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This week at

Ravenstone



23.10.26

DATES FOR DIARIES

Please also check the school calendar on our [website](#)

02.11.26 INSET day

03.11.26 First day of term

06.11.26, 9am Lower phase (nursery and reception) showing assembly

06.11.26 Catering service visiting to speak to families of children in lower phase

06.11.26, 2.30pm Middle and upper phase showing assemblies resume

09.11.26 Individual photographs

10.11.26 Flu immunisations

11.11.26 Remembrance Event (families invited 10:45)

ATTENDANCE

Ensuring that your child is in school, on time (from 8:30 and by 8:45), every day is the most important commitment we ask of all families. As a school, we are aiming for at least 95% attendance and as of this week our total for this current year is 94.49%.

If you want to request a leave of absence please speak to a member of staff on the gate.

This week's year group attendance:

Yr R	96.59%
Yr 1	93.95%
Yr 2	98.26%
Yr 3	96.69%
Yr 4	96.84%
Yr 5	96.46%
Yr 6	96.23%

100%	Outstanding
99.9 - 95%	Good attendance
94.9 - 90%	Cause for concern
89.9 - 85%	Persistent absence
84.9 - 80%	Persistent absence
<79.9%	Persistent absence

Dear families,

As we conclude the first half term of the school year, I'd like to say a huge thank you to you all for your ongoing support of the school. Since starting at Ravenstone in September, Mrs Martin and I have felt very welcomed by the school community, and it is wonderful to be part of the team.

One of the highlights this term has been showing prospective families around our school. There is a genuine sense of positivity and productivity in every classroom. All children are friendly and welcoming to our visitors, always ready to share and demonstrate their learning. There has been a lot of interest in the school so far, and visitors have commented on our amazing outdoor spaces, as well as how happy, confident and well-behaved the children are.

Well done to our Year 4 children, and thank you to them for preparing and performing a fantastic drama production for their families this week. It inspired us to reflect on the importance of being courageous. Next half term, it will be the turn of our Year 5 children to share their drama skills with families, so look out for the date later in the newsletter.

On 6 November, we will begin welcoming families of children in Nursery and Reception into school for our showing assemblies. Please join us at school at 9am, where the children will share what they have been learning about during the week.

We'd also like to say a huge thank you to Miss Ahmad (Year 5 teacher) and Val (Family Liaison Officer) for their fantastic efforts in preparing and delivering some thought-provoking activities for Black History Month.

Attendance has been a real success this term, and we are currently at 96.2% overall as a school at the end of the first half term. This is above both the national average and our school target. Thank you to all families who ensure their children attend school and arrive on time every day. This makes a huge difference to their education.

Please note that **Monday 2 November is an INSET day**, so the school will be closed to pupils. The staff team will join colleagues from across Wandle Learning Trust to explore adaptive teaching and how we can best stretch and challenge every child academically. Staff will consider teaching and learning from a range of perspectives, including those of teachers, support staff and subject leaders. We look forward to sharing more with you about this work.

We hope all families have a restful break next week, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Tuesday 3 November at 8.30am**.

Mike Riches
Headteacher



"TREAT OTHERS THE WAY
YOU WANT TO BE
TREATED"

UN Convention Focus Articles for October

[click here for more](#)



SPORTING SUCCESS

This week, our fantastic sports teams took part in the Trinity Cup at Trinity Fields, competing against other schools in the area.

The boys' event on Wednesday was extremely wet, so they played five friendly matches instead of taking part in the tournament. They finished with an impressive outcome of one win, three draws and one loss.

The girls' event on Thursday was a little drier, allowing them to play the full tournament. They successfully progressed to the quarter-finals after winning all their group-stage matches. Well done, girls!

Well done to all the children who represented the school, demonstrating great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Boys' team: Kasim, Domi, Jacob, Ayaan, Harry, Oscar, Reon, Callum and Patrick

Girls' team: Maisie, Ana, Neve, Isabelle, Maya, Abrish, Cami, Lise, Ellena and Josephine

A huge thank you to Ize, Sarah P and Miss Mocus for their fantastic support!



ASSEMBLIES

Key Stage 1 and 2 had an assembly with the school nurse team this week, in which they heard all about how hygiene and keeping ourselves clean is a part of keeping healthy. We learnt the importance of, and techniques for, washing our hands and brushing our teeth.

Did you know that you should avoid rinsing your mouth after brushing your teeth to allow the fluoride to stay active on your teeth? Please ask children to share what else they learned during this session with our school nurse team.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating Black History Month at Ravenstone

This October, we celebrated Black History Month under the theme 'Honouring Our Communities'. Throughout the month, children took part in a range of activities celebrating Black history, culture and achievements.

Val led a special assembly honoring inspiring people in our Balham community, with children then writing thank you cards to show their appreciation. During our House Morning, children explored Soca dancing, created artwork inspired by Chris Ofili and took part in sporting activities inspired by British Paralympian Kadeena Cox. KS2 also welcomed a parent visitor who shared their experiences, while Paul Chambers came in to share an inspiring story about the Windrush generation.

These experiences helped us celebrate the contributions of others, learn from different experiences and reflect on the importance of belonging, representation and valuing every member of our community. Thank you to everyone who helped make Black History Month a meaningful and memorable celebration!



MAGIC SHOW

Last Friday's Magic Show was a great, sold-out success!

A huge thank you to the magician, Amigo, our tireless volunteers, and everyone who came to see the show. We're still scratching our heads over Maggie being sawed in half and somehow living to tell the tale! Another highlight of the show was when Mr Riches volunteered to have his stress magically "removed" – only to leave him with even more stress than before! An afternoon we won't soon forget! Proceeds from this fantastic event contributed £917 to support FoR and the Year 6 cohort!

And a quick thank you from the school to Renata and the team for putting on such a fun event which the children thoroughly enjoyed. A huge amount of work went into making this such a success - well done!



AUTUMN 2 CALENDAR DATES

The following key dates will also be available on the school website. They will be shared in a weekly email through the school office and featured in each week's newsletter.

Event	Date and time	Details
Deadline for secondary applications	31st October	
INSET day	2nd November	School closed to all children
Showing assemblies begin for nursery and reception	6th November, 9am	Lower hall
Individual photographs	9th November	
Flu immunisations	10th November	
Remembrance day	11th November	Families are invited to join us at 10.45 am on the front playground.
Parent/teacher meetings	11th November 12th November	Look out for an email from the school office to enable bookings.
Children in Need day	13th November	
Anti-bullying week begins	16th November	
RavenSNOW	29th November	Our Friends of Ravenstone winter fair is open for all to attend.
Nursery and reception performances	9th December, 9am 10th December, 9am	
House morning	14th December	
Year 5 drama performance	16th December, 9am	
Christmas jumper day	16th December	
Christmas lunch	16th December	
Christmas class parties	17th December	
Last day of term	18th December	Children to be collected at 1pm

Please note: we have now set a date for sports day. This will take place on 24th June, all day.

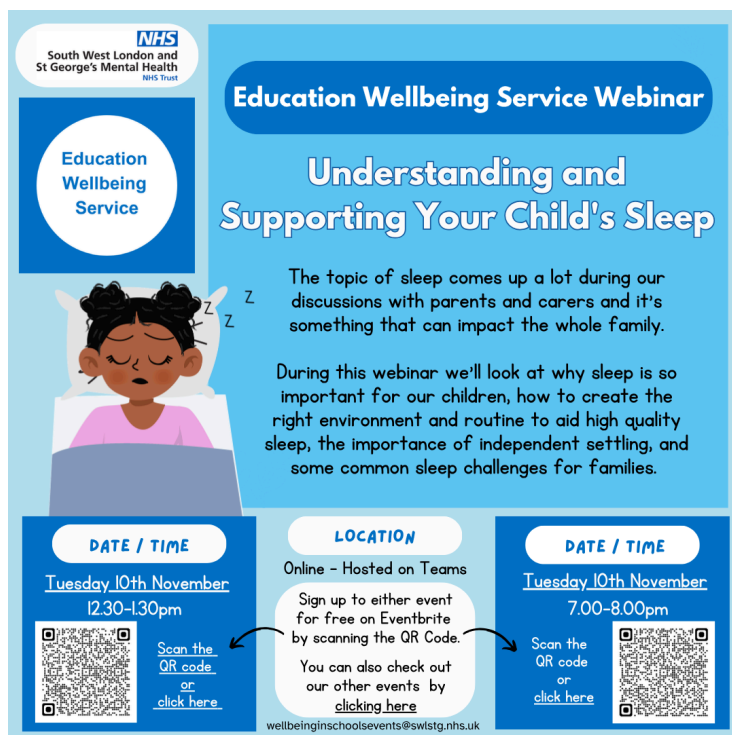
Educational Wellbeing Service Webinar

We would like to share information about a free webinar being offered by the NHS Education Wellbeing Service for parents and carers of Early Years and Primary-aged children.

Understanding and Supporting Your Child's Sleep will take place on **Tuesday 10th November** and will be available at two different times:

- **12:30pm to 1:30pm**
- **7:00pm to 8:00pm**

During the webinar, families will explore why sleep is so important for children, how to create effective sleep routines and environments, the importance of independent settling, and strategies for managing common sleep challenges.



NHS
South West London and
St George's Mental Health
NHS Trust

Education Wellbeing Service

Education Wellbeing Service Webinar

Understanding and Supporting Your Child's Sleep

The topic of sleep comes up a lot during our discussions with parents and carers and it's something that can impact the whole family.

During this webinar we'll look at why sleep is so important for our children, how to create the right environment and routine to aid high quality sleep, the importance of independent settling, and some common sleep challenges for families.

DATE / TIME
Tuesday 10th November
12.30-1.30pm

LOCATION
Online - Hosted on Teams

Sign up to either event for free on Eventbrite by scanning the QR Code.

You can also check out our other events by [clicking here](#)

DATE / TIME
Tuesday 10th November
7.00-8.00pm

wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk

The webinar is free and will be hosted online via Teams.

To book a place:

Early Years Parents and Carers [click here](#)

Primary Parents and Carers [click here](#)

In addition, if you are interested in accessing **1:1 parent support sessions** with the in-school NHS Wellbeing Practitioners to help with your child's worries, anxieties, or challenging behaviour, please speak to a member of staff or [visit our well-being and mental health page on our school website](#).

TERM DATES 2027-2028

We have now been notified of the term dates for next academic year. These are as follows:

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Start date	6th September	2nd November	5th January	21st February	18th April	5th June
End date	22nd October	17th December	11th February	31st March	26th May	21st July
INSET days	2nd September 3rd September	1st November	4th January	N/A	N/A	16th June 30th June

HOUSE POINTS

The children have been busy earning house points over the past 8 weeks. The final totals for the half term are below and with that the name of the house to be awarded the first **house party** of the year. Congratulations to Victoria! Well done, Victoria house! They enjoyed a house party this afternoon before Inside Ravenstone - what a lovely end to the half term!

1st place - Victoria
2nd place - Brompton
3rd place - Greenwich
4th place - Richmond
5th place - Regents
6th place - Hyde

CLASS NEWS

4M

Year 4 have had a very exciting final week of the half term! One of the highlights was performing our drama piece for our families, with courage as our theme. We had worked incredibly hard on our performance, and it was lovely to share it with so many of you. We also thoroughly enjoyed creating models of the digestive system. Things got a little messy (and smelly) in the classroom, but it was fantastic to get hands-on with our learning and bring our science topic to life.



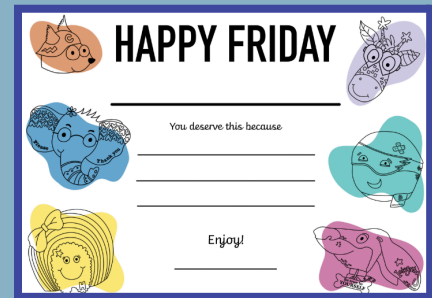
NW

This week, the children in Nursery went on their first trip. We walked to Tooting Common where we looked for different coloured leaves and sorted them by their colours. The children enjoyed collecting treasures in special bags and then having an Autumn hunt where they had to find certain objects. We then walked back to Nursery where we had a special treat to help us warm up and dry off.





STARS OF THE WEEK!



Year 1 Luka
Year 2 Theo and Sofie
Year 3 Ciaran
Year 4 Artemis
Year 5 Emily
Year 6 Maisie and Isla
HC Isla
HR Leila

Year 1 Khaliyah-Rae
Year 2 Lily and Philip
Year 3 Zen
Year 4 Helena
Year 5 Sheng
Year 6 Ana and Bella



Children fulfilling their potential in the heart of the community

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