



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

**As we approach the end of our Spring Term, I wish to thank all our governors, staff and parents for another amazing term achieved.**

It has been a very busy term for our staff and pupils, and we look forward to the Easter break, an opportunity for everyone to relax and re-energise! However, work will continue during the Spring holiday for our Yr 6 pupils, who will be focusing on revision for their Key Stage 2 SATs in May. We do hope they take some time to enjoy the Easter sunshine!

## **Thank You and Appreciation**



In particular, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to our wonderful PTA members and the parent community for your continued support and commitment to the work and life of the school. We are enormously grateful to the dedicated hard work, unwavering commitment and relentless efforts, spearhead by the PTA leaders, to co-ordinate and organise spectacular fundraising events. Without this devoted generosity of time, financial contributions and inspirational enthusiasm, our work to sustain this first-class educational establishment would be much more challenging. As well as playing an important role in fundraising, PTA members help promote opportunities for parents to get involved, helping and cultivating an ethos of community collaboration and team spirit. Thank you to all our Hampden Gurney parents, carers and families.

## **Confirmation Classes**

Confirmation is a special church service to confirm the promises that were made at baptism. If you were baptised as a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf.

As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ.

Father Lincoln will be running Confirmation Classes after school during the summer term. Classes will run on Wednesdays 3.30pm – 4.30pm, on the following dates.

**Wednesday 21 May and Wednesday 4, 11 & 18 June**



These classes prepare children for a very special service at 10.30am on **Sunday 29th June at the Annunciation**. We are delighted that The Rt Revd Rob Wickham, CEO of Church Urban Fund and Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of London, will confirm candidates at this special Sung Mass.

Please contact Fr Lincoln if you would like to book a place on the course for you or your child.

## Scavenger Hunt Fundraising Event

We are thrilled that the PTA raised just over **£7,414.70** on the Scavenger Hunt on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

All the children went out to Hyde Park armed with their special clue for their class, to hunt out the answer and win treasure!

Thank you to all the children for asking friends and family to sponsor them, raising such an impressive amount. Special mention must be made to:

Berry, Emi and Iris from Reception

Izi from Y1

and Parisa from Y2

who all won a little prize for getting the most sponsors. All of these pupils have asked friends, family and neighbours and received SIX and NINE sponsorships each.

To celebrate this amazing achievement the PTA are awarding pizza parties to all the winning classes:

Reception Class (£1,321.70)

Year 2 (£1,240)

Year 3 (£1,370!!)

and Year 4 (£1,226), for all raising over £1000.

Year 3 also will enjoy ice creams on the last day of term as the overall winner for this competition!

***Thank you to our PTA members for such a fun-filled fundraising event and the incredible proceeds raised.***

## Bake Sale

The PTA's Midas touch continued with the successful Easter Bake sale, raising just over £2000. The *Hatching Happiness Easter* theme was a big hit with some cracking entries in the cake competition from both KS 1 and 2.



Well done especially to KS1 winners; James (Y2) First place; Bea (Y2) Second place; Antoine (Y2) and George (Rec) Third place. Our KS2 children also put in a lot of creativity and hard work. Well done to Alisa (Y3) and Sophie (Y4) First place; Rose (Y5) and Jacob (Y2) Second place; and Ruby (Y4) Third place.



Thank you so much to the dedicated team of parent volunteers who always make this fundraiser such fun and delight. Well done to all the children and their parents who baked for the *Hatching Happiness Easter* themed cake competition



# Moco Museum Art Competition Awards



SUNG MASS & SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

Thank you to all pupils who participated in the Moco Museum Art Competition in March. The results of our art competition were announced at a special Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation on Tuesday. The judges decided that all the children had done a wonderful job designing their posters, so awarded a special prize to everyone: *four tickets to visit the Moco Museum at Marble Arch*.

The judges awarded a range of prizes, ranging from an honorary mention to posters in each category, before announcing the winner under each category who each received Moco goodie bags. Finally, the judges awarded a special Judges Prize, with the overall winner of the competition receiving a goodie bag and a Moco hoodie. Congratulations to Daria (Yr 6), Rupert (Yr 2) and Emma (Y1) and to everyone who took part and a huge thanks to the Moco Museum for sponsoring this competition.

## Sports News

We have had yet another exciting term of sporting success at Hampden Gurney.



The 2025 Swimming Gala was held at Queen Mother Sports Centre, with 10 competing schools. 24 of our talented swimmers were chosen to represent Hampden Gurney. The competition judged all the keystrokes: the butterfly, breaststroke, backstroke, and freestyle—both in individual events and relay races. Our swimmers gave it their all, and their hard work paid off as every single competitor from Hampden Gurney was placed in the top three in their respective races, earning well-deserved medals.



The tension was electrifying and all our swimmers also won every freestyle relay event. We could not have been prouder of our HG swimming team, and fittingly, swimmers returned to school as the overall winner of the Swimming Gala 2025.

## Celebrating World Book Day

World Book Day Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March was celebrated in our usual magnificent style with wonderful costumes and some seriously fun reading. Our Poetry Slam was a fantastic example of the talent and imagination of our children. We are incredibly proud of them for standing and performing with such confidence and expression. From Spanish to Free Verse... who knew we had so many budding poets here at Hampden Gurney!



However, World Book Day isn't just about putting together a great costume idea, it's about showing our children the power of reading - reading allows children to discover new worlds, acquire knowledge and learn about the past. Encouraging pupils to read for pleasure sparks their imagination and getting pupils thinking differently helps develop empathy and shared interest.

**Looking Ahead...**

## Parents' Workshops – How to Help Your Child to Succeed

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am, school hall**



## How to Help Your Child Succeed at School

Learning is a lifelong process and parents are children's first teachers. We want our children to do well at school, to be happy and to feel fulfilled. Family homes are often the best place in which good learning habits are developed. Positive, supportive but challenging environments make the best classrooms and the best learning families.

I will be running three workshops for parents with each session containing information, reflective activities and practical suggestions to support parents as you navigate your child's learning journey and development. These sessions will be fast-paced and accessible with the aim to help parents to develop strategies, confidence with ideas to support your children to be successful lifelong learners.

## PGL Paris Residential Trip

Over the last 10 years, all Year 6 pupils have been offered the opportunity to attend a residential PGL trip in Surrey. Residential trips provide pupils with an opportunity to stay away from home, and enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor activities with their peers, participating in experiences which may otherwise not be accessible to them. Residential trips are designed for pupils to gain independence and confidence while developing social and emotional skills.

### Year 6 PGL Paris montage

This year, after consultation with parents indicating an interest, our Yr 6 children took the first ever overseas PGL residential trip to Paris. Departing in the middle of February it was a most exciting and memorable school journey for our Yr 6 cohort. This is their last residential trip with this class, and with a day at Disneyland, was certainly a major hit! Please watch our video montage of pupils' cultural visit to explore the Eiffel Tower on the link above.

## Halcyon London International School Service Action Project

As part of their International Baccalaureate curriculum studies, the Halcyon School is collaborating with us, giving their students invaluable experiences working with and supporting our younger pupils. Hampden Gurney will take advantage of Halcyon's subject specialist teaching, with access to the secondary facilities (starting September 2025). Halcyon students started the initial activities with the weekly class support in March, and we are very pleased with the collaboration so far.

## International Global Leadership Projects

*Our curriculum provides children with a thirst for knowledge and wisdom, a high level of challenge and a deep understanding that we are all equal and made in the image of God. Our relationships with each other, our local community and global companions leads us to want to care and serve others.*

As part of our school vision, the school has continued to explore and promote global projects to immerse and deepen our pupils' learning beyond the school walls. Our international immersion programme enters the pupils into cultural exchange and opportunities to develop friendships and lifelong connections. This outward vision also allows pupils to develop intercultural communication skills which are crucial in the modern society and workplace. We will continue hosting

international students and school leaders over the coming years, and most recently, welcomed a group of 20 educational directors from Lithuania to share good practices and leadership styles.



It is clear that in this era of rapid global transformation, educational leadership must now transcend traditional management and paradigms and embrace a forward-thinking, adaptive model. The future for our children's education demands more than incremental improvements—it requires a fundamental reimagining of our approach to learning, leadership and organisational development. It is the aim of our global vision to enrich pupils' learning, enhancing their critical thinking and communication skills, developing cultural awareness and undoubtedly, personal growth.



## Attendance and Punctuality

We are very pleased to hear from our colleagues in Westminster School Attendance that our 96% Attendance average is well above the Westminster and National average of 94%. We are very pleased to see such a strong improvement, but will continue to monitor punctuality and attendance very closely. Regrettably, we have had to report some persistent absence to the LA, who will be issuing penalty notices for absence during term time. Westminster has advised us to automatically un-authorise any absence for illness without evidence at the beginning or end of term time.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please contact the school by email [admin@hampdengurney.co.uk](mailto:admin@hampdengurney.co.uk), telephone 020 7723 7482 or send us a message via SchoolComms to let us know your child will be away and the reason why.

## Dates for your diary:

|                      |                                          |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2 May                | Friday PTA coffee morning at Black Sheep |
| 16 May               | PTA Art Exhibition and Cocktail Evening  |
| 23 & 30 April, 7 May | Help Your Child Succeed workshops        |
| 19 May               | Class photographs                        |
| 6 June               | Friday PTA coffee morning at Black Sheep |
| 6 June               | Music Soiree                             |
| 13 June              | Sports Day                               |
| 4 July               | Friday PTA coffee morning at Black Sheep |
| 11 July              | PTA Summer Bop                           |
| 18 July              | Last day of school year                  |

## [Hampden Gurney School events](#)

***Finally***

*As we approach the Easter holidays, may I wish parents a restful break with your families, and a very Happy Easter. See you again on Tuesday 22 April.*

*Yours sincerely,*

***E Chua***

