



South Grove Primary School

NEWSLETTER 27 2024-2025

22nd April 2025

Dear parents and carers

STARS OF THE WEEK W/C 21.4.25

N - AM	IDRIS	3B	ERIKA
N - PM	CASEY	3H	ZAKI
RR	ZAIRA	4P	CONNIE
RS	LEIF	4SH	TEDDY
1L	SAMARA	5A	ZAINA
1W	SUFYAN	5G	ABIGAIL
2DM	LUCA	6F	ROSIE
2F	SAHIRA	6M	AMINA

SPORTS STARS - ZAYNAB Y2 + IAM Y4



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY W/C 31.3.25

Best Attendance ☺ **RR 93.5%**

Best Punctuality ☺ **2F**

Class that needs to improve their attendance **RS 66.1%**

Class that needs to improve their punctuality **RS**

Overall School Attendance this year = 94%



I hope all our families had a good break and are now well rested and ready for the Summer term - let's hope that the weather begins to more consistently reflect this! This is always a very busy term for us and a really important one for all our pupils. This is the term where the children can maximise their learning opportunities as they can really flourish, develop and consolidate their learning during this time.

In order to do this please ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time this term. It will help ensure that your child does not miss any learning opportunities and we need to remember that good attendance is above 97%. As a reminder, the school day is **8:45am – 3:15pm** except for Nursery which is **8:50 – 11:50am** for morning Nursery and **12:20 – 3:20pm** for afternoon Nursery. The playground gates open at 8:30am for the children to enter.

The last week of the term was very busy, what with a Music Recital, an Eid celebration assembly, a Spring Concert, Parents Evening and even a day where we found Ancient Romans wandering round school (and taking part in the music recital)!

EID ASSEMBLY

On the Thursday before the holidays, we were treated to a spectacular Eid Assembly organised and directed by Miss Hubbard. The assembly started with Year 1 explaining what Eid is and why Muslims celebrate the occasion.



Year 2 then showed us some of the special food that is associated with Eid such as Sheer Kuma, Jollof rice and baklava - everyone was left wide eyed and feeling more hungry than you would expect at 9.30 in the morning!

Some Year 3 children then shared their recent Eid experiences from earlier in the week and it was lovely to hear about how their faith and their family mean to them - not to mention the presents!



But Eid is also about the spirit of giving, as Year 4 explained to us, and making sure those who might have less are looked after. Year 5 children then gave us a flavour of how Eid looks slightly different across the world.

Then came the opportunity for the children to showcase their Eid outfits, some were traditional and others had a slightly more modern twist, but every single child looked fantastic! Year 6 then finished the assembly with a quiz to ensure that everyone was listening... which they were!

It was a superb assembly and a big thankyou to Miss Hubbard for directing the show, ably supported by Mrs Malek, Mrs Hughes and Ms Khan.



Spring Recital Celebration 🌸

On Tuesday morning, 1st April, our school was filled with the sound of music as students taking peripatetic lessons in guitar, violin, piano, and saxophone performed in a delightful Spring Recital.



Our ten pianists each performed either a solo or duet on our beautiful Yamaha piano, filling the hall with a rich variety of melodies. Two of our budding saxophonists impressed the audience with their rendition of *Hot Cross Buns*—no easy feat on such a challenging instrument!



Some of our older guitar students showcased pop songs they had chosen and rehearsed independently, Olivia from 5G sang and played *A Million Dreams* as a solo on guitar and voice. Ida and Rosie from 5A played *Brave* even singing while they played—an impressive display of coordination and confidence. A special mention goes to Misha from 6F, who wowed us with his folk fiddle skills, performing a lively traditional tune called *The Temple House*.

One of the standout moments of the recital was the performance by our fantastic violin string group, who delivered beautiful and moving arrangements of Pachelbel's *Canon in D* and *Ode to Joy*. Their polished ensemble playing truly captivated the audience and brought the recital to a stirring close.



From classical pieces to contemporary tunes, each student took to the stage with confidence and enthusiasm, showing just how far they've come with the support of our dedicated visiting music teachers. For some it was the first time playing in front of anyone except their teacher, let alone 100 people!

Thank you to Mr Marshall, Holly and Miss Amy from Waltham Forest Music Service who teach the children on a weekly basis. And a huge well done to all who performed—you made Tuesday morning a truly special occasion. We're so proud of your hard work and can't wait to see (and hear!) what you do next. 🎵

If anyone is interested in peripatetic music lessons then check out the Music Page of our website to find out how to sign up.

M: Forbes



WHOLE SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT

On Friday we were treated to an amazing Spring Concert to celebrate the end of the term.

The school sang 'Memories' with the violinists and pianists with our very own Mr Perna on the drums. He certainly has missed his calling and if he ever needs a part-time job he will be well placed to earn a bit of pocket money!



The whole school sang 'I like the flowers' with Mrs Rose helping with the conducting. The Makaton buddies always do such a brilliant job.

Year 2 were very accomplished and played 'Bee in my Bonnet' on their recorders to the large audience. They did really well!



PLM and a group of Reception children 'Who Stole my chicken and my hens.' They did an amazing job of performing using tambors and djembes alongside the song, guided by Ms Forbes. Fantastic!



The drumming club gave a great rendition of 'Hall of Fame' on their djembes. They drummed with Ms Forbes, concentrating intently on getting the right beats at the right time.

The guitars, ukuleles, choir and drums gave an initial performance of 'Living on a Prayer' on stage until Aaron and Mr Perna decided it was not quite rousing enough! Mr Perna jumped on his drums and spurred them on for a rousing rendition of the song!



Spring Chicken



The choir chilled us all out with a song 'Perfect Hero' on stage, before the whole school sang 'Happy,' as we all were with the holidays coming up, who couldn't be?

But what Spring Concert would it have been had we not sung 'Spring Chicken?' Everyone joined in this with the Choir using Makaton to help us along.

Thanks were conveyed to the children and Ms Forbes got a rousing round of applause for all her hard work to coordinate the concert. Thank you!

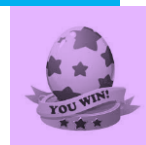
Here is what the parents had to say:

I loved the performances – so brilliant! It was amazing! You can all be very proud! It was fab. You can see the hard work the children put together. I loved it xxx What a great way to start the day, such an amazing concert! I feel like a spring chicken after this assembly. Thanks to all!



Easter Egg Competition Winners

At the end of the concert the Easter Egg winners were announced and their creative decorative eggs were revealed to the school to show to why they were worthy winners. Congratulations to everyone across the school who took the time to enter some very imaginative eggs – eggcellent work all!



Year Group	Name	Class
Nursery	Nanxi	AM
Nursery	Joslyn	Full time
Reception	Eric	RR
Year 1	Vicky	1W
Year 2	Otis	2DM
Year 3	Anastasiia	3H
Year 4	Eleni	4P
Year 5	Ida	5A
Year 6	Claire	6F
PLM	Jamie	PLM Y1
Overall Winner	Pola	5A

Here they are:



Here are some of the other great entries:



ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Dear Parents and Carers.

I am writing to you to let you know that for the last three days of last term, 10% of children were absent from school – 33% were absent from RS. As you know our attendance target is 97% and currently our attendance is 94%. Ofsted framework expects a school to have high attendance: 'Pupils have high attendance, come on time to school and are punctual to lessons.' Our attendance is not reflecting this. Learning starts at 8.45 so please be on time 5 minutes before this.

But most importantly it is the children who are missing out, let's make sure that everyone has a lovely summer term full of learning and fun activities. At primary school, children who attend school nearly every day in Year 6 (95-100% attendance) are 30% more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90-95% of the time. The building blocks of a child's education start in the early years. Attendance habits and attitudes are formed early too. As you know, attitudes towards school attendance have changed a bit since COVID but everyday does count at school.

We take very seriously our responsibility to educate your child and want to work in partnership with you so that your child gets an excellent education in order that their life's opportunities are maximised.

A whole year has 365 days
A school year has only **190 Days**

This leaves:

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

➤ 95% attendance = you miss 10 days per year

➤ 90% attendance = you miss 19 days per year

➤ 85% attendance = you miss 29 days per year

90% attendance is equivalent to 1 day off per fortnight

It is worth remembering that for the majority of children regular attendance at school is the norm. Do not let your child become one of the exceptions.

If you have any concerns or difficulties with your child's attendance, please feel free to contact the school and speak to your child's class teacher or me, Ms Montgomery, the attendance lead, at the office or at the gate.

For all attendance matters, including sending proofs of absence, email:

parents@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk

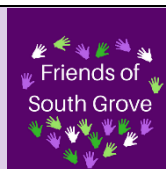
Thank you. **Ms Montgomery**

PARENTS EVENING

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents Evening – we hope it was useful to find out how your child is progressing. Don't forget to return the comments slip if you have not already.

3A (formally 3B) will have their Parents Evening in a few weeks once Mr Archer is more familiar with his class

Friends of South Grove Year 2 Film Night



A big thank you to the Friends of South Grove for organising this fun event and especially to those who helped on the night and made great bags of popcorn. The children really enjoyed themselves!

They raised **£75!**

Child Health Advice

The NHS Health Care support worker is offering appointments on:
Thursday 1st May from 9am to 10am.

If you would like a chat about any child health issues please ask at the office and we will book you in.

PARENTING COURSE 7 May – 2 July

Please let the school office know if you would like to attend this course as it will be held at South Grove.

Wednesday

7 May – 2 July

9.30am–11.30am
South Grove
Primary School
E17 8PW

Triple P
Age 0–12

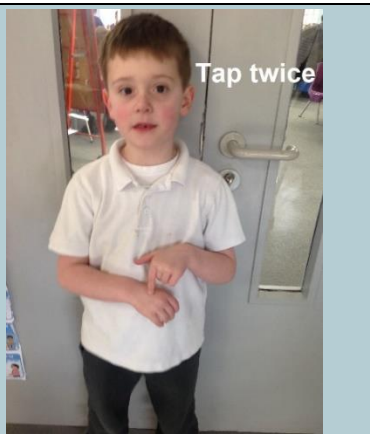
Triple P 0–12

For parents of children aged up to 12

Promote your child's development and help prevent challenging behaviour.

Web: bit.ly/wftriplep **Phone:** 07586713368

MAKATON SIGN OF THE WEEK: TIME



After School Clubs (NOT THIS WEEK!)



The new clubs start next week so make sure you have signed up. You will only be informed if you **DO NOT** get a place.

Don't miss out! Sign up with the Google Form in the email you were sent before the holiday. See end of newsletter re Music.



Last week, 16th April, was Primary Offers Day. If you applied online you should have received an email telling you which school your child has been offered (check your spam if you have not yet received it) If you applied with a paper copy you should have received the offer in the post.

If your child has been offered a place in our Reception class for September from the borough's Admissions department, you will soon be also receiving a letter from us.

If you did not get a Reception place in the school that you were hoping for, Admissions department will have automatically put you on the waiting list for your higher preference schools. These are then held until 31 December 2025. If you then want to re-join the waiting list for any school you will need to re-apply by completing an iCAF, available on www.walthamforest.gov.uk, listing your new school preferences. These waiting lists will then remain open until June 2026. **After this time you must reapply again to Admissions if you want to continue to stay on the waiting list for South Grove (ie if you wish to remain on the waiting list once they are in Year 1).**

KS2 SATs 2025 Dates

Monday 12th May 2025

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Spelling - 20 mins
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Punctuation and Grammar - 45 mins

Tuesday 13th May 2025

Reading - 60 mins

Wednesday 14th May 2025

Maths Paper 1: Arithmetic - 30 mins
Maths Paper 2: Reasoning - 40 mins

Thursday 15th May 2025

Maths Paper 3: Reasoning - 40 mins

YEAR 6 SATS

We only have a few weeks before the Year 6 children's SATs tests so can we please ensure that the children do not miss any school days in order to prepare them as best we can to get the best results for every child.

Please ensure that the children continue to practice in preparation for the tests through the home learning the staff will give them. This will support the children in revision for their tests.

If parents have any concerns regarding the next few weeks please ensure you contact your child's class teacher or Mr Combe.

School closes for Summer on Friday 18th July at 2.30pm and it is the expectation that all children will attend school until this day. Parents do need to note that that the Governors do try to ensure that the holiday dates suit our families and this date is much earlier than when many local schools break up for the Summer.

Summer Term 2025

Term:	Tuesday 22 nd April – Wednesday 23 rd July 2025
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR PUPILS TUESDAY 22nd APRIL 2025
School closed to pupils on:	
Staff Training Days:	Monday 21 st July, Tuesday 22 nd July, Wednesday 23 rd July 2025
Public Holiday:	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 5 th May 2025
Half Term:	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May 2025 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Friday 18th July 2025 at 2:30pm

**PLEASE!
NOTE**

With my very best wishes

J. Maltwood.

Julie Maltwood
Headteacher



SOUTH GROVE LEARNING GALLERY!

Nursery

Before the holidays in Nursery, we were busy learning about the celebration of Easter. We have looked at the story of Easter and have completed some creative tasks. We used paint, pegs and pompoms to create a dot pattern on some eggs.



Reception

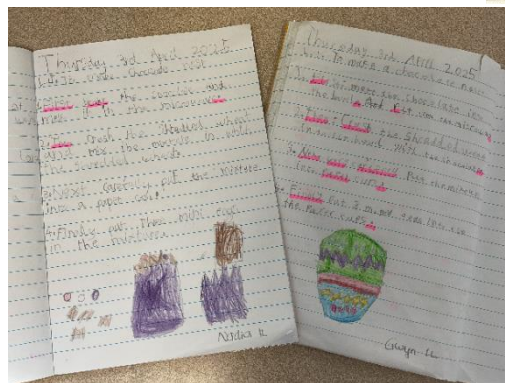
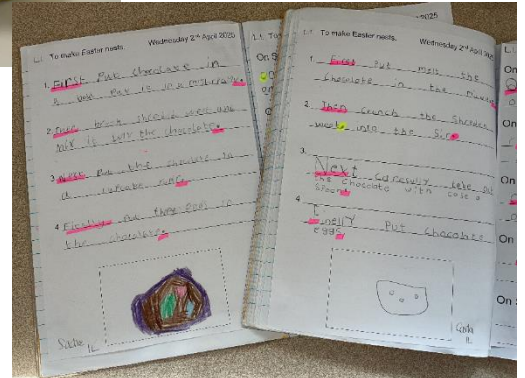
In the last week of the spring term Reception children learnt about the change of the season at this time of year and about Easter. We learnt about why Easter is important for Christians. In spring the weather begins to change, flowers start to grow and lots of baby animals are born, it is a time of new beginnings.

We made chocolate nests and explored scientific language to describe what happened to the chocolate that changed from a solid to liquid and then back to a solid again. The next day we recalled the sequence and steps to make the chocolate nests and wrote instructions. Then on Friday we had our own egg hunt.



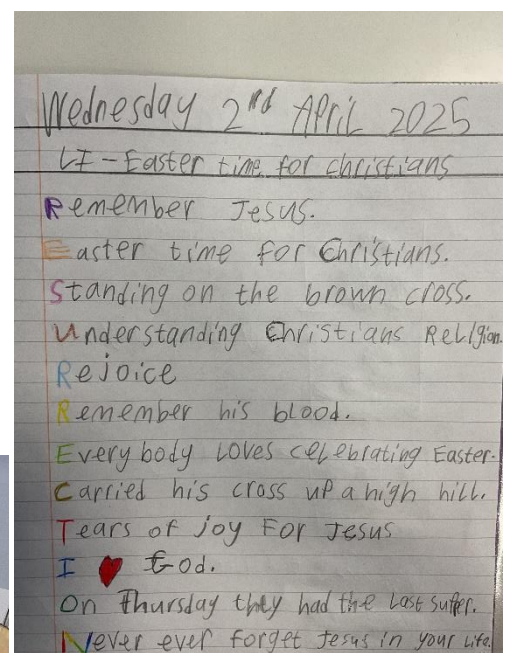
Year 1

Year 1 have been busy creating their front covers for their version of the Gruffalo which they have retold, changing the character and description. We also got into the spirit of celebrating Easter by making chocolate nests and writing instructions for how to make them! Happy holidays 1L and 1W we hope you enjoy your break and are looking forward to your new topic: Plants and flowers.



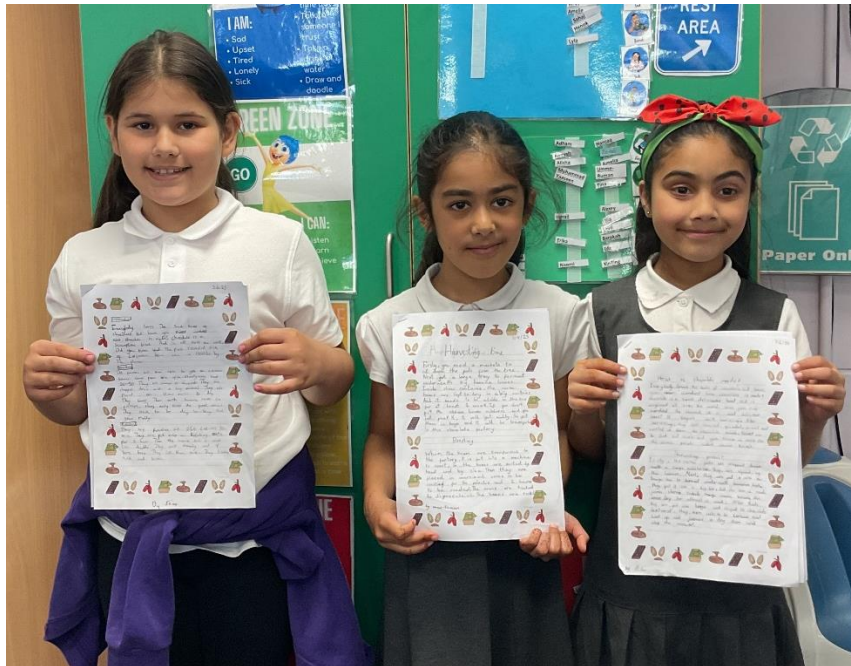
Year 2

In Year 2, we visited St Barnabas Church to find out why this time of year is important to Christians. We wrote an acrostic poem using the word 'RESURRECTION'. In PE we used the programme 'Get set 4 Education'. We explored being 'Garden Animals' adding dynamics – fluidly, gently, slowly, quickly, slowly and explosively.



Year 3

As part of their English writing, Year 3 have written an explanation text on the process of making chocolate. They have really enjoyed learning about the process from Cocoa tree to the chocolate bar that you see in the shops. Within their writing, they have used a range of fronted adverbials, technical vocabulary as well as conjunctions to link clauses. Take a look at what they have written.



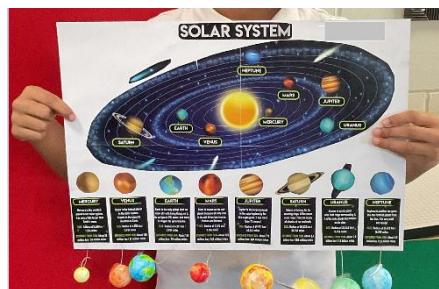
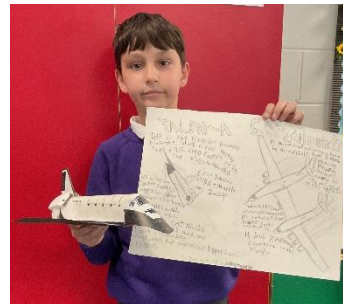
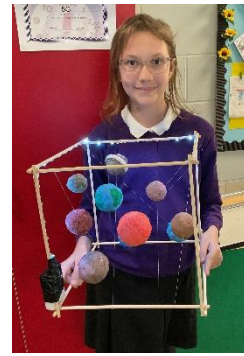
Year 4

The final week of the Spring term brought Roman Day to Year 4! The children came in dressed in their best warrior's attire and enjoyed a day of creativity. The highlight was definitely *busting out the clay* to create Roman busts. The children have amazing talent, demonstrated in their incredibly detailed pieces, but mine was definitely *head and shoulders* above the rest...



Year 5

It's that time of year again for the infamous Year 5 space projects! Over the Spring term the children have learnt a whole cosmos of information about the planets, the moon and our galaxy. The children thoroughly enjoyed working on their projects coming up with their own unique take on the solar system and more. Mr Andrews and Mrs Grant definitely had their work cut out for them trying to pick a winner...



Year 6

As part of their preparation for the upcoming SATs, Year 6 have been working together in pairs to complete past reading papers. This allows the children to practice their reading skills while supporting each other through the process.

By working with partners, the children discussed tricky questions, shared their ideas, and helped each other understand the texts better. It's been great to see how they are learning from one another and building their confidence.

The Year 6 staff are very proud of how hard the children are working and their determination to do their best!



PLM

We have been learning about Religious celebrations. Here are pictures of the Eid and Easter activities we have been doing.

The children made Eid cards

PLM



The children also took part in numerous Easter activities



Ismaeel joined in the catwalk for the Eid assembly

NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR

SOUTH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026



Autumn Term 2025

Term:	Monday 1st September – Friday 19th December 2025
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR YEARS 1 – 6 PUPILS WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025
	RETURNING NURSERY START BACK ON TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER
	New Reception and Nursery start a staggered entrance from 10th September – individual letters will be sent
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Monday 1 st September, Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Half Term:	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October 2025 (inclusive)
Winter Holiday:	Monday 22 nd December 2025 – Friday 2 nd January 2026 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Friday 19th December 2025 at 2:30pm

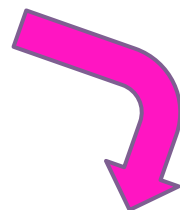
Spring Term 2026

Term:	Monday 5th January – Friday 27th March 2026
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR PUPILS TUESDAY 6th JANUARY 2026
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Monday 5 th January 2026
Half Term:	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February 2026 (inclusive)
Spring Holiday	Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April 2026 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Friday 27th March 2026 at 2:30pm

Summer Term 2026

Term:	Monday 13th April – Monday 20th July 2026
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR PUPILS TUESDAY 22nd APRIL 2025
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Monday 1 st June & Monday 20 th July 2026
Public Holiday:	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4 th May 2026
Half Term:	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May 2026 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Friday 17th July 2026 at 2:30pm

One last thing...



Music Clubs and lessons

Waltham Forest Music Lessons will begin next week, starting Monday 28th April. Please remember to bring your instruments with you on the day of your lesson.

Music Clubs will also resume the week commencing 28th April, with the following schedule and a few updates:

- Monday: Drumming – 1:00 to 1:20 PM**
- Tuesday: Keyboard – 1:00 to 1:30 PM**
- Tuesday: Choir – 3:15 to 4:15 PM**
- Wednesday: Guitar with Holly – 12:30 to 1:00 PM**

If you're already a member of the Choir, there's no need to sign up again. If you'd like to join, please collect a form from Ms. Forbes. We'll let you know as soon as a space becomes available.

