



# Newsletter

## Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham

Strive, Learn, Grow in our Community

HELLO  
SPRING



### Message from our teachers



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to our February/March newsletter. This has been a very eventful month and we are very excited to share everything with you!

Once again, our school had the honour to participate in the annual royal Commonwealth service in Westminster Abbey.

With it being mother's day, for the second year in a row, we had the pleasure of celebrating the lovely mother's of our school at an afternoon tea party at the Belfry Hotel.

Additionally, we celebrated the significant annual 25th of March, 1821 Greek Independence Day, the 1st of April and the memorial service of Evagoras Pallikaridis and Grigorios Afxentiou.

Furthermore, The children engaged in various activities as they celebrated Clean Monday, the last day of apokries and the beginning of the Christian Orthodox lent.

Spring is definitely in the air, which means sunnier days lie ahead and both staff and children have been making the most of it.

All these, while we have continued to celebrate the fabulous achievements of our children and we couldn't be more proud of all the effort and hard work they demonstrate.

We hope you enjoy reading about what the children have been doing!

Warm regards,  
Evi Platsi & Sonia Phoca



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## WHAT'S ON



## ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

Έφτασ' η ώρα Άνοιξη —το λεν τα χελιδόνια—  
κι ο εκυθρωπός Χειμώνας εκίνησε να φύγει:  
του στέλνει κείνη λούλουδα, αυτός τής ρίχνει  
χιόνια,

και με τ' αθώο γέλιο της τα δάκρμά του  
εμίξει. Στο γαλανό παλάτι του ο Φοίβος  
τριγυρίζει

και, χύνοντας, αλόβιστα ολόχρυσες αχτίδες,  
ε' ό,τι στο δρόμο του βρεθεί το χρώμα του  
χαρίζει

κι αφήνει πίσω του χαρά και άβυσσες  
ελπίδες.

Τα δέντρα πρασινίσανε και γιόμισαν  
λουλούδια:

του πιστικού ακούγεται η γέριχη φλογέρα  
να ειδοώνει άφραστα κάθε πρωί τραγούδια,  
και τα πουλιά να κελαηδούν τον ύμνο τους  
στη μέρα.

Παντού ζεχύνετ' η χαρά. Μόνον εσύ, μικρή  
μου,

βλέπεις τις τόσες ομορφιές με μάτια  
δακρυσμένα.

Έλα να βρεις παρηγοριά ετ' ολόθερμο φιλί  
μου!

Επρόβαλε η Άνοιξη! Ξέχνα τα περασμένα!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- GREEK ORTHODOX EASTER: 12/4 - 26/4
- EU AMBASSADROS TRIP TO BRUSSELS-Euroscola  
Event 28/4-30/4
- MAY DAY FESTIVAL: 5/5
- CYPRUS CAMP VISIT: 5/5 - 11/5

## EXAM DATES

### ELLINOMATHEIA EXAMS LEVELS A1-G2:

- 20/5, 21/5, 22/5

### A LEVEL

- PAPER 1: 19/5
- PAPER 2: 03/6
- PAPER 3: 13/6

### GCSE

- SPEAKING: 14/5
- READING & LISTENING: 12/6
- WRITING: 19/6

Κώστας Καρυωτάκης  
Άνοιξη





# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

**NURS. & REC.**  
Eftihia K.

**YEAR 1** ✨  
Evangelos K.  
Alexandros S.

**YEAR 1 ADV. & 2**  
Max N.  
Nicodemus N. ✨  
Aggelos Ch.  
Vasilis N.  
Penelope E.

**YEAR 3**  
Leo T.  
Savvas P.

**YEAR 4**  
Stefania Ch.  
Andonis D.

**YEAR 6 & GCSE** ✨  
Elina K.  
Yiorgos K.  
Eraclia P.  
Anysia B.  
Anna G.

**A LEVELS & ELLINOMATHEIA** ✨  
B1: Katerina M.  
B2: Loukas G.

## ART COMPETITION GREEK EMBASSY AWARDS:

1. Adrian Kurdali Y3
2. Leonidas Elia Y5
3. Michaela Ioannou Y3
4. Philip Goldingay Y3
5. Christina Christou Y7
6. Anastasia Archontis Soultana Y3

WELL DONE







# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES





# Mother Language Day Festival

What a spectacular celebration of language, culture, and heritage at the Mother Language Day Festival at the REP on Saturday, 22nd February 2025!

With vibrant performances from community schools across the West Midlands, the festival was a true testament to the beauty of multiculturalism. Once again, GSAT shone brightly, delivering an outstanding performance that captivated the audience!

A huge congratulations to our talented children who took part and made this event even brighter: Antonis (reciting POLIS by Cavafy), Thea, Lydia, Kyriaki, Rafaela, Christina, Thea, Anna Maria—your dedication and passion made us all proud!

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible teachers and adult dancers: Fattas, Dimitris, Sotiria, Sylvania, Panos, Maria—your energy and commitment brought our performance to life!

Special appreciation to our Dance Teacher, Mr. Dimitris Themistokleous, for his fantastic choreography, and to our Headteacher, Dr. S. Tryfonos, for leading and coordinating our school's participation so brilliantly!

Thank you to everyone who made this event unforgettable! Until next year—let's continue celebrating the richness of our languages and cultures!







# Annual Memorial

## GRIGORIS AFXENTIOU & EVAGORAS PALLIKARIDES

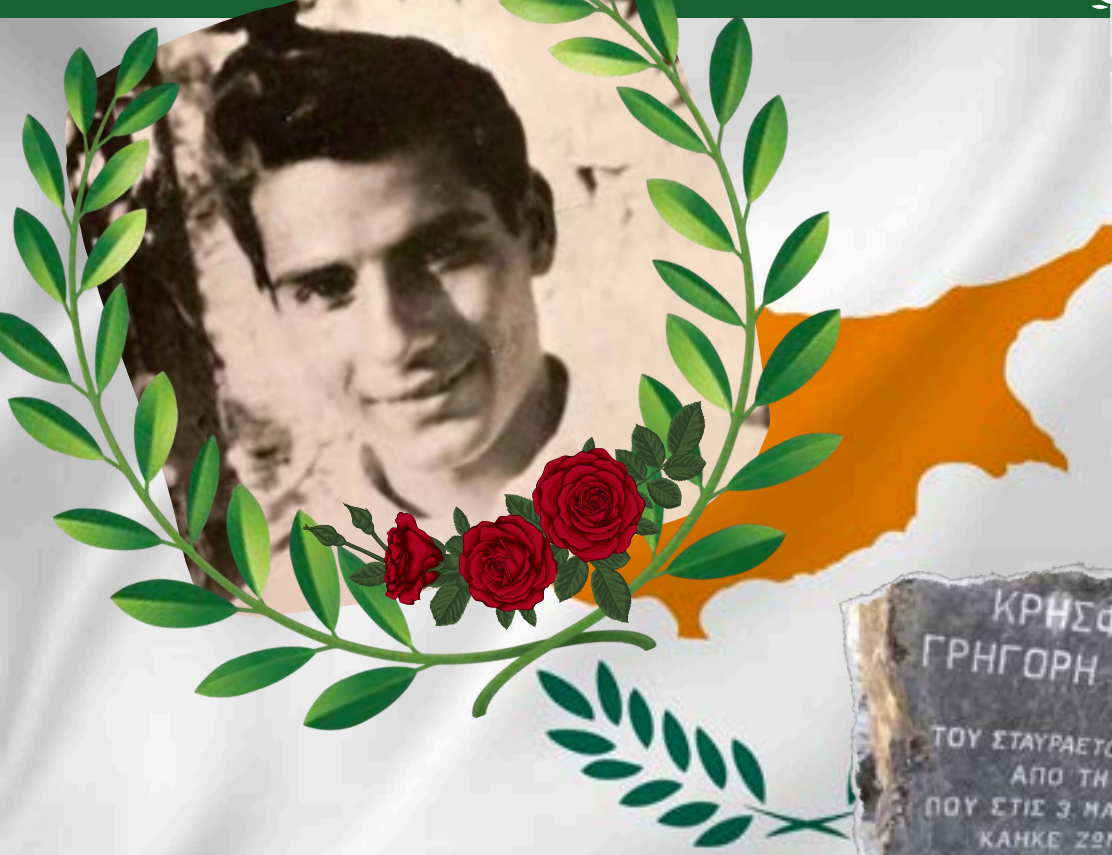
Grigoris Afxentiou and Evagoras Pallikarides were both Greek-Cypriot revolutionaries involved in the 1955-1959 campaign against British rule in Cyprus, with Afxentiou being a leader in the EOKA organization and Pallikarides a poet and member of EOKA who was executed for firearms possession.

Born on February 26, 1938 in the village of Tsada in the Paphos District, Evagoras Pallikaridis was the last and the youngest hero of the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA) to be hanged by the English colonists.

At his trial on February 25th of the same year, Evagoras did not allow his lawyers to defend him and admitted his guilt, saying, "I know you will hang me. Whatever I did, I did it as Greek Cypriot who seeks his freedom. Nothing else".

Grigoris Afxentiou is a national hero in Cyprus, as he was one of the most prominent fighters in the 1955-1959 EOKA struggle to liberate the island from British colonial rule and unite Cyprus with Greece.

Afxentiou was one of the leaders of the revolutionary group, and his death served as a reminder of Cyprus's painful struggle for freedom. It was March 3, 1957 when the iconic Cypriot hero was burned alive by British troops during the four-year war for the liberation of Cyprus from British rule. His death, after holding out against surrounding British soldiers for 10 hours all by himself, in the Battle of Machairas, has become an illustrious and tragic page in Cypriot history.







Θ' ακολουθήσω με θάρρος τη μοίρα μου. Ίσως αυτό να ναι το τελευταίο μου γράμμα. Μα πάλι δεν πειράζει. Δεν λυπάμαι για τίποτα. Ας χάσω το κάθε τι. Μια φορά κανείς πεθαίνει. Θα βαδίσω χαρούμενος στην τελευταία μου κατοικία. Τι σήμερα τι αύριο; Όλοι πεθαίνουν μια μέρα. Είναι καλό πράγμα να πεθαίνει κανείς για την Ελλάδα. Ώρα 7:30. Η πιο όμορφη μέρα της ζωής μου. Η πιο όμορφη ώρα. Μη ρωτάτε γιατί.

Ευαγόρας Παλληκαρίδης







# Westminster Abbey Annual Commonwealth Service



The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent countries, almost all of which were formerly under British rule. Today, they make up a remarkable organisation which remains a major force for change in the world today.

The Commonwealth works to promote democracy, good governance, peace, human rights, and the rule of law, as well as to boost trade and the economy, and to support small states.



Each year, Commonwealth Day provides a day for member nations to celebrate all that they have achieved, individually and together.

The theme for Commonwealth Day 2025 was "Together We Thrive," highlighting the importance of working together to build a future defined by opportunity and resilience.



For the past decade our school has played an active part in the Royal Commonwealth Society, and this year, once again, we were invited to attend the festivities at Westminster Abbey, alongside King Charles, Queen Camilla and the Prime Minister.

It was a remarkable experience for the students and teachers who attended, offering them a unique opportunity to witness and engage with the rich cultural diversity of the Commonwealth community and promote the values of unity and mutual respect amongst nations.







# Westminster Abbey Annual Commonwealth Service



## 2025 Student Participants

Dimitris Valsamakis  
Zacharias Karafillidis  
Christina Demetriou  
Skevi Nicolaou  
Sawas Kyriakou  
Anysia Barton

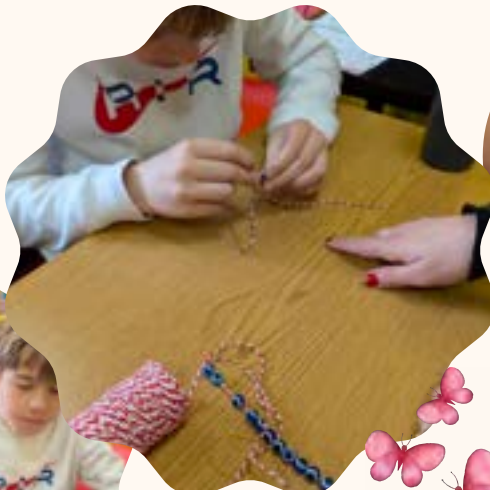
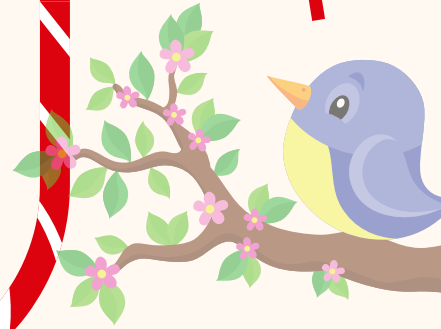




# 1η Μαρτίου

On Saturday, March 1st the staff and children made "Μαρτάκια" and welcome spring with this beautiful Greek tradition. Martakia or Martis is a bracelet made of red and white twisted thread, symbolizing protection and good health. The custom originates from ancient Greece, where people believed that wearing it would protect them from the strong March sun and prevent sunburn. People, especially children, wear this bracelet throughout the month. In some regions, the bracelet is removed on Easter Saturday and placed on branches for the birds to take and make a nest.

The children enjoyed this thoroughly and got very creative while making their Martakia!





# CLEAN MONDAY

## Καθαρά Δευτέρα

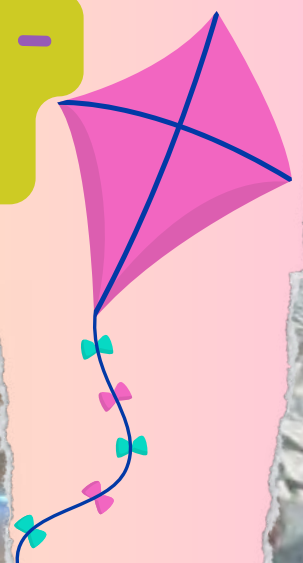
On Monday, March 3rd both students and teachers celebrated Clean Monday. This is a significant holiday in both Greece and Cyprus that marks the beginning of Great Lent. It falls 48 days before the Orthodox Easter and is a day of spiritual and physical cleansing.

Fasting begins on this day, a period of avoiding meat, dairy and eggs. Traditional foods include λαγάνα, ταραμοσαλάτα, ελιές, ντολμαδάκια and χαλβά. Clean Monday marks the end of the carnival period and is traditionally celebrated by family time outdoors having picnics and flying kites as the solemn period of Lent begins. Our students made traditional Κυρία Σαρακοστή figures and mask to help with the countdown to the Easter holidays.





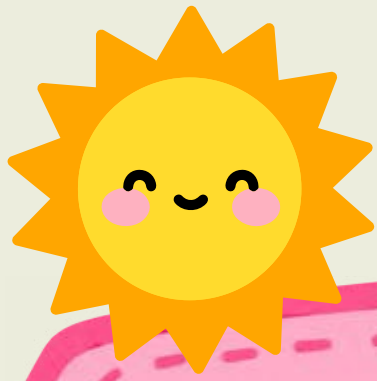
Καθαρά Δευτέρα -  
CLEAN MONDAY



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# A TRIP TO THE LAKE



On Saturday, March 8th as the sun graced us with it's warm presence, we took the opportunity for a refreshing and relaxing walk to the park.

With smiles on their faces the children enjoyed this fun-filled walk. The outing of course was more than just a walk and the excitement grew as they reached the park where they enjoyed plenty of playtime and laughter.

It was such a beautiful scene watching them play altogether and embrace the chance to bond with their freinds.





ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ  
ΕΛΛΑΔΑ!

# 25η Μαρτίου 1821



On Saturday, March 22nd, our school proudly celebrated the Greek Independence Day honouring the heroes of 1821 and celebrating the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

The event began with a parade where all year groups, from nursery up to GCSE marched proudly to honour their ancestors. The celebration continued in the church and all our students charmed the audience with a historical narration, poems, songs and a theatrical play. Dressed in traditional costumes they took us back to 1821, reminding us the courage and sacrifice of those heroes.

This day, however, was also a commemoration of April 1st honouring the heroes of EOKA, the bravery and sacrifice of the Cypriot fighters who fought for freedom from British rule (1955-1959). As we remembered the sacrifices of EOKA fighters, we were inspired to carry their values of courage and hope into the future.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their dedication in honouring such a remarkable and important day for our nation!

Ζήτω οι ήρωες  
του '21!







# Mother's day afternoon tea

On Saturday, March 29th the headteacher and ladies of the management board of our school, warmly welcomed our lovely mothers to a delightful afternoon tea. The event, held at the Belfry Hotel, was a beautiful tribute to the love and dedication of mothers, filled with laughter, heartfelt moments and delicious treats.

A massive thank you to all for attending this event and for their generosity as £470 were raised through fundraising efforts. The funds will be used to support the estia and a family from our school.

The afternoon tea for Mother's day was a huge success, leaving everyone with cherished moments. Happy Mother's Day to all the amazing mums of our communtiy.







# OUR SCHOOL LIFE





Children from GSAT enthusiastically participated in the Greek Embassy's drawing competition, "Journey to Greece", showcasing their creativity and love for art. Their vibrant artworks beautifully captured the essence of Greek culture, history, and landscapes, reflecting their talent and imagination.

# Journey to Greece



Theodosia D. y3



Leonidas E y5



Alexandros E. y3



Vasilis K. year 3



Vasilis K. y3



Thea G. y3



Katia R. y3



Michaela I. y3



Adrian K y3



Annamaria I. y3



Anastasia A S. y3



Stefanos I. y3

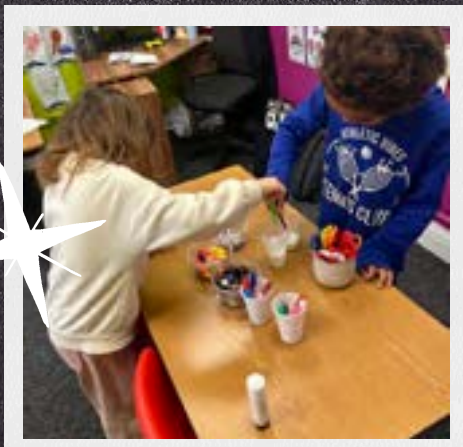


Evdokia A. y3



Philip G. y3

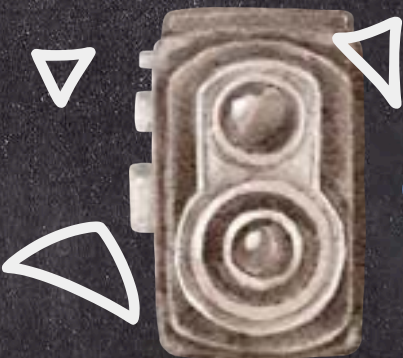
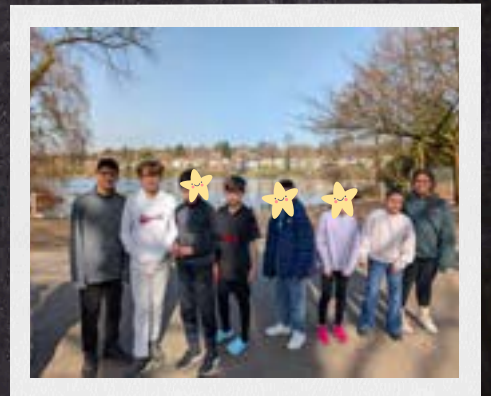
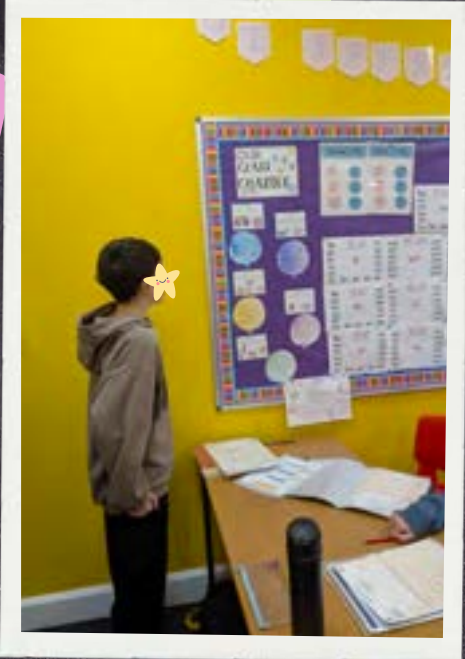








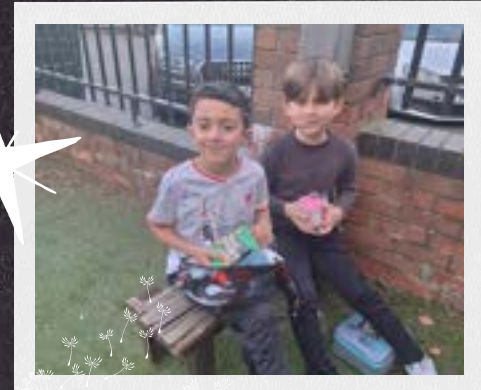
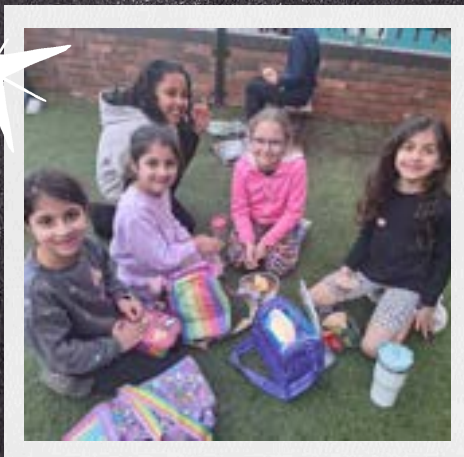
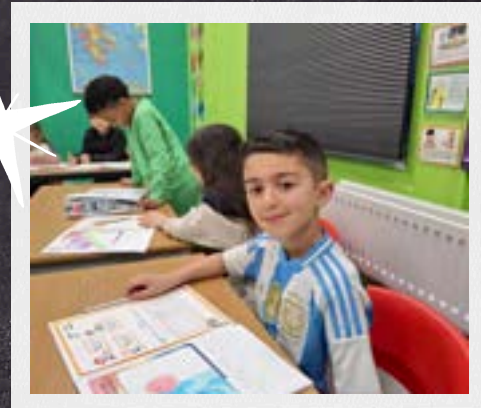
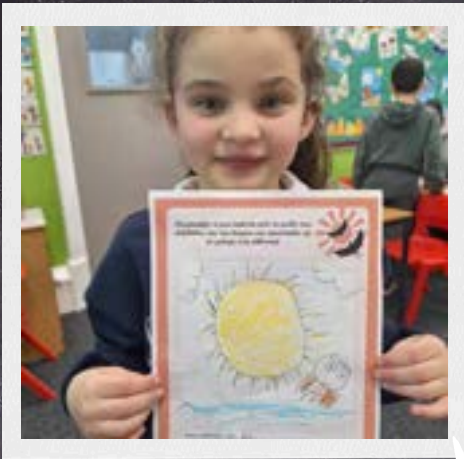




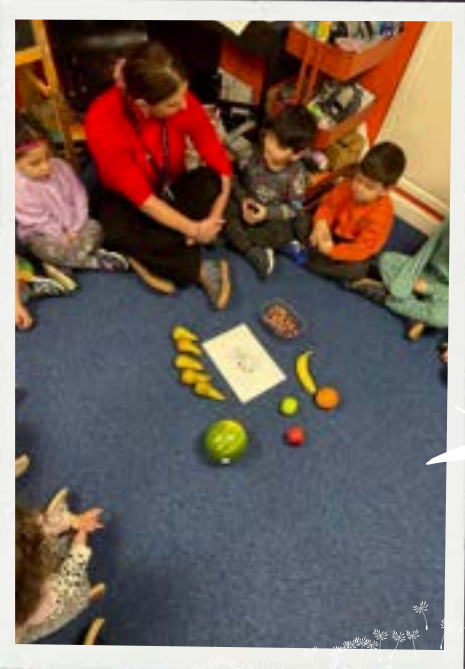
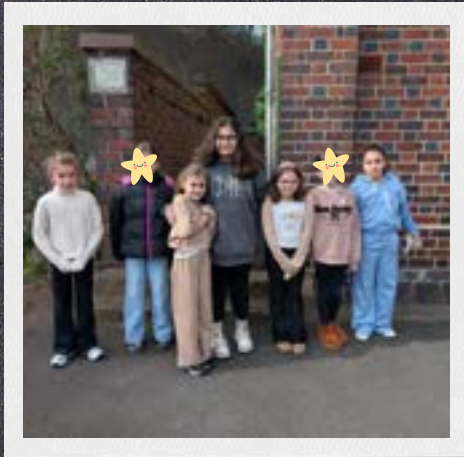
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# Dance Groups

This year our school has been running dance classes led by our Dance Teachers Mrs Sotiria Karafillides and Mr Dimitris Themistokleous.

Dance classes are on Monday 19:30-20:30 for our students, Tuesdays from 18:30-19:00 for the children and then 19:00-20:00 for adults, and on Saturday we also run two groups: one for the school children from 14:00-15:00 (which is for two different age groups) and then from 15:00-16:00 for adults dance group.

It's amazing to see that this year our dance classes are flourishing and both children and adults are enjoying them.

Anyone interested in dance classes can contact our school directly or the class teachers. We are always happy to welcome new students








# HISTORY & CULTURE






# Greek Independence Day


## 25th March



The Greek Revolution of 1821 was a big moment in Greek history when the Greek people fought to break free from the rule of the Ottoman Empire, which had controlled them for centuries. This wasn't just about fighting - it was also about Greeks coming together to reclaim their language, culture, and identity. It showed that when people unite for a common cause, they can overcome even the toughest challenges.



The Filiki Eteria, also known as the Society of Friends, was a secret organization founded in 1814 with the aim of liberating Greece from Ottoman rule. It played a significant role in laying the groundwork for the Greek Revolution of 1821. The Filiki Eteria was founded by three Greek merchants: Nikolaos Skoufas, Emmanuel Xanthos, and Athanasios Tsakalof.



The heroes and heroines of the Greek War of Independence are immortalized not only for their valour on the battlefield but also for their unwavering commitment to the ideals of freedom and justice.

Among them stand iconic figures such as Alexandros Ypsilantis, Andreas Miaoulis, Manto Mavroyenous and Theodoros Kolokotronis, whose strategic brilliance and fearless leadership inspired countless others to join the fight for independence. Laskarina Bou Boulina, a legendary naval commander, symbolizes the indomitable spirit of the Greek people, leading her fleet against the Ottoman forces with unmatched courage and determination. Athanasios Diakos, revered as a martyr of the revolution, embodies the selflessness and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives in the pursuit of liberty.



# Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

25 MARCH

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ

Ὁ μέγας Στρατηγός, τῶν ἀύλων ταχυμάτων, εἰς πόλιν Ναζαρέτ,  
ἐπιστὰς Βασιλέα, μνηύει σοι Ἄχραντε, τῶν αἰώνων καὶ Κύριον·  
Χαῖρε, λέγων σοι, Εὐλόγημένη Μαρία, ἀκατάληπτον, καὶ  
ἀνερμήνευτον θαῦμα, βροτῶν ἢ ἀνάκλησις.

Τῆ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῶ τὰ  
νικητήρια, ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν  
δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, ἀναγράψω  
σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἄλλ' ὡς  
ἔχουσα τό κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον,  
ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων  
ἐλευθέρωσον, ἵνα κράζω σοι·  
Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

«Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ κύριος μετά σου».

«Μη φοβοῦ Μαριάμ, εὖρες γαρ χάριν  
παρά τῷ Θεῷ. Καὶ ἰδοὺ συλλήψῃ ἐν γαστρὶ  
καὶ τέξῃ υἱόν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα  
αυτοῦ Ἰησοῦν».

“Evangelismos tis Theotokou”, is a special celebration in the Orthodox Christian tradition. It commemorates the moment when the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God.

This joyful event is celebrated on March 25th each year and serves as a reminder of the importance of faith, obedience, and humility, as demonstrated by the Virgin Mary. Her willingness to accept God's plan with trust and devotion is celebrated as an example for all believers to follow.





## The Rights of the Child

As a bronze Rights Respecting school we are committed in upholding all rights of all children, all of the time.

Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham is proudly a Rights Respecting School.

The rights of the child are enshrined in the 'United Nations convention on the rights of a child,' which was adopted by the United Nations in 1989. The U.K signed the convention on 14th April 1990, ratified it on 16th December 1991 and it came into force on 15th January 1992. There are 54 articles.

### ARTICLE 12

Article 12 - every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously -

Article 12 of the UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child is important because it guarantees children the right to express their views on matters affecting them. It recognizes children as active participants in decisions that impact their lives, fostering their autonomy and confidence. By valuing children's opinions, this article helps create more inclusive, child-centered policies and ensures their voices are heard in all aspects of life.







Did you know?



Italy has the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites?



Italy boasts the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a testament to its rich historical and cultural legacy. These sites range from ancient Roman ruins to Renaissance art, reflecting Italy's profound impact on world history and culture.

Out of Italy's 60 heritage sites, 54 are cultural and 6 are natural!



Some of them are:

- Historic Centre of Rome
  - Venice and its Lagoon
  - Piazza del Duomo, Pisa
  - Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata
  - Mount Etna
- And so many others!



### Announcement



Exciting News for our School!

We are thrilled to announce that our school has been selected to participate in one of the prestigious EUROScola programmes! As part of this incredible opportunity, four of our Junior EU Ambassadors will be traveling to Brussels, fully funded, to represent our school and engage with European institutions. This is an amazing achievement for our students and a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the European Union and global diplomacy. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication!

Stay tuned for updates as they embark on this unforgettable journey! EU Ambassadors participating in this: Aggeliki Neofytou, Mariliz Thouki, Andrea Ellina, Kyriaki Panay



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