

BG Update 9th October 2026



PARENTAL CALENDAR

HEAD'S UPDATE

I have described this week as the time it feels like the treadmill is up to speed and we are fully into the rhythms of the new academic year. One of our priorities this year is enforcing our [new uniform policy](#) properly, including correct shoes. Our teachers have been asked to be in touch with families where this is not the case. We know that sports clubs can complicate this but hope that expectations have been made clear - if there is any doubt, please speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you to the vast majority of people who support us in maintaining standards in the school.

This week has been a special one as we celebrate Harvest with our KS1 and 2 children. There have been three fantastic services to enjoy with reflections on learning, poems, prayers and wonderful singing. We have also been overwhelmed by the donations we have received for Paula's Pantry at St Marks Church and the foodbanks run by the Dons Local Action Group. The Dons will be collecting their donations on Monday and Paula sent the following message having collected her donations: *"A huge and heartfelt thank you for your Harvest donations to the St Mark's Parish Pantry. Your immense generosity is a wonderful example of Christian love in action and helps us support local individuals and families with food, hope, and dignity when they need it most. Food poverty is often hidden in our community, and your gifts truly make a difference, helping us share God's blessings with others."*

On Tuesday, we hosted an open evening to describe the vision of the school to our new parents and carers in Nursery, Reception and Year 1. I discussed the impact that parent generosity has had through the donations to the school fund. As a school, we have spent over £364,000 on renovations and improvements - a large part of which is from donations to our school fund and FOBG. This money doesn't include other investments like supplementing trips and supporting our school library. I hope all parents and carers enjoyed the wine and nibbles and found the talk interesting. If anyone is keen to contribute to our school fund, you can do so [here](#).

It's been another busy and successful week of sport at BG! On Wednesday, our Year 5 and 6 Hockey development squads headed to Harris Academy Morden for the MSSP development competition. All four squads remained undefeated across their three groups, earning themselves Gold Certificates! An outstanding achievement and a testament to the hard work the children have put into developing their hockey skills. And today, our Year 5 and 6 Girls' Football development squads took to the pitch for their MSSP development competition. The results were a little more mixed this time around, but the girls made up for it with fantastic energy, brilliant teamwork and plenty of enthusiasm. They supported one another throughout and represented BG with distinction. There was also a choir trip to Kings to prepare for a concert we will be involved in with children at Kings and some other Merton Primary Schools.

Tomorrow marks World Mental Health Day, which we have discussed in school today and was the theme of our Celebration Worship this morning. An independent review published today, chaired by leading clinical psychologist Professor Peter Fonagy, has found that mental distress has increased substantially among children and young people. This is driven by factors including social media, financial insecurity, increased uncertainty about the future, poorer sleep, and reduced feelings of connection and belonging. This is why it is vital that as a school, we firstly address mental health and support our children in recognising low mood but more importantly, it gives us further reason to develop and grow our approach to belonging so that every child and their family knows that they belong in our school and are welcome. In Celebration Worship, we read "[The Grand Hotel of Feelings](#)," by Lidia Brankovic which is a FANTASTIC book about how feelings manifest in our bodies. You can listen to Mrs Harris, our school librarian, read the story [here](#). I highly recommend it. We then handed out our certificates to our deserving winners this week! Have a wonderful weekend.



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WORD ROOT OF THE WEEK

Did you know...?

Our word “question” comes from the Latin word “quaerere”, meaning “to look for/seek/ask”.

The Latin word “quis?”, meaning “who?”, which many of you are learning in Latin, is from the same root word as well.

Other words in English which also come from this root are: query, inquisitive, inquest, request, inquiry, and quest.



AMAZON WISHLISTS

[Nursery Amazon Wishlist](#)

[Reception Amazon Wishlist](#)

[Year 1 Amazon Wishlist](#)

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