

# Smiths

## school report

### JIU JITSU

*The Roger Gracie Jiu Jitsu Academy  
visits Twinkle Stars Montessori.*

JULY 2022

ISSUE 04

### GRANGE PARK PREP'S OUTLOOK ON EDUCATION

### WE'RE HELPING ALL CHILDREN TO SHINE

*How St Monica's Primary School  
nurture the whole child.*

### SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER

*A huge thank you to our schools for  
their help in achieving Full Marks  
for School Uniform this year!*

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AND RECYCLE.  
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# CLASS OF 2022

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we have built is even stronger.  
We look forward to continuing  
to support your community of  
hard-working and diverse  
students for years to come.*





# Full marks for school uniform.

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*Growing well-rounded people and nurturing every part of the child.*





We were proud to attend Twinkle Stars Montessori this month for their annual Sports Day. The effort and skill that each student put in was astounding. We spent the day enjoying the sun, cheering each other on, enjoying some wonderful homemade iced coffee which our photographer loved, and sharing food of countless different cultures.

To support the nursery's big day, the Roger Gracie Jiu Jitsu Academy in Barnet came to do a Jiu Jitsu demonstration. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning the art of self defence! Also, Scott from Sporty Minis attended to run the races like clockwork and encourage everyone to take part.

We'd like to take a moment to thank Twinkle Stars Montessori for having us attend. It was a great opportunity to meet the staff and students. We hope to meet with the school in September to work on a few bigger photography projects!





# Twinkle Stars

MONTESSORI  
SPORTS DAY 2022





# Grange Park Preparatory

Built in 1924 alongside the station, Grange Park Preparatory School was originally commissioned to teach railway children. In Grange Park, the school was one of the first things to be built, with the surrounding terrain working around the few initial buildings. The house was for the headteachers (two sisters, Mary and Louise Billing) who used to live in the house and teach in the school. Since then, the

school has doubled and grown. Originally a mixed school, GPPS later converted to become an all-girls school. After opening a mixed nursery in 2015, the head teacher, Flavia Rizzo, said it opened our eyes to lack of mixed school in the area.





Later, parents asked for a mixed school and in 2018 the school became co-ed. This year was the last year with an all-girls year 6, hence next year the school will be fully co-ed as it looks forward to its 2024 centenary. The school have noticed that, even by introducing boys into the school, most didn't notice the difference on open days. The success of the school's transition is measured by the demographic of the years, being boy-heavy in the lower years. Today, more parents want a co-ed education because it's convenient to have one drop-off and pick-up.

Flavia continued that "I think it is more natural to be in a mixed environment during primary school", and that it is beneficial for children to interact with a diverse range of other children. The school currently has 136 pupils and 25 staff members. We asked Flavia what makes the school unique and she told us: "we don't have a specialist subject as such - we focus on the whole curriculum. One of the things parents say is that we give equal attention to every part of the curriculum, which a lot of state schools aren't able to do. This means we allow children to express themselves in non-academic ways at concerts and performances as we have music and drama specialist staff".

The school is non-selective and nurtures each child to reach their best ability. Flavia told us how the school don't believe in testing a 3 or 4-year-old. And once it's time for GPPS's students to transition into secondary school "we show them the schools that suit them and their parents. Some want to continue into a grammar school, some want to stay in an independent school, and others want to move into a stateschool environment. Whatever the case, they get a really good head-start before going to secondary".

"We are a small school so every member of staff knows every child. We do have a pastoral lead, but a child can talk to anybody. I have drop-ins sessions where they can talk to me. We know the children and their personalities, so we pick up on the little things. We operate a care diary: we fill it with the little things like someone crying in the playground. It helps us to keep every child on an even keel and if a child's name comes up a few times we know that we can step in and intervene," Flavia told us. With a maximum of 18 in a class, the children have a 1 teacher to 9 student ratio. "It's a family," Flavia continued, "we have buddy systems and the kids see each other as big sisters and brothers".

Inside and outside of school, it was clear that uniform was "extremely important" to the GPPS community "[our students] want to represent who we are and where we are from, and often students will say "someone stopped me in the street and said I went to that school" - the uniform has a historical identity and is an extension of what we are doing in the school".

"We reuse all our uniform and we are trying to go as paperless as possible and have nothing going home," Flavia told us of the school's environmental action. The school also had an eco-council where the children could be fully involved in making a positive impact on the environment.

Finally, we asked Flavia why she enjoyed being the headteacher at the school. Her answer was simply heartwarming "I think it's like being a part of a big family; it's a very happy school and the children are amazing. It's the staff and children that make the school what it is. I have brilliant children to work with and it makes a difference. They are happy and confident and we are so proud of them".





# Do you know about our Pre-Loved Scheme?



*\*We are so pleased that our Pre-Loved scheme has been such a success. Unfortunately, because of this, there may be times where we need to pause donations to allow our team to run down remaining Pre-Loved stock.*



1

## They Outgrow

If you have unwanted uniform laying around, don't let it go to landfill. Our Pre-Loved process rewards donating and buying customers.

2

## You Give Back

Customers can donate outgrown uniform in any of our stores, receiving £0.50 account credit per donated item.

3

## We Resell

As long as items are in a re-sellable condition, we list Pre-Loved items in our online shop ready for buying customers. Our Pre-Loved products are priced from only £0.50.

4

## We Deliver

However you want to collect - via delivery, click and collect in store, or from the school office - we'll get it sorted.

5

## They Succeed

Thank you for being part of the change. You've prevented thousands of items of clothing from going to landfill.





St Monica's Primary School was built in 1954 and originally started as a hut next to St Monica's Church designated for the parish's Catholic children. The parish priest was looking for local land big enough and not too far away in 1918, but it took decades for the building process to begin. The history of St Monica's Primary School extends through its family history of staff members who have either been pupils at the school themselves or worked at the school for generations and opt to bring their children to the school.

The tradition is that, as a Catholic school, Catholic children's applications take priority. "When I first came here," the Head Teacher, Kate Baptiste said, "the school was 100% Catholic. This has changed over time and mostly over the last two years. The current reception is 75% Catholic and next year's intake is, too. 25% of the new intake are of other faiths". At the moment, the school has 420 children and 55 members of staff.

"It's really varied working here,"

Mrs Baptiste said when we asked her why she liked working at the school, "I loved being a teacher - it was the best decision ever. Of course, it was a hard decision to come out of the

classroom, but being able to have an impact on learning on a bigger scale is a hugely rewarding responsibility". When we asked her what made the school unique, Mrs Baptiste said that, because the school is Catholic, the values of how students and staff treat each other create a nurturing feel in the school.

Hence, the culture is founded by its Catholic origins, with house teams named after saints who Mrs Baptiste told us "were ordinary people who did extraordinary things. We teach our students that they are capable of extraordinary things, too," Mrs Baptiste added. Throughout the entire curriculum, children achieve extraordinary things: the choir, strings group, ensembles, concerts, and an end-of-year production for year 6 are all examples of this.

St Monica's curriculum is broad and always puts the students' needs first. "We are a forest school which provides

an escape for our children: it's calming and good for their mental health" Mrs Baptiste mentioned. Having six qualified forest school teachers, the forest school is just one example of how the school gives all children a chance to shine. Not believing in the pressure of tests, the school have dubbed SATs 'Special Work'. Mrs Baptiste said "I want [our students] to leave the school with lovely memories and valuable life experiences."

"We have a pastoral leader, Mrs Tottle-Nugent, and one of her roles is behaviour; bad behaviour is a communication of need. For those that do not behave well - there is a reason behind that". Mrs Tottle-Nugent works alongside Mrs Roper, our Inclusion Manager. The school notices vulnerable students and Mrs Roper sources various charities and counselling, including talk and draw therapy (art-based therapy). By doing so, St Monica's Catholic Primary School helps students deal with different traumas including

parental separation and bereavement.

"We have a school dog, Willow, who belongs to Mrs Roper" Mrs Baptiste said, "so children who need extra support can go for walks and they have

a rota for lunchtime where they go to the cafe for hot chocolates". Beyond this, the school offers Lego therapy and speech and communication intervention as opportunities to develop friendships and behaviours.

To St Monica's, uniform is about keeping everyone on an even status, "we are all equal parts of our community," Mrs Baptiste said, "there's no stressing about what students need to wear". Because of the tie, Mrs Baptiste felt that the school's brand was recognisable - so much so that students are "ambassadors for the school".

## St Monica's Catholic Primary School





*"Saints were ordinary people who did extraordinary things. We teach our students that they are capable of extraordinary things, too."*





We were delighted to be invited to Broxbourne CE Primary School's Sports Day on 4th July 2022. The day was organised down to the minute, with teams alternating activities like clockwork while attempting to accrue as many house points as possible! Throughout the day, there was an atmosphere of team pride, with parents and teachers making their own team chants and encouraging the students to do their best. There were certainly some athletes in the crowd which stood out to us. Notably, these same children were awarded sports trophies at the end of the day. The entire day was a testament to the brilliant effort of students, staff, and volunteers and a great way to kick-start sports days following the COVID-19 pandemic.

# *Broxbourne* *Sports Day*







The day wasn't just fun for the kids, but the staff members also encouraged parents to get involved in a parents' race. The dads of the audience, in particular, took this very seriously as their children cheered them on in the audience!

At the awards ceremony, Broxbourne Secondary School students - alumni from the primary school - awarded the trophies to year 6 students. There was a great sense of legacy as each winning student was celebrated by the secondary school's attendees and the audience.



# *Ready, Set, Go!*

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank Broxbourne CE Primary School for having us on this special day. We look forward to taking part in more exciting projects with the school in the future!

- Smiths Schoolwear



# Smiths

*get in touch*



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