



# GRANTA GAZETTE

Your roundup of news and tips to keep you well informed



## Message from the Headteacher

A warm welcome back to all our families and staff and a big Granta family welcome to new students and staff joining our wonderful community – we are so pleased to have you with us! It has been a fantastic start to a very different sort of beginning of an academic year. It is still an anxious time for many and we appreciate all your support in following the measures we

have put in place to balance keeping our community safe whilst ensuring everyone's wellbeing. Students have settled into classes remarkably well and we are ever so proud of them.

This term has already seen some brilliant learning taking place for both students and staff, kicking off with our INSET around our vision, our Granta core values and our curriculum offer. Students have taken part in exciting activities to get to know their new classes and learning has begun on their

Recovery Curriculum topic for the term.

Whilst we cannot hold a MacMillan Coffee Morning this year, we are still endeavouring to fundraise for this truly worthwhile cause so on September 25th we will be holding a non-uniform day where students should bring in a £1 donation which will go directly to the charity. We are also looking forward to a Spooky Fancy Dress Day at the end of this half-term, so keep your eyes peeled for more information!

**Ruchi Datta, Head teacher**



## Play skills in Key Stage 2

Penguins are very happy to welcome two new children to our class. We have had lots of fun making pretend items to sell in our bakery using playdoh during play skill time. We have also been really enjoying our new Duplo set in the classroom.



## On the building site in Key Stage 1

We have had a great start to the term in Racoon class. In our topic this month we are learning about building sites and children have engaged in a range of activities. They have built towers from bricks and even made one with pasta shapes and string. I wonder which one will stand the longest. They have learnt about how to keep safe on site wearing hard hats and florescent jackets, and practiced drilling with our power tools.

Panda class have been having fun learning about 3d shaps in our maths lessons.



## Mindfulness tip of the month

Ever seen the Stop, Breathe and Think Meditation app? The app includes lots of meditation exercises and starts right from the basics, to support both adults and children alike to take the time to stop, check in with yourself and how you are feeling and practise breathing techniques to allow for space between thoughts and reactions. The app has lots of areas, including sections for ADHD, anxiety, soothing animated videos and a set of sessions called "Sleepy Time for Kids" to create a mindful bedtime routine.

## E-safety tip of the month: Be App Aware!



We are living in the age of social media and we know that our young people are keen to get online earlier than ever before! To help keep your child safe online, we'd like to introduce you to the Qustodio App. It's free for controlling just one device and designed for parents to be able to supervise and manage their child's device use. You can download it onto their phone, ipad and/or desktop (you have to pay for more than device) and then manage those devices from your own Smartphone. You can block content and games, set time limits on apps or the internet and view their calls and texts.





## Settling in and learning new routines Key Stage 3

Seahorse Class have had a fantastic start to the year, focusing on settling in, learning new routines and wellbeing. We have engaged in a range of activities linked with 'The Three Little Pigs'. In Science we've been exploring which objects move using balloon pumps and hairdryers.

Starfish class have been busy working on our story 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. We have enjoyed activities such as creative story writing, collaborative art work, exploring light and dark and of course making and sampling different lunch choices.

Dolphin Class have focused on adapting to the changes in environment, routines and relationships within school and building self-esteem, identity and personal feelings. Much of our work has been based around a text 'Only One You'

## The Ocean in Key Stage 4

KS4 have been learning about the Ocean. Great fun was had in Science as we excavated some fish from the frozen ice. Both Jellyfish and Coral class loved it and the students were really focused with their work. Jellyfish have also had a fabulous outside maths lesson. Omar, Katy and Kieran found sticks and worked out how they could be arranged to make the tallest tower. They then measured it to see how tall it was.



## Fitzebra and the new school year

In Fitzebra we have enjoyed being back with our friends again and we have been re-connecting with each other. We are also very excited to have been able to try out our new 'Magic Carpet' and work out how moving our bodies can change the sounds and pictures on the floor.

## Diary dates

- **25th September Macmillan**  
Non Uniform day, £1 donation
- **23rd October**  
Spooky Fancy Dress Day
- **26th October - 30th October**  
Half Term
- **26th November**  
Virtual Parents Evening



## Welcome to Key stage 5

Darwin class have settled back into sixth-form well. In PSD, they have been thinking about what makes a great Darwin student. They have been reflecting on what their strengths are and areas they need to develop.

## Duke of Edinburgh awards

This year we have 16 students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh awards which is our biggest group to date!

The current bronze students are due to complete their expedition in October and will then move onto their silver award. Our newest student group have got off to a great start and have been developing their skills in craft making. These will be put to good use closer to christmas, when we will have homemade christmas decorations and cards for sale. Watch this space for updates. The current gold group are continuing to develop their physical fitness and map reading skills in preparation for their expedition in the Lakes next summer.

