



# GLADSTONE PARK NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1 WEEK 4

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Over the past two weeks, we have been busy! From athletics competitions, to Y6 practice SATs and phonics tests, to library visits. Not only that - we also received our very own personal email from the Secretary of State for Education to congratulate us on achieving excellent outcomes for our most disadvantaged students.

We've also invited parents in to learn maths with us, and launched our Anthem Aspire - our new campaign to ensure that our disadvantaged students have the opportunity to flourish. Read below to find out more.

We're also launching our very own ESOL classes too where you can learn English with us! Look out for the QR code and link below.

We're looking forward to seeing you all on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February at parents' evenings, and we can wait to share all the amazing workshops and events coming up for you to join in with in Spring 2.

Have a great weekend!

Ms Green



FILM NEGATIVE



FILM NEGATIVE

FILM NEGATIVE

Don't forget to check out our sewing club, key dates and lots more here!

instagram:  [gladstoneparkprimary](https://www.instagram.com/gladstoneparkprimary) - here's where you'll find snippets of school life & information you need!

# YEAR UPDATES

## RECEPTION



This term in Reception, we have been learning about the artist Pablo Picasso. The children were introduced to several of his paintings and collages, including *The Three Musicians*, which linked beautifully with our topic on sound and music. The children had the opportunity to create their own musical instruments by upcycling a variety of materials and boxes, encouraging creativity and sustainability. They also enjoyed playing an African drum, which we used while narrating the story *The Leopard's Drum: An Asante Tale* from West Africa. The children were fully engaged and really enjoyed the experience.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you about our online homework. If you experience any difficulties logging in, please speak to your child's class teacher, who will be happy to help.

## NURSERY



This week, the nursery children have been learning about positional language by singing songs and playing in the classroom to help them understand words like on, under, and behind. We introduced our new story, *The Gruffalo's Child*, after the children found mysterious footprints from the big bad mouse when they arrived at school. They are working hard to listen and stay focused during story time. The children have also been practicing how to ask for help by using the sentence "Help me with..." along with Makaton signs.

## YEAR 1



In Year 1, we were lucky to welcome visiting artists from the Camden Art Centre, who helped us to explore the exciting world of printmaking. The children learned how to use rollers and a range of different shapes to create their own prints, experimenting with rolling paint onto different types of paper to see the effects this created. They then drew self-portraits, rolled paint over their drawings, and carefully pressed them onto paper to produce their own prints. The children learned a great deal about printmaking and thoroughly enjoyed the creative process, showing lots of enthusiasm and imagination throughout.

## YEAR 2



Over the past few weeks, Year 2 have been immersing themselves in their new art unit on watercolours. They have explored the difference between foreground and background, learning how to identify and use the horizon line in their compositions. The children have also experimented with a range of painting techniques, including wet on wet and wet on dry, to create different shades, blend colours, and add depth to their work. The focus and creativity they have shown has been fantastic. Have a look at their brilliant artwork below!



# YEAR UPDATES

## YEAR 4

Year 4 have been showing off their amazing gymnastics skill sin PE over the last few weeks. In their lessons, different stations were set up where children had to follow routines and give feedback on each other's technique. The coaches have been blown away with some of the special talent in the classes. Take a look at some of the Year 4 children in action! We may see some of these children performing in future Olympics!



## YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic week settling back into routines and producing some excellent figurative writing. We have also started reading Varjak Paw, an exciting adventure story, and are so lucky to have a copy each to enjoy during our reading and understanding sessions. Attendance has been very strong, and the children are working hard as we prepare for another set of mock SATs in two weeks, aiming for brilliant results!



## YEAR 3

Children in Year 3 have been visiting Willesden library as part of our promise in the Gladstone Pledge. The children learnt how to take books out and were given a special tour and a signing up sheet to take home. Year 3 also have been creating some amazing art work, drawing the HMS Victory and learning about proportion sizing to make it look realistic! Look at some of these amazing pictures!



## YEAR 5

In Year 5, we have been getting on with lots of incredible learning! One of our highlights was practicing our body percussion in Music. We love using our bodies to make a beat! In Art, our project has been coming along nicely. William Morris has inspired our wallpaper designs which we have used to create printing blocks. Our next step is to print our wallpaper! Our Multiplication and Division unit in Maths has come to an end and we will be moving on to fractions next.





# ATTENDANCE



## Challenge 55 – Counting Down to SATs!

From Monday 2nd February, we are launching Challenge 55 – a special initiative to mark the 55 school days left until Year 6 SATs week.

The aim of Challenge 55 is simple: we want to encourage every child to be in school every day and to make the very most of their learning time. Regular attendance makes a huge difference, especially in these important final weeks.

We're also focusing on helping pupils give their best, aim high and show great resilience. Through Challenge 55, we'll be celebrating effort, hard work and positive attitudes across all of our Year 6 classes.

As an extra incentive, any pupil who is in school every day during the Challenge 55 period will have their name added to a ballot to win a £55 voucher. The winner will be drawn and announced during SATs week.

This is a trust-wide initiative designed to boost motivation, recognise achievements and support every child to feel confident and ready for SATs. We're excited to see our pupils rise to the challenge and shine! ✨



Reception

77%

Year 1

93%

Year 2

96%

Year 3

95%

Year 4

96%

Year 5

95%

Year 6

95%





# NOTICES



Follow us on Instagram:  
gladstoneparkprimary



Learn English with us!

We're pleased to be hosting ESOL lessons for our families, starting from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February. From 09:00-10:30, you can learn English with us for free! You can even bring your little one along! [Sign up here!](#)

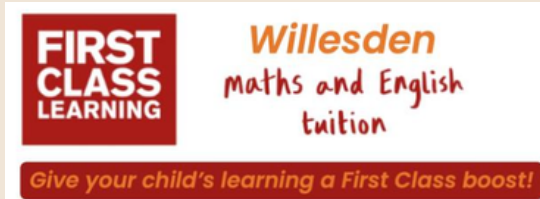
## Rock Steady Music School

We only have a small number of places left for students in Years 1-3 to sign up for RockSteady! Please see the letter sent out via MCAS to sign up.



Limited places left at Tutoring Club!

We're working with First Class Learning Tuition to host a maths tutoring club at Gladstone Park from just £10 a session!



## Chinese New Year

We'll be celebrating the Chinese New Year on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. We are encouraging our community to dress up for the occasion, in their most celebratory, new-year outfits! Add the date to your diary. More information to follow.





# ANTHEM ASPIRE



Follow us on Instagram:  
gladstoneparkprimary



We are delighted to introduce Anthem Aspire, a new trust-wide campaign that will give children at Gladstone Park access to life-changing experiences that build confidence, resilience and self-belief.

We believe that every child, regardless of background, deserves opportunities that help them discover who they are and what they are capable of. Anthem Aspire is designed to make that belief a reality.

Anthem Aspire is not about turning every child into a professional musician, athlete or writer. It is about opportunity and transformation.

- It is about the quiet child who finds their voice.
- The anxious child who discovers resilience.
- The overlooked child who realises they matter.

And when this happens across a school community, the impact is powerful. Classrooms become more ambitious, relationships more positive, and the learning environment stronger for every single child.



Delivered in partnership with sector-leading artists and charitable organisations, including Gareth Malone, Anthem Aspire creates moments that children remember for the rest of their lives, moments that often become turning points.

We are inviting our school community, alumni and partners who are able to, to “pay it forward”. A donation, whether it’s the cost of a theatre ticket, a music lesson or travel to an event, can open a door for another child and create a truly lasting impact. Support Anthem Aspire and fund a life-changing experience:

<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/anthemschoolstrust>  
Together, we can ensure that every child at Gladstone Park has the chance to believe in themselves because confidence really does change everything.



# ECO AMBASSADORS



Our Eco-ambassadors have been working very hard over the last few weeks. They have been working with Mr Maddock to achieve points in order to gain The Green Flag Eco Schools badge. To do this, the team completed an environmental review of the school, asking members of staff some difficult questions around topics such as waste, energy and biodiversity. Once the results were in, the children sat together to make an action plan to tackle the biggest eco issues that the school is facing and came up with some amazing project ideas.

The team then invited Beth Newman to come to school to discuss the plan. Beth is the Schools Climate Action Manager for Brent Council and is very important in the eco game! The children did brilliantly at the meeting - they spoke clearly and concisely when discussing the action plan and Beth was blown away! We can't wait to update you with the impact that the eco-ambassadors have made to our school!

# MAKATON SIGNS OF THE WEEK



We have been learning the Makaton Signs of the Week as part of our commitment to supporting every child's communication. Each week, we introduce a new sign and model this to our students. This has been particularly helpful for our children with speech, language and communication needs to understand key vocabulary and express themselves.

*The sign of the week this week is To Learn. See the Makaton video using the link here:*

*[https://makaton.org/TMC/News\\_Stories/SOTW/SOTW\\_Cold.aspx](https://makaton.org/TMC/News_Stories/SOTW/SOTW_Cold.aspx)*



# SPRING 1 PARENT EVENTS



All From 8:45 -9:00

Our feedback from coffee mornings was that our families want to find more ways to engage more in school life and learn about how we teach. We hope you enjoy our upcoming events!

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
February**

Phonics & how to prepare your child for the screening check parent work shop

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
February**

Reading: how we teach Year 2-Year 6

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
February**

Watch a Live Year 6 maths lesson 8:45am

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>  
February**

Parents Evening Day 1 3:30pm

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February**

Parents Evening Day 2 3:30 pm

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>  
February**

Coffee Morning with our Head Teacher



First day of Spring 1: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Last day of Spring 1: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

