

GASPA Spring fundraising



AGM, Easter trail, uniform
Sale, egg decorating
competition & much more!

Welcome back!

Welcome back to school everyone and welcome to our latest GASPA newsletter which is packed with fun ideas for the Easter holidays and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Winter term fundraising, we raised almost £5,300, an EGGcellent achievement. A special thank you to Stears Greengrocers whose annual Christmas tree donations raised £225!



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Catherine Pearce for her amazing work as our mini GASPA lead. Catherine is planning to step down in September and we are now looking for someone to take over this role. Please do speak to any of the committee or Catherine about taking on this fun and rewarding role.

We will be holding our AGM on 22nd April and invite you all to join us (virtually) for this meeting. Details will be sent out via ParentMail in due course. We will be discussing fundraising events and activities to support the Grand Build.

Don't forget you can donate to GASPA at anytime via

<http://easydonate.org/WISH2020>

We really do hope to plan some in person fundraising as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, have a wonderful break and stay safe and well.

Lucy Richards, GASPA Chair

Grand Easter Trail



Download our family trail map for just £3, and enjoy walking around Berrylands, spotting bunnies to solve Park Ranger Elliot's carrot crime mystery. Running from **Thursday 1 to Friday 16 April**, buy your trail at www.pta-events.org/gaspa & print copies for all those taking part. Every family that completes the trail is entered into a special prize draw to win a family prize. It's circular (buggy friendly) route so you can begin at any point.

GASPA AGM

It's that time again - we welcome all parents and carers to join our virtual GASPA AGM on **Thursday 22 April (8- 9pm)** on zoom. The meeting agenda and zoom details will be shared via 'parent mail' and also your class whatsapp groups. At the meeting you will hear an update from Mrs Barrington and discuss fundraising ideas and upcoming plans. Please show your support for the school charity pop the date in your diary to come along!



Our chair Lu will be channelling Jackie Weaver!

Mini GASPA Egg Decorating Competition

The decoration of eggs is believed to date back to at least the 13th century, and eggs have been a symbol of spring since ancient times. So, this Easter holiday we are running a very special art competition.

We are so EGGcited to see your EGGcellent creations be as clever, quirky and creative as you like!

Here are a few photos to get you thinking! We will award two prizes for each key stage plus a prize for the best egg pun!

Full details will be shared through parent mail and through the classes - you have all the Easter Holidays to make your masterpiece!





Bag 2 School

**Tuesday
30th March**

When: During morning drop off.

Where: Please leave bags at the bottom of the main school gate, on the grass verge.

How: All bags should be tied in a double knot.

Why: Bag 2 School is an easy and free fundraising solution.

Thanks very much for your help!

Bag 2 School accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

**Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
Handbags, Hats, Bags
Scarves and ties
Jewellery
Lingerie, Socks, Belts
Soft toys
Household linen, Household curtains, Household towels
Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers only)**

Ideas for Easter fun

While most of us have a little more freedom this Easter break, it's not back to normal so we've so we have scanned the internet for more ideas to keep you occupied this holiday.

1. Check out a podcast - one of our favourites is Homeschool History presented by Horrible Histories' Greg Jenner.

2. Host a movie night at home - our Easter - based film recommendations are Hop, Peter Rabbit (and its sequel), Zootopia, Rise of Guardians and The Prince of Egypt!

3. Support GASPA - pick up our Easter trail and find the carrot-munching culprit, or enter the egg decorating competition.

4. Bake your own hot cross buns - maybe you could even give some to a friend or family member as a Spring gift.

5. Spring is the time lambs, frogspawn and caterpillars appear - go for a nature walk now the weather is warmer. Check out this link for tips <https://getthekidsoutside.com/hiking-with-kids!>

6. Get creative with silk clay - try YouTube for step by step tutorials on how to use air dry clay to make everything from dragons to unicorns.

7. Try out geocaching - we discovered one of the very first caches in the world (from 2001) in Berrylands!

8. Visit Kew Gardens - to celebrate Dennis the Menace's birthday, you can discover a brand-new comic strip and take an interactive story trail around the Gardens.

9. Take a seat - use the Sustrans National Cycle Network to plan a cycle route or maybe try horse riding now restrictions have relaxed a little.

10. Head to the beach - It might be a bit chilly for a dip in the sea but Easter is still a great time to be on the coast. Discover the creatures found in a rock pool (and maybe even catch a crab) or hunt for fossils on the seashore. You can also see how high you can fly a kite on the beach, create some wild art from shells and driftwood, enjoy the waves from a canoe or delve inside coastal caves.

Share your holiday activities with @GASPAOrg and inspire your school mates too.

Support GASPA by shopping!

Take few moments to set up easyfundraising.org and Amazon Smile to raise money for the school charity GASPA.



To set up an account, go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gaspa/. Select Grand Avenue School Parents Association (GASPA) - Surbiton as your cause and then go to easyfundraising before you shop to raise a % of your shop for the school. You can also add an easyfundraising widget/ extension to your browser.



Amazon Smile is a simple way to support GASPA - every time you shop with Amazon - at no cost to you. For every eligible purchase you make, Amazon gives 0.5% of the purchase to your school charity GASPA- it really is that easy!

Here's how to do it

- Instead of shopping through the main Amazon site, go to smile.amazon.co.uk
- Nominate the charity you would like to support. We are listed as Grand Avenue School Parents Association
- Start shopping!
- Bookmark 'smile.amazon.co.uk' to help you remember.

If you use the Amazon App

- Update to the latest version of the Amazon App
- Open the App and find settings in the main menu
- Tap on 'Amazon Smile' and switch to on
- Check that 'Grand Avenue School Parents Association' is selected as your chosen charity and follow on screen instructions
- For App donations, currently you will need to renew your charity every 6 months.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

**Thursday 15 April
(10.30am - 12.30pm)**

To make the sale as safe as possible, and to avoid crowds, we are asking buyers to book a slot to view uniform at the sale using this link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grand-avenue-uniform-sale-tickets-146673663877>.

This system will also help us match customers with the donated stock we have.

We will be collecting uniform donations (clean and in good condition please) at the lower school gate from 29 - 31 March (box provided).

Grab a handmade scrunchie (just £2) from our website too www.pta-events.org/gaspa. Now available in gingham!



Spring nature detectives

We asked The Friends of Berrylands Nature Reserve what Grand Avenue children could look out for on walks this holiday...

First up, can you find some frogspawn? Frogs lay their spawn in still water so the wildlife pond in Berrylands Nature Reserve now has plenty of spawn. It takes about 12 weeks for the spawn to develop into tadpoles so it will still be there over Easter.

There are plenty of waterfowl to see and hear at the moment along the river: ducks, moorhens, coots, herons and even kingfishers (though you have to be eagle-eyed with a kingfisher as they move very fast along the river). Watch the heron - can you imitate it's walk?

There are flocks of green parakeets, and larger birds like crows, jays and magpies. Even a large pheasant has been spotted in Elmbridge Meadows recently! There are plenty of smaller birds too - starlings, robins, blue tits, great tits and sparrows - can you stand very still and listen to their different songs?

In terms of plants, willow is looking great at the moment. The stems have different colours and they are just coming into leaf. Pussy Willow (also known as Goat Willow) has incredible fluffy catkins.

On the ground there are yellow Marsh Marigold flowers. Cow Parsley has interesting leaves and is just starting to come into flower. Lords and Ladies have arrow-shaped leaves - sometimes with patterns on them. Can you find and identify these plants?

Round spikey ball-like seed heads from Burdock still remain. Did you know that these were the inspiration for Velcro? Back in the 1940s the Swiss engineer George de Mestral noticed that they kept affixing themselves to the fur of his dog when they went out for walks and were very tricky to remove! On the subject of sticky plants, Cleavers are just starting to grow. Also known as Sticky Willy - it is notorious for sticking to clothing too. Happy spotting!



Marsh Marigolds



Willow



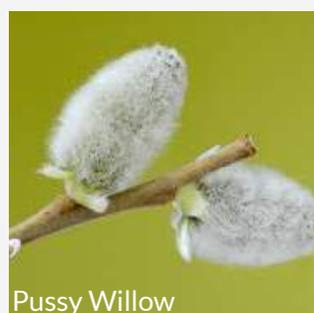
Kingfisher



Heron



Cleavers



Pussy Willow



After 9 months as undisputed champions of **Strehtag** (<https://strehtag.co.uk>) we now have some very stiff competition with another school, and they streaking ahead!

Time to dust off your apps, upload your steps and get tagging.

The scheme has raised money for Grand Avenue and it can continue to do so but it takes a group effort. If you haven't already joined please go to the app and scan the Q Code (pictured left). Or even better share a referral code with your class mates and earn more even more points!

DIARY DATES

- **Bag2School** Tuesday 30 March 8.30AM
- **Easter Trail** Thursday 1 - Friday 16 April
- **Uniform Sale** Thursday 15 April (10.30 - 12.30)
- **Mini GASPA Egg Decorating Competition** All entries recieved by Friday 23 April
- **GASPA AGM (on Zoom)** Thursday 22 April (8-9pm)