

Parents

Parent Helpers

We always welcome the offer of help from parents and family members. As well as supporting pupils directly with their learning there are often a number of non-classroom based activities that we require help with. We are also keen to hear from any parents who have any particular skills or talents that could be shared with our pupils either through a classroom visit, or perhaps by establishing an after school club to add to our list of 24 extra curricular clubs. Please visit the School Office, or see your child's teacher, if you are interested in becoming involved in some capacity.

Parent Forum

The first Parent Forum meeting will take place on October 8th at 9.00a.m in the Meeting Room. The meetings provide an opportunity for parents to discuss significant school issues or to suggest ways in which the school could progress with members of the school's Leadership team. If you prefer, you can speak to members of the parent forum, who wear orange lanyards in the playground. You can also suggest items either by emailing pforum@hillingdongrid.net or by putting a suggestion in the suggestion box, which is located between the two sets of doors in the main entrance area.

Social Media



It has come to my attention that a few parents have used social media to make some negative comments about the school. I would ask that if any parent has a grievance about an issue then they take advantage of our open door policy and make an appointment to see either their child's teacher or a member of the Leadership team. We also have the monthly classroom drop in session or the half termly Parent Forum where any concerns can be raised.

Harvest Festival

We will be holding our annual harvest festival on Monday 29th September. This year we have again decided to support the Hillingdon Foodbank, an organisation that provides short term emergency food to people in need. They have arranged for a volunteer to talk to our pupils and they would be grateful for donations of non-perishable foodstuffs. Please visit their website to see their shopping list suggestions: <http://hillingdon.foodbank.org.uk/>



Attendance

Our attendance was in line with the national average last year and I would like to thank you for your continuing support in ensuring that your child attends regularly and punctually.

We have set a new school attendance target of 96% for the forthcoming year and we will be sharing a new weekly attendance newsletter with pupils' and parents. This will identify how well each class performs and it will highlight the classes who will be gaining a reward for their 100% attendance.



Newsletter 14
September 2014

Ruislip Gardens Primary School



Enjoying Learning

Something that we have all noticed since returning in September is that it takes a lot longer to walk around the school than it used to! However, I have found it to be a rewarding journey to make as I pass along brighter, fresher looking corridors and see pupils engaged in purposeful activities in their classrooms.

It has been really encouraging to see the positive start that has been made by pupils and staff alike in the first few weeks of term. From the Nursery to Year 6 the children have settled so quickly and they are already enjoying their lessons and the challenges posed by their new teachers.

The introduction of a new and more exacting curriculum is probably the most important issue for us to address this year but our staff have worked collectively to identify other development areas. I am close to finalising the annual School Improvement Plan, which contains details of our priorities for 2014/15, and you will be able to access the completed document on the website by the end of the month.

I trust your child will have an enjoyable academic year and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the many and varied activities that take place throughout the year. Our school calendar is filling up very quickly!

Marc Titeux

Headteachers Awards

Dennis Mihailov 5D
Mia Lovegrove 5O
Sarah Petrea 3F

Pupil Performance

You may recall how delighted we were with the performance of our Year 6 pupils in their SAT's at the end of last term. Last week some data was released which allows us to compare how well our pupils performed in relation to the national average.

We are pleased to report that in their Reading test, 100% of our pupils performed at Level 4+ which was 14% above the national average. In the Writing assessment 96% of our pupils performed at level 4+ which was 13% above the national average and in Maths 98% of our pupils achieved a Level 4+ compared with a national average of 85%.

Our overall result for Level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths was 93% compared to the national average of 75%.

We are thrilled with these achievements, but we remain committed to sustaining these high standards and to challenge our pupils to continue to perform to the very best of their ability.

New Curriculum

It was encouraging to see many of you at our recent curriculum evening. As I am sure that you know by now a new national curriculum has been introduced and many aspects of it are more demanding than the previous one. The PowerPoints from the evening are on our website under 'Parents', 'Resources'; these provide an overview of the changes, as well as offering more detailed information about the teaching and learning in each year group.

Teachers and parents alike will need to prepare for the fact that many of our pupils will find their English and Maths more challenging as the national expectations have been raised. Please let us know via the Home School book if your child is experiencing particular difficulties with either their school work or homework as our teachers will always be happy to provide additional guidance and support.

School Management Structure

This year we have increased the capacity of our Leadership team so that we now have seven members. Our school is divided into three 'phases' for leadership purposes and the monitoring of pupil progress and performance. If you have a query that you feel cannot be answered by your child's class teacher then please refer your query or concern to the leader of each phase who will be best placed to respond accordingly. The phase leaders are as follows:

Mrs Williams – EYFS
Mrs Stewart (Key Stage 1)
Mrs Wright (Key Stage 2)

For other more general management issues please contact a member of the Senior Leadership team via the School Office.



Parents Office Admin

If your family are eligible to apply for **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**, regardless of whether your child takes up this opportunity each day, please apply immediately online via the myfreeschoolmeals.com website. This three minute online activity will generate potential income for our school. All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to eat free school meals but eligibility gained by receiving certain benefits must still be applied for to generate the funding.

UNIFORM ORDERS should be placed online via ParentPay—simply log in, enter your total in 'Uniform Sales' and list your items in the comments box. The price list is available under 'Everything in one place'. School Fleeces for children aged 7-8 are on order from our supplier and should arrive in about 4 weeks.

If you require to collect your child **EARLIER THAN USUAL COLLECTION** time please confirm this in writing as soon as you can. This means we can try to have your child ready for you in the office for collection, it also helps the class teacher to plan their activities.

Any **LAST MINUTE CHANGES TO COLLECTION** arrangements must be notified to the office by 2:45pm for the message to reach the classroom. Any messages after that point won't be delivered in time for dismissal; instead the child will be taken to reception by their class teacher once the class have been dismissed where the message will be given and the child united with their designated adult.

PARENTPAY ASSISTANCE is available from the office however, this is only possible after 9am and before 3pm. Please be sure to update your ParentPay profile when you change email address or contact telephone number.

We have installed a **POST TRAY** on the table to the left of the entrance area for you to quick-drop letters, slips and other items.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS are due to take place on 20th and 21st October 2014. You are able to book your attendance using our parents evening system, the link to which is available on our website under 'Everything in one place'.

Vouchers

We are collecting Morrisons 'Let's Grow' vouchers and would appreciate donations from our community. These can be sent via your child's bookbag.

Ladies in the Night

Congratulations to those who raised a £1,288.38 for the Michael Sobell Hospice.

Holiday Clubs

Holiday Club : www.jumpforjoyclub.com

Elms multisport camps at Ruislip High School
www.elmsholidayschemes.co.uk
0208 954 8787



Parent Questionnaire

I would like to thank all parents who completed the questionnaire at the end of the Summer term. We had 103 replies which made it relatively easy to work out the percentages!

As you can see in the table below the responses were overwhelmingly positive and we are already exploring some of the suggestions that you made to make the school even better. The percentages below represents those who Strongly Agree/Agree with the statements.

My child enjoys school		98%	
The school keeps my child safe	96%	The school makes sure my child is well prepared for the future	92%
The school informs me about my child's progress	88%	The school meets my child's particular needs	93%
My child is making enough progress at this school	96%	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	91%
Teaching is good at this school	98%	The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	91%
The school helps me to support my child's learning	96%	The school is led and managed effectively	92%
The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	98%	Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school.	97%

FROGS

The FROGS do a tremendous amount for us every year in terms of fundraising and putting on many events for the children, parents and staff to enjoy together. They welcome new members all the time, especially as many long-standing members left the school last year as their children progressed to high school.

The first meeting took place this week and was attended by many new members who we hope to see again. This year FROGS will be raising money towards our aim of becoming a Forest School to help children learn in an outdoor environment. FROGS will also be providing Reception classes with planters, soil and some greenery and would welcome any donations from those of you with 'connections' in the gardening trade.

The group will also be seeking volunteers to run a second hand uniform shop, so please offer your help to Mrs Burton, Miss Quickenden or Mrs Nowell.



Building Update

The school was a hive of activity over the Summer holiday with a number of building and refurbishment projects being completed over the six week period.

Upon our return to school one of our biggest challenges was working out which gate, path and entrance everyone was going to use. Hopefully, by now, all members of the school community are very familiar with their preferred route in and around the building and from my morning observations it would appear that there is a healthy flow of pedestrian traffic.

We now have an extended kitchen which is positively gleaming with new appliances and the kitchen team is working diligently to meet the demands of the many extra mouths to feed. So far the provision of meals to Glebe

Primary school has been a success and our own children are responding positively to their dining experience.

The other area of the school to receive an upgrade was the downstairs corridor leading to the new building. The lurid yellow paint has been replaced by more calming coats of white and it marks the first phase of an overdue painting programme in the school.



Hot Meals

Our kitchen staff take pride in the quality of the hot meals that they provide and they are eager to encourage our pupils to opt for a hot dish rather than a sandwich as we head towards the Winter. Mr Marshall, our Catering Manager, is in the process of visiting Reception and Year 1 and 2 classes to offer taster sessions so that pupils become more familiar with the hot meal choices that are available.

The new lunch menu will be operational from the first week after half term and we will be offering soup for the first time.

Please remember we are holding a Wild Wild West Lunch on 2nd October 2014 where

children can enjoy some tasty treats that fit with our themed lunch. The menu for this day is available to view online.

Mr Marshall is also encouraging children to take part in a Sainsbury's competition which can be entered at:

<https://activekids.sainsburys-live-well-for-taster.co.uk/superstar-cooks>. To enter, pupils must create the ultimate healthy main meal for four people, to impress Superstar Cooks judge Ashley Banjo. The prize will be £10,000 worth of new kitchen kit for the winner's school, plus an exclusive prize with dance Ashley Banjo!





Class News

Nursery

We extend a very warm welcome to our returning children and new children and families, some of whom are starting with us just now. We are all very much enjoying exploring our new room and making it our own. We also have a new name: Little Owls Nursery, so if you visit us over the next few months you will see all sorts of owls around our room. We are busy making new friends and learning all about the school rules and routines that help keep us happy and safe.



Reception

We are very proud of how well the Reception children have settled into full time school. We are all enjoying being in the new classrooms and the outdoor learning area. The children have been getting to know each other and the staff who work with them on a daily basis. They are learning the daily routines and enjoyed their first lunch at school with their parents and carers. The children have started to read their first Power of Reading text, So Much by Trish Cooke. We have been learning to write our names, re-tell the story and talk about our families. We have also been showing off our number skills and learning about 2d shapes. Our next text will be Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems. Well done Reception children.

Year 1

Year 1 have made an excellent start to the academic year and are quickly settling into their new routines. This week we have met Traction Man in our English lessons and the children have been fascinated by all his adventures and missions. Thank you to the parents and children for their excellent effort in making Traction Man story boxes for homework. They all look fantastic!



Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy start to the year getting fully involved in our power of reading book, Grace and Family. We have learnt all about Gambia in our geography unit, and made African dresses and necklaces. We have been working extremely hard and are trying hard to become independent learners.

Good Work & Merit Band Winners

Reception		5D
Children have not been awarded Merit Bands during their settling in period	2W Emmy Hunt Eva Young Aiden Elliott-Ward	Lee Page Monica Powar Ellis Watson
1H Fatema Raja Adam Haque Emilia Piwowar	3F Steven Holland Aarna Sharda Alex Olaru	5O Sonny Law Mia Lovegrove Jawad Tarhini
1I Isabel Immanuwel Hannah Pengelly Ralphie Evans	3J Mustafa Khedapa Luke Smith	6T Michael Allers Harrison Shirley Sophie Ford
1M Carly Murphy Jody Groves	4M Ayesha Hussain Isabelle Lewis Tasnim Miah	6W Katerina Reguretska Joshua Fleming Isha Durgale
2J Cassie Lewis Sanchita Sharif	4R Hope Duncley Kane Richardson Abisan Katharkamar	

**“YOU’RE NEVER TOO OLD,
TOO WACKY, TOO WILD, TO
PICK UP A BOOK TO READ
TO A CHILD’**

DR SEUSS

We are pleased to see many children have been reading on a daily basis at home. Please make every effort to continue with this activity as it is an essential part of a child’s learning.

Dates for your Diary

October			
01/10/2014	Weds	Explore Learning 1I & 4M	11am &
01-24/10/14		Walk to School Month	
02/10/2014	Thurs	Explore Learning 5D	1:30pm
02/10/2014	Thurs	Wild Wild West Food Day	
08/10/2014	Weds	Parent Forum Meeting	9am
08/10/2014	Weds	Y3 to Stonehenge	7:15am-5pm
09/10/2014	Thurs	Dragonese Day	All day
13/10/2014	Mon-Fri	Heartstart Week	
13/10/2014	Mon	Full Governing Body Meeting	6pm
13/10/2014	Mon	Y5 Shakespeare Workshop in School	am and pm
15/10/2014	Weds	Year 4 to Tate Modern	All day
15/10/2014	Weds	Y6 Shakespeare Workshop in School	am and pm
16/10/2014	Thurs	4R Class Assembly	9am
17/10/2014	Fri	FROGS Cake Sale	3pm
20/10/2014	Mon	Parent Consultations	3:30pm to
21/10/2014	Tues	Parent Consultations	3:30pm to
22/10/2014	Weds	Y6 Ragged School Museum	All day
23/10/14	Thurs	Bags2School Collection	9am
24/10/14	Fri	Training Day	All day
27/10-31/10 14	Mon-Fri	Half Term	School Closed

Summer Holiday Dates:

The high schools are finishing a few days earlier than us in July 2015. Please be clear that it is not appropriate for you to book a holiday during the last few days of school or to have your child absent from school for the last days of term. Each and every day of school is important

November			
03/11/14	Mon	Term begins	
06/11/14	Thurs	Y5 & 6 Shakespeare visit	All day
10/11/14	Mon	Governor Morning & Full Governing Body	am & 1:30pm
11/11/14	Tues	FROGS Meeting	6pm
12/11/14	Weds	Y3 to Museum of London	All day
13/11/14	Thurs	3J Class Assembly	9am
13/11/14	Thurs	Year 4 to Natural History Museum	All day
17-23/11/14	Mon-Fri	Road Safety Week	
20/11/14	Thurs	1I Class Assembly	9am
20/11/14	Thurs	Y2 Science Museum	All day
25/11/14	Tues	Resources Meeting	5:30pm
December			
08/12/2014	Mon	KS1 Production and KS2 Production (Noisy)	9:15am & 3:45pm
10/12/2014	Weds	KS1 Production and KS2 Production (Quiet)	9:15am & 7pm
15/12/14	Mon	EYFS & Reception Production	9:15am & 2:15pm
16/12/14	Tues	Class Christmas Parties	
17/12/14	Weds	Cats Grin KS1 & KS2	9:15am & 11am
18/12/14	Thurs	Christmas Lunch	
19/12/14	Fri	Term Ends	1:30pm
20/12 - 04/01/15	Mon-Fri	Christmas Holiday	School Closed
05/01/15	Mon	Training Day	School Closed
06/01/15	Tues	Term Begins	
13/02/15	Fri	Half Term Ends	3pm
16/02-20/02/15	Mon-Fri	Half Term	School Closed
23/02/15	Mon	Half Term Begins	
27/03/15	Fri	Term Ends	1.30pm
28/03 - 12/04/15	Mon-Fri	Easter Holiday	School Closed
13/04/15	Mon	Training Day	School Closed
14/04/15	Tues	Term Begins	
07/05/15	Thurs	Polling Station	School Closed
11-14/05/15	Mon-Thurs	SATS	
20/22/05/15	Weds-Fri	Y4 Longridge	
22/05/15	Fri	Term Ends	3pm
23/05 - 31/05/15	Mon-Fri	Half Term	School Closed
01/06/15	Mon	Term Begins	
15-19/06/15	Mon-Fri	Y6 Bournemouth	
06/07/15	Mon	Training Day	School Closed
22/07/15	Weds	Term Ends	1:30pm