient Greek First Aid" - taking turns to care for and bandage each other.



After a busy morning of learning, we took a break to explore the site and meet some of the animals. The geese and goats, in particular, were very excited to see us and greeted us eagerly at their enclosures!

The day continued with a variety of hands-on activities, including listening to an Ancient Greek myth, trying traditional playground games, and enjoying a tractor ride around the grounds. And of course, no visit would be complete without some time in the playground!



A particular highlight, for both pupils and teachers, was the Ancient Greek army training session. The children explored different pieces of armour and weaponry before forming a defensive shield wall to protect one another as the "enemy" (the teachers!) launched play-pit balls at them.



Oak Class were absolutely fantastic throughout the day! We were so proud to see them sharing their knowledge, showing great teamwork, and taking part in every activity with enthusiasm. The staff at Kent Life also praised their excellent manners and helpful attitude.

Kent Life Trip - Viking Workshop

Upon arrival at Kent Life, Year 7 were guided to the first Viking-themed workshop of the day. The morning began with Viking Traders in the Lower Wagon Store. The pupils learned all about Viking markets and merchants from the presenter, discovering how goods were bought, sold, and bartered long before modern money. They even had the chance to feel real animal hides which had been donated to Kent Life, giving them a hands-on experience of Viking trade materials.



After a short break exploring Kent Life, we gathered in the Cellar for Viking Beliefs. Pupils listened to a traditional Viking saga and then acted out parts of the story themselves. They found it very funny and loved bringing the characters to life while learning about the legendary



gods, heroic warriors, and the myths that shaped Viking culture.



Next, in the Oast House Room, pupils took part in Brooch Making. They learned about the significance of jewellery in Viking life and the materials used to create it before designing their own decorative "turtle brooch" to take home.

Some children made lots of rings for each finger, and one even created a crown - a real highlight of the day!



The pupils then visited the Cooling Room to play Tafl, a traditional Viking board game that tested their strategy skills and gave insight into Viking leisure activities. This was followed by a tractor and train ride around the grounds, which the children absolutely loved, enjoying the chance to explore Kent Life in a fun and exciting way, before stopping for lunch in the White Room.



After lunch, pupils had a break to explore Kent Life further, they joined the 'Live Like a Viking' workshop in the Chapel. Here, students compared life in a Viking family to their own, exploring daily chores, responsibilities, and how households worked together.

Next, in the Village Hall, pupils took part in Viking Raiders. They examined replica weapons and armour, then formed a Viking-style shield wall to defend themselves as the teachers launched soft play-pit balls at them. This hands-on activity was both exciting and highly engaging.



The day concluded with Viking Voyage in the Upper Wagon Store. Pupils all rowed the Viking longship together, while some kept the time with a drum, learning how Vikings worked as a team to navigate and travel across the seas. They explored why Vikings travelled so far, how they navigated, and what life at sea would have been like.

Year 7 were fantastic throughout the day. We were incredibly proud to see pupils sharing their knowledge, showing great teamwork, and participating enthusiastically in every activity. The Kent Life

Black History Month

To celebrate Black History Month, pupils at the Stansted site took part in a range of creative and thought-provoking workshops that explored African culture, history, and identity.

Throughout the day, classes enjoyed hands-on sessions run by The Education Group, including African mask painting - where pupils learned about the meaning and traditions behind Dan masks before designing their own colourful creations - and an energetic African drumming workshop that had everyone joining in with rhythms, teamwork, and huge smiles.



Teachers also ran special themed lessons across different subjects. In English, pupils explored the work of John Agard and wrote their own poems about prejudice and equality. Humanities lessons highlighted influential Black figures, past and present, whose achievements have shaped the world we live in. During PSHE, pupils discussed representation and diversity in books, using "Princess Katrina and the Hair Charmer" by Christina Shingler as a starting point for some really thoughtful conversations about identity and confidence. Meanwhile, in PE, everyone had fun learning African dance, moving to traditional beats and discovering the joy of rhythm and expression.

The whole day was full of creativity, energy, and reflection - a brilliant opportunity for pupils to celebrate Black culture and history, and to think about the importance of representation and equality in our world today.

Pantomime Trip

'Hi Ho, Hi Ho, it's off down the M20 we go'

Oh yes we did! And on into the heart of the forest, or in this case Canterbury, where Year 5-7 recently enjoyed a visit to the Marlowe Theatre for a relaxed performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. The pupils were fully engaged throughout, with plenty of smiles, laughter, and clear enjoyment from start to finish.



The relaxed format of the show made the experience especially accessible. Sound levels were kept low and the house lights remained on for most of the performance, creating a calm and comfortable environment. The only moment with lowered lighting was the magical broom-flying scene, and pupils were given clear pre-warnings so they knew exactly what to expect. Pupils made excellent use of the movement break areas and chill-out spaces, stepping out whenever they needed a moment. Some even independently asked staff to use these spaces, showing brilliant self-awareness and self-advocacy.



There was lots of fun engagement throughout the show - including the familiar Jet2 Holidays theme tune - and plenty of recognisable songs that had students smiling, clapping, and joining in. A particularly amusing moment was when the cast joked about how many dwarves there were, prompting the pupils to gleefully join in with the "6/7" meme, which had everyone laughing!

After the show, pupils were treated to a special meet and greet with the performers, a highlight that added even more excitement to the day. They especially enjoyed meeting Mister Maker, who was warm, engaging, and happy to chat and take photos with the group. Many pupils also took the opportunity to gather as many autographs as possible! Special thank you to Mrs Towner for that extra-special arrangement! Overall, it was an inclusive and thoroughly enjoyable experience, and a wonderful opportunity for Years 5-7 to enjoy theatre in a supportive and welcoming setting.



Year 7 Visit to Westbank Care Home

Year 7 pupils enjoyed a wonderful visit to Westbank Care Home, where they shared some festive cheer with the residents.

The children performed the two Christmas songs they have been practising in class: "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree", which they also learned to sign using Makaton, and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Both songs were performed twice and were received with huge smiles and applause from the residents.

Following this, the pupils led a selection of well-known Christmas songs that the residents were able to sing along to. It was lovely to see such joyful interaction between the children and the residents, creating a truly special atmosphere.

The residents and staff at Westbank Care Home were extremely impressed with the children's singing and their use of Makaton. They commented on how polite, confident, and respectful the pupils were and have warmly invited us to visit again in the future. The children were also kindly offered refreshments, which was very much appreciated and added to the welcoming experience.

This visit formed an important part of our Rights Respecting School work, giving pupils the opportunity to express themselves confidently and be listened to (Article 12), to take part in inclusive activities that value everyone (Article 23), and to develop respect for others within the wider community (Article 29). Through this outreach, pupils were able to put these rights into action in a meaningful and memorable way.

We are incredibly proud of Year 7 for representing the school so positively and for bringing happiness to the local community during the festive season.



Fire Safety Workshop

During Term 2, we had a special visitor; Firefighter Sarah; who stopped by to share some essential safety tips. With Christmas fast approaching, her message focused on something many of us use even more this time of year: electronic devices.

New gadgets, chargers, and festive lighting can bring joy, but they can also bring risks if not used safely. Firefighter Sarah reminded us that safety doesn't take a holiday, and a few simple habits can prevent accidents and keep our celebrations bright.



After her safety talk, Firefighter Sarah opened the floor for questions - and the pupils certainly didn't hold back! Hands shot up across the room as they asked everything from "How fast can a fire engine go?" to "What's the heaviest thing you have to carry?" Sarah answered each one with patience and enthusiasm, giving everyone a fascinating glimpse into life as a firefighter.



The excitement grew even more when she brought out some of her firefighting gear. The children had the chance to try on parts of the uniform, from the sturdy helmet to the bright protective coat. There were lots of smiles (and a few wobbles!) as they discovered just how heavy the equipment really is. It was a memorable, hands-on experience that helped them appreciate the hard work and bravery involved in keeping our community safe.

Key Tips from Firefighter Sarah

1. Check your chargers and cables

Frayed, bent, or cheap un-certified chargers are a leading cause of electrical fires. Sarah encouraged everyone to use proper, good-quality chargers and replace damaged ones right away.

2. Don't overload sockets

With so many lights and devices plugged in during December, extension leads can easily become overloaded. Sarah advised spreading out plugs and avoiding "daisy chaining" multiple adapters together.

3. Keep devices on hard surfaces while charging

Charging phones or tablets on beds, under pillows, or beneath piles of clothes traps heat and can cause them to overheat. Devices should be charged on a solid, heat-resistant surface.

4. Switch off at night

Before going to bed, turn off Christmas lights, unplug chargers, and power down devices that don't need to stay on. Not only does this reduce fire risk, but it also saves energy during a busy season.

5. Make space for airflow

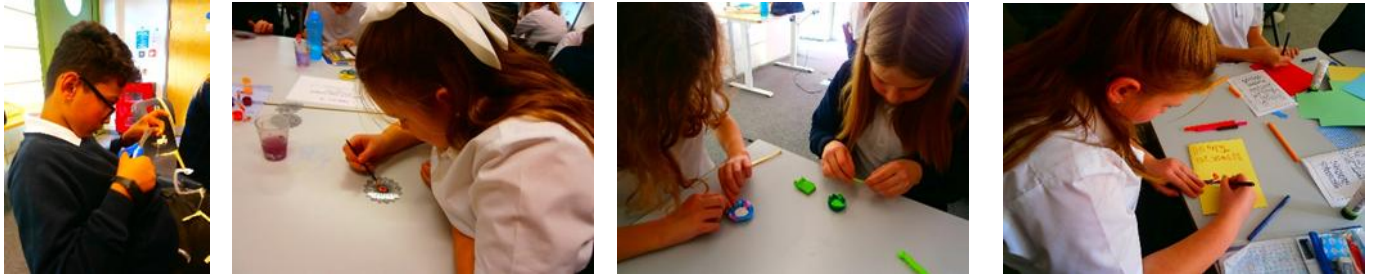
Laptops, game consoles, and other electronics need room to breathe. Sarah reminded everyone not to block vents or cover devices while they're running.



We're grateful for her visit and for the work she and her fellow firefighters do all year round. By following her advice, we can all enjoy a peaceful, safe, and sparkling Christmas season!

Diwali Workshop

Pupils in Year 7 took part in a workshop, run by Mrs Hall, to learn all about the festival of Diwali. Pupils learnt about the story behind the festival and also took part in creative activities such as making suncatcher mandalas, Diwali greeting cards and diva lamps. It was lovely to spend time with the year 7s being so creative.



Anti-Bullying Week

From 10th - 14th November, Grange Park pupils took part in Anti- Bullying Week. The theme this year was 'Power for Good' and pupils took part in a variety of activities including live lessons, puzzles and problem solving, making anti-bullying pledges and thinking about how we are all responsible



KCC Road Safety Visit

Grange Park welcomed Emma and Claire from the KCC Road Safety Team on Thursday 6th November. Both year 9 and year 7 were involved with an interactive workshop covering pupils' safety when traveling around the roads, including distractions like mobile phones and groups of friends. The pupils answered very thoughtfully and learnt a lot from the sessions.



Wrotham

Hever Castle Trip

In term 1, year 8 pupils visited Hever Castle to reinforce their learning about the Tudors. We started the day with a guided tour around the castle, where pupils showed some impressive knowledge and asked some interesting questions to extend their understanding. It was brilliant to see many of the portraits that we had been exploring in lessons, especially ones showing Queen Elizabeth I. Pupils enjoyed seeing the fascinating artefacts from the Tudor period such as clothing, hand written letters and even a beheading sword!



After the tour, we had some fun trying to find the middle of the maze and then had a walk around the beautiful gardens. No trip to Hever Castle would be complete without a game of hide and seek in the huge adventure playground. Pupils also had the opportunity to practise some life skills by visiting the gift shop and buying items independently.

Bodiam Castle

Year 7 pupils had a chilly visit to Bodiam Castle in November. Luckily we went the day before there were some flurries of snow! Pupils were very excited from the start, after finding an old war bunker to have a look in. We were surprised so many of us could fit in it at once, and luckily Miss McHardy had her torch with her.

The huge carp swimming around the magnificent moat captured our attention quite quickly as we walked over the bridge to enter the castle.

Very quickly we were able to see lots of features of that castle that we linked to both attack and defence. Despite the inside being a ruined castle, pupils were able to see the differences between the areas for the workers and those for nobility. We braved the countless steep steps to get an incredible view from over the battlements. Pupils did a field sketch and we discussed the advantages of high ground.

The trip ended with the opportunity to practise some life skills by visiting the gift shop and buying items independently. After such a busy and exciting day, it may not be surprising that most pupils had a little sleep on the journey back to Stansted!



Guest Speakers

Alex Partridge

In term 1, Alex Partridge, founder of UNILAD and LADBible and creator of award-winning podcast ADHD Chatter, spoke to pupils and staff about his experiences of growing up with undiagnosed ADHD and how he has thrived as an adult since receiving his diagnosis.



Our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils attended his talk in the afternoon. All pupils were engaged in the session, asking a number of thought-provoking questions and generating interesting discussions about the benefits and drawbacks of ADHD. Pupils were keen to ask Alex about strategies he uses to help with his focus, how he had developed his successful businesses, and what he wished people supporting him as he grew up knew. Pupils learnt a lot from Alex's talk:

"You can still be successful even if you've had a bad past"

"Even though I have ADHD I should never stop believing in myself"

"ADHD is bigger than I thought"

Alex then presented to all staff in a twilight session. He helped remind us all of the challenges that pupils with ADHD may face, but also of the incredible strengths they may have and how to support and nurture these.

Chris Bonello

In term 2, Chris Bonello, an autistic advocate, speaker, author and consultant, with a background in teaching visited us. He spoke to all Year 8,9 and 10 classes about his 'top 5 tips for becoming your best autistic self' and impressed us all with his Rubik cube solving abilities! Pupils thoroughly enjoyed listening to Chris and having an opportunity to share their own experiences:

"If you put your mind to it, you can do anything"

"I enjoyed talking to people about my autism"

"It is crucial to embrace our differences and not hide them"

"I appreciate how you talked about autism not as a 'superpower' like some people do, but as an important attribute to humanity"

Many pupils also took the opportunity to chat and ask further with Chris at lunchtime, especially to ask him about his novel writing process.

At the end of the day, Chris talked to staff about his 'top 13 tips for working with autistic young people'. He spoke about the importance of a person-centred approach which identifies an individual's strengths, supports them to work through their anxieties and helps them to make progress at their own pace. Staff were very inspired by Chris's talk and many purchased copies of his books. The school have also purchased sets of Chris's book series 'The Underdogs' for the library and gifted 'What we love most about life' to all pupils for Christmas.



No Pens Wednesday

Grange Park celebrated 'No Pens Wednesday' once again this year on 26th November. 'No Pens Wednesday' is an initiative from Speech and Language UK which encourages pupils and staff to put down their pens for a day to take part in activities that put the importance on talking, listening and interacting with classmates and teachers. This year teachers came up with a range of inspiring activities for pupils to participate in, including battleships, delivering news reports, giving speeches and having debates. Pupils and staff enjoyed the day and bringing an awareness to the importance of speaking and listening as part of the curriculum.



Charlie's Promise

Grange Park School were visited by Martin Cosser, founder of Charlie's Promise. Martin, sadly lost his son Charlie to knife crime and has set up this charity in his name. Martin visits groups all over the country to spread awareness of the dangers and impacts of knife crime. The pupils at Grange Park were outstanding and Martin was blown away by their thoughtful questions and comments both during the presentation and afterwards. So many pupils came up to him after the presentation and shared their personal feelings about what they heard. The staff were extremely proud of our pupils.



Martin ended his session at Grange Park by with these words; "Can I just say what an honour and a privilege it was to deliver my talks to your incredible young people today. They really moved me with their kindness and fantastic questions."

Whole School Trip to Chessington

In September we went on our annual whole school trip to Chessington. This is always a great start to the year, and much of the trip was funded by the money raised at our Summer BBQ raffle.

Pupils were in great form and had a whale of a time enjoying the rides and encouraging the staff to join them on the 'big rides'!

What was particularly lovely to see was how our Year 11 pupils took some of the younger children under their wings, and helped them navigate what can be a tricky day for some of them.

The weather held for us and we had a fantastic day (despite Miss Atwell's face on Dragon's Fury!), pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we look forward to next years visit.



White Rose Education Champion School

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news. **Grange Park School has officially been named a White Rose Education Champion School!**

This recognition celebrates our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality, engaging Maths teaching, as well as our inclusive practice across the department. White Rose were especially impressed by the way we tailor and adapt resources so that every single pupil can access meaningful, challenging Maths learning that works for them.

Our Maths department is buzzing with excitement about this new partnership and all the opportunities it will open up for our pupils - from enriched learning experiences to fresh ideas and innovative approaches we can bring into the classroom.

We can't wait to see where this collaboration takes us next!



UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School Reassessment

We are immensely proud that Grange Park School has been re-awarded the UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School status. This achievement reflects our whole school community's commitment to placing children's rights at the heart of everything we do.



Our pupils, staff, and families have worked together to create a culture where respect, inclusion, and understanding are part of everyday life. This recognition from UNICEF celebrates not only our dedication to promoting the rights of every child, but also our belief that these values help our young people to thrive and make a positive difference in the world.

The Award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Well done to everyone involved!



Key Stage 5

Key Stage 5 are always very busy around school, and get the opportunity to go out on work experience placements and also to plan and run some of our fundraising events.

This year pupils have attended work experience placements at Tesco's, McDonalds, a local charity shop, the farm and also placements within school. Pupils visit our Stansted site and work with the younger children, while others work with Mrs Hazelden in the school kitchen and with our Reception team in the school office.

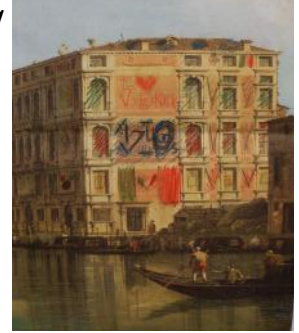
These placements provide the pupils with a variety of opportunities and enable them to develop a wide range of skills that they can carry through life.

In September the pupils organised our MacMillan coffee afternoon, and we were delighted to welcome so many of you to join us. Key Stage 5 decorated the sports hall and served all of our visitors tea, coffee and cakes. The event raised an incredible £465.67, so a huge thank you to everyone who supported us.



KS3 Art

In term 1, Year 7 and 8 completed a project inspired by the painting 'A Regatta on the Grand Canal', by Canaletto, c.1740. Pupils became art detectives, and explored the painting in great detail. They tried to imagine being in the painting and what sounds and smells they could sense around them. They started to explore the environmental impact of big events and crowds and linked this to recent protests that had been in the news and created a project around an environmental theme.



Pupils explored graffiti artwork and the impact on the environment. They created artworks using a range of media and worked together to create a giant banner, like the fabrics hanging from the buildings in the painting. They graffitied the banner with protest slogans using oil pastels inspired by the artwork of Bob and Roberta Smith.

Year 7 and 8 have also been practising their drawing and painting skills by experimenting with different drawing techniques and styles and by using watercolour paint.

KS3 Art

Year 9 have started a project focused on the Benin Bronzes. They have designed their own African mask and plaque and have explore alternative ways of creating texture in their artwork. They have also been developing their drawing skills by using non western art as inspiration



KS4 Art

Year 10 and 11 have continued to work on their GCSE portfolios. They have been making great progress with their coursework, and have been completing independent research about a range of artists and experimenting with different styles and techniques.



Cookery

Years 7, 8 and 9 have been super busy in cookery. They have been learning lots of new skills to produce a variety of superb dishes such as flapjacks, choux buns, tomato soup, curries, cakes and ragu to name but a few!

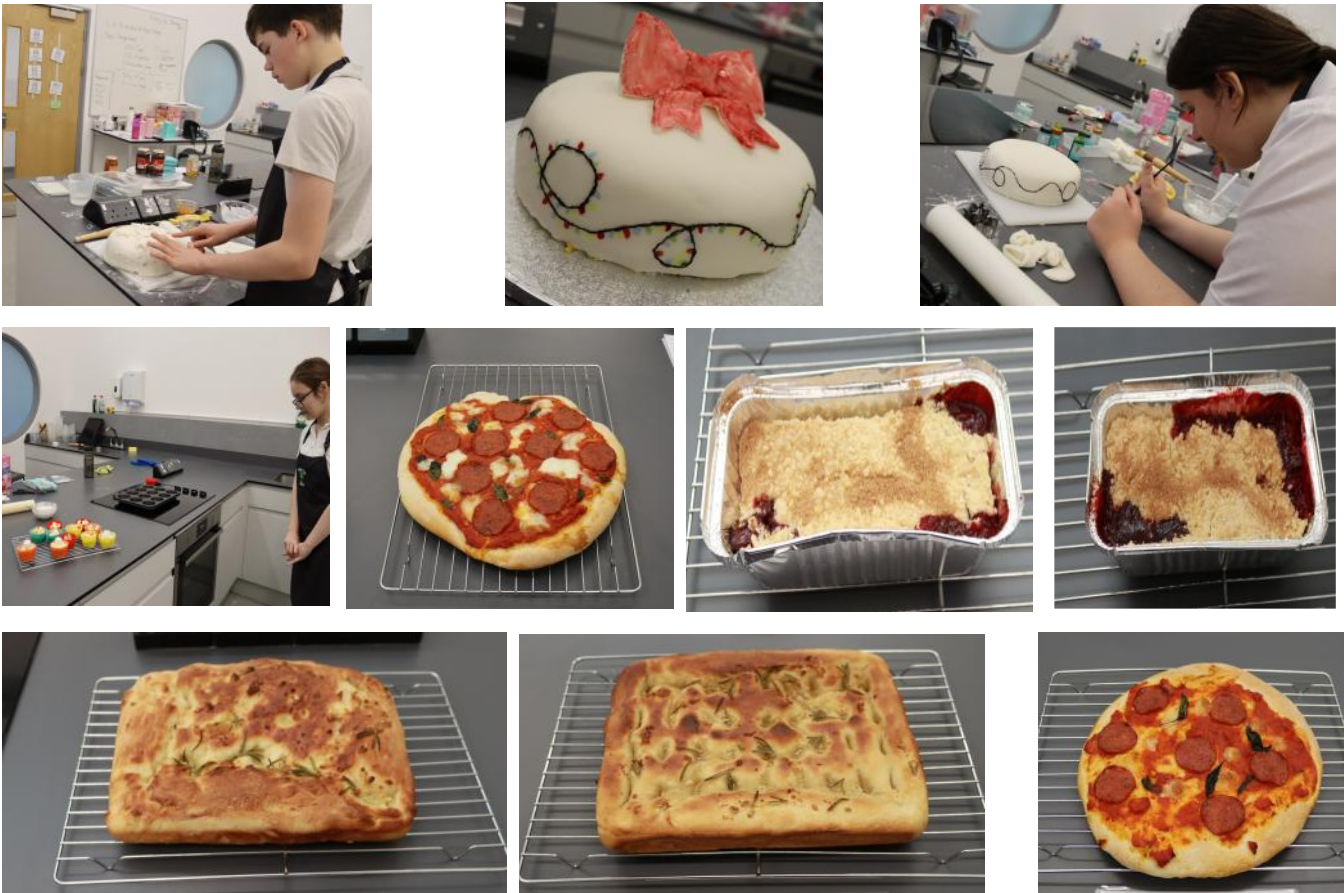
Year 7 have been brilliant working in the new food room.



KS4 Cookery

Year 10 started their Home Cooking Skills course and have been producing some excellent homestyle dishes.

They made and decorated Christmas Cakes to a vey high standard.



Grange Park Florist

Year 10 and 11 floristry pupils have been instrumental in helping to develop the Grange Park Floristry shop.

A massive thank you to everyone who has placed orders. It has been a huge success and this new enterprise has really benefitted the pupils, with them being able to make up arrangements for real clients. All the feedback we have received has been very positive and the pupils are really enjoying the experience while developing their floristry skills.

If you would like to place an order for a display, this can be done online, and pupils make up the items on Tuesdays and Thursday's in the floristry lessons. We are not looking at making any profit and the aim is for the children to learn through real-life experiences of working in a Florists and taking orders. The money charged is cost price only, and will be used to buy your fresh flowers or to replenish our stock.

We would welcome any donations of containers for example, baskets, vases and silk flowers.

If you would like any specialist arrangements, then please contact Mrs Brooks.

Fresh Flower Bouquets
Small- £15
Medium £20
Large - £25

Basket Arrangements - £20
Funeral/Specialist
arrangements

If you would like to place an order,
please click [here](#).



Post 16 at College

This year College staff have supported several year 11 pupils through the college interview process. All the pupils who have come to college have made a very good impression with the staff.

Pupils who are looking to study carpentry next year came in for their interviews, but also completed some practical assessments as part of the process. After watching the tutor, AJ and Fred began the task of making a stable and neat joint in wood, and displayed a real eagerness to learn and great resilience in persevering with quite a tricky task

Well done to all the prospective college students.



Over in Mechanics, Chloe and Callum have been in the workshop and have been learning to safely remove a car wheel.

They have been also learning about tyre treads, and are able to identify causes of wear and tear and also how to repair a puncture.



There are a wide variety of enrichment activities at college and students have been participating in an event run in conjunction with Blurred Lanes. Students were invited to wear goggles to replicate how peoples vision is affected by alcohol, and then had to drive a remote control car whilst wearing them. The goggles showed how difficult is it to safely control a car and the lack of control that you have after drinking. Kyle thought that the exercise was fun, but very challenging.



Christmas celebrations with Santa Claus @ Maidstone Campus



Students could participate in some activities to get them into the Christmas spirit down at the Maidstone campus.

One of the events on offer included Karaoke, but neither Adam or Marcus wanted to show off their dulcet tones, so chose instead to have hot chocolate and spiced warm apple juice to wash down a mince pie or two.

There was also an opportunity to make a Christmas decoration and to decorate Christmas cookies, which caught Adam's eye!



Between the learning, Jake and Mac were able to enjoy some down time.

They are both studying on a Level 1 ICT course, and they have one lesson a week that looks at E-Sports. This can include working as part of a team or how to build a suitable gaming team that work well together so that they can then win a competition game.



They have just handed in and had to present an interactive PowerPoint on a game of their choice. This needed to include, interactive quizzes, sounds and the kiosk mode which makes use of a moving screen and button to navigate to different parts.

It's not all work and no play!

Sonny left year 11 at Wrotham last year and started a Media course at Maidstone in September.

He has just finished one of his assignments which was to create an advert for a product of his choice, and he opted for Pepsi Max. This was an individual task that required product and audience research, during which he created questionnaires and scoured the web to better understand his target audience and the product.

After gathering enough information, he started planning his advertisements by creating storyboards, filling out location reports, equipment budgets and a risk assessment. Sonny worked really well throughout the project, and this was evident in the outcome of his advertisement video, which you can view [here](#).

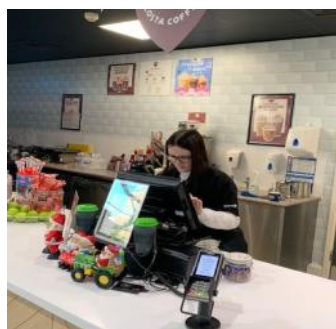


Last year's Year 11 leavers have found their feet at College and are doing incredibly well on their new courses.

Harry is on a Level 2 Art course and is doing a fantastic job producing some amazing independent artwork. He has made lots of new friends and is thriving in College. His future aspirations are to move on to the Level 3 course next year and pursue a career as a tattooist.



Caitlyn has been practising in the music booth for her song by the Foo Fighters. Caitlyn is one of two vocalists who are being assessed on their performance on her Music course. Caitlyn has settled into College life really well and is singing lots of different musical genres to find out what best suits her vocal range. We are all very proud of her achievements,



Some students undertake work placements as part of their courses. Katie has secured a placement at Costa Coffee one day a week, and she is thoroughly enjoying it. She has learnt so much, making drinks, hot food and she is also using the till. Katie is really enjoying meeting and interacting with the customers and being part of a team.

Jess started her work placement at Goudhurst Kilndown Church of England School at the beginning of December. Jess found her placement herself and reached out to a number of schools and nurseries and after an interview, was offered a placement at the school.

Jess has supported Reception children during their day and has helped them to develop their self regulation and emotions. Jess will also be accompanying the children to the pantomime to see Sleeping Beauty.

Jess is progressing well in her chosen pathway of Child Care and hopes to one day to be able to support children and young people with SEN.

Year 10 Theatre Trip Brings Dickens to Life

Spreading some early seasonal cheer, Year 10 pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit to The Woodville, where they watched a lively performance of *A Christmas Carol*. The two-actor production, staged by the Dickens Theatre Company proved both educational and entertaining.

The fast-paced show brought Dickens' characters and themes to life, helping pupils strengthen their understanding and reinforce key learning while also getting into the festive spirit.



Pupils will be returning to The Woodville next year for a production of Shakespeare's classic, witch-filled tragedy *Macbeth*.



Christmas Card Design

Tom in Year 9 worked incredibly hard over three lessons to create a beautifully festive Christmas card design for Grange Park, which was chosen by Miss Atwell this year as the winning entry from across all the years at the Wrotham site.

Tom's use of perspective is really commendable and his attention to detail is excellent. He has used a striking colour scheme and really put his drawing skills to great effect. We particularly like that he has incorporated so many things relating to Grange Park into his design, including Bailey and Finn!

Well done to Tom, we are all really proud of you and what you have achieved. You have a natural talent!



Outside of Grange Park

Lots of our pupils do some fantastic activities outside of school that they like to share with us. This term, we have two pupils, Luccas in year 11 and Felix in year 10 who have done some amazing things.

Luccas is an incredibly talented footballer and over the past few weeks has been selected for the Chelsea team.

Luccas began playing club football around the age of 6 in Ashford, and really enjoyed the teamwork aspect of the game. He developed a passion for football and became a very talented player.



After a short break from the game, Luccas started to play for Maidstone United and it was there that he was scouted for Chelsea. Fast forward a few months and Luccas played his first game in the adult team against Greenwich FC, winning the match 4-1. He hopes to play for the team regularly.

Luccas' words of wisdom to his peers is to never give up and keep trying your hardest.

A massive well done to Luccas, we are incredibly proud of your achievements.

Felix lives on a herb and raspberry farm and this has opened up a huge range of opportunities for him. Felix is always working on the farm when he is not in school, and his dedication and amazing work ethic was spotted by a visitor who saw him at his best, grafting away.

Word of Felix's hard work crossed the Atlantic and Felix was given the opportunity to work over the summer in at a ranch in Texas. Felix and his family went over to America for three weeks in the summer and worked on both the Yellowstone and 666 ranches. His day included lots of cowboy duties including herding the cattle, driving tractors and farm vehicles and cultivating and ploughing the fields.

Felix particularly enjoyed spending time on the tractors, with driving the 8R and 9RX's being the highlight of his trip. In the future, Felix has aspirations to move over to America and run his own farm contracting business.

When asked what advice Felix would give to his friends, he said that it was always important to work hard, always try your very best and try new things.



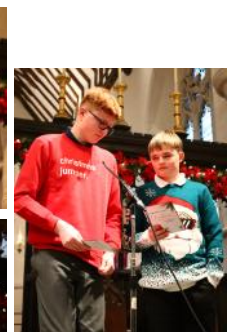
Christmas 2025

Grange Park has been getting into the festive spirit this year with lots of wonderful activities.

Festivities began on Wednesday this week with the annual cinema trip and pupils had the choice to watch either the Christmas favourite *The Grinch*, or the *Minecraft Movie*. Our Stansted pupils were then treated to an afternoon with Santa, where they participated in lots of craft activities and enjoyed a drink and a snack with our very special guest!



On Thursday the whole school attended our Christmas church service and pupils sang with real gusto and delighted the audience with fantastic readings. It was also lovely to welcome so many parents to join us in our celebrations.

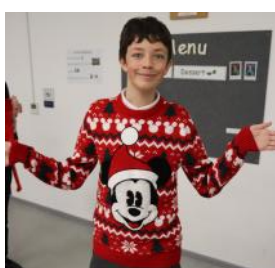


Christmas 2025

Mrs Hazelden and her team worked exceptionally hard in the kitchen to cook our incredible Christmas dinner which as always, was served by SLT who were looking particularly festive this year.

The Floristry pupils made all of the beautiful table decorations and we were lucky to be joined by Mrs Murray and Mrs Eden-Green, who are two of our school Governors.

Christmas is always such a special time at Grange Park and it is wonderful for all the staff to be able to share these moments with the pupils, and as always, there were some spectacular Christmas jumpers on show!



UNICEF Rights of the Week

As you know, we are a Gold Rights Respecting School, and weekly we pick an Article to focus on which is shown in assembly, but also spoken about in form time on a Monday afternoon. These Articles are so valuable for the pupils to know and learn about to ensure they are aware of their rights and how these can be met.

We also discuss with the pupils what is happening in the news at the moment, and how children's rights are linked, and how they may not be being met.



The Articles we have covered this term are:

Article 2: All children have these rights.

Article 3: Adults must do what is best for me.

Article 6: I should be supported to live and grow.

Article 12: I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously.

Article 13: I have the right to find out and share information.

Article 14: I have the right to have my own thoughts and beliefs and to choose my religion with my parents guidance

Article 23: If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education .

Article 24: I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food.

Article 31: I have the right to relax and play.

Article 42: Everyone should know about the UNCRC

If you are interested in what the children's rights are they are all on our school website under: Our School/Awards and Accreditations/UNICEF Rights Respecting School - Gold

A Rights are for ALL children. UNIVERSAL	B Rights are there at BIRTH. INHERENT	C Rights CANNOT be taken away. INALIENABLE	D Rights DO NOT have to be earned. UNCONDITIONAL	E All rights are EQUALLY important. INDIVISIBLE
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WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.

A large blue banner with white text and a gold medal icon. Below the banner is a row of icons and the UNICEF logo.

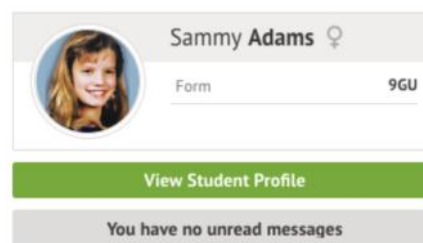
Arbor - A Guide for Parents and Carers

At Grange Park, we use Arbor as our parent portal, here are a few hints and tips to get the most out of the Arbor App.

Your Homepage Dashboard

The dashboard is the first screen that you will see. This gives a quick glance of the student's daily timetable, behaviour points, meals, notices, current attendance and progress.

You can see your in-app messages by clicking this button under your child's photo.



You can return to this page at any time by clicking on the school's logo or choosing Dashboard from any menu. On the homepage you'll also see sections for:

- **Statistics** - This shows information about the student's attendance, behaviour and progress statistics for the current term.
- **Guardian consultations** - The Guardian Consultations section allows guardians to book time for Parents Evening meetings by selecting one of the available slots as per the School's setup.
- **Accounts** - The Accounts section loads the student's current Meals and other top-up account balances.
- **Trips** - Sign your child up for trips.
- **Clubs** - Sign up to revision sessions during the exam periods.
- **School Shop** - Make purchases for items.

Available data on your child

If your child's school has granted access, you will be able to click on different parts of the home page to view more data on your child.



For example, clicking the attendance percentage will bring up the attendance page which breaks down the attendance figures into present, late, or absent.

Once you've clicked on Attendance or another item, you will see a menu appear like so in the left-hand side of the page you are now on:

A screenshot of the 'Recent Attendance for Megan Hill' page. On the left is a navigation menu for 'Megan's page' with options: Main Dashboard, Profile, Calendar, Attendance (expanded), Progress, Activities, Behaviour, Curriculum Tracking, Examinations, Report Cards, Accounts, and Guardian Consultations. The 'Attendance' section is expanded to show 'Summary' and 'By Date'. The main content area shows 'Statistics for Academic Year 2018/2019' with a table of session counts and percentages for Present, Late, Authorised absent, and Unauthorised absent. Below this is a table for 'Recent Attendance (12 Jun 2019 - 19 Jun 2019)' with similar session data.

Access your child's profile by clicking the **View Student Profile** button on your homepage.

This allows you to see basic information about your child, and highlights any unread notices or actions needing to be completed. You will be able to amend details such as your contact details, medical information, consents, and so on.

We ask that all parental consents are up to date, so please do check if you have any outstanding.

Severe Snow/Ice Plan

How will we let you know that school (Wrotham & Stansted sites) is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Miss Atwell may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website.

To determine whether Grange Park School is open or closed, please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries.

We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Grange Park School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

We will also endeavour to inform you via our messaging service (Arbor), so please ensure we have your current mobile number.

How will we let you know if the college is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions:-

Parents can directly contact Maxine Hamilton on 07591 852944 or Jean Moule on 07517 952168

Parents and students should follow the guidance from the college site that their son/daughter is currently attending.

Due to the varied locations of each campus, the college may make a decision to close, one site or all sites, or remain open, dependent on the severity of the weather at each campus.

Parents and students should go to Google, log on to the main MKC or Hadlow home page, the college will provide information should it be open or closed, this is usually highlighted in yellow, at the top of the page. The college will update the information on a daily basis.

Tutors will email students with set work to be completed at home for each snow day.

Partnership students will not be requested to travel or work at the School site, if the college is closed and the school is open.

What can you do to help?

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.

If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up or early arrival of your child at home, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the college. If your child travels by taxi, then we will inform you that the college will be closing early to ensure you are fully aware that your child will be arriving home early. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Grange Park School Term Dates 2025-2026

TERM 1 - 2025

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
END OF TERM 1:	Friday 17 th October 2025

TERM 2 - 2025

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 3 rd November 2025
END OF TERM 2:	Friday 19 th December 2025

TERM 3 - 2026

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 5 th January 2026
END OF TERM 3:	Friday 13 th February 2026

TERM 4 - 2026

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 23 rd February 2026
END OF TERM 4:	Thursday 2 nd April 2026

TERM 5 - 2026

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 20 th April 2026
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 4 th May 2026
END OF TERM 5:	Friday 22 nd May 2026

TERM 6 - 2026

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 1 st June 2026
END OF TERM 6:	Wednesday 22 nd July 2026



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Grange Park School.