

Newsletter

Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham

Strive, Learn, Grow in our Community



2025
WINNER

June July

Message from our teachers



Wow! Where has the year gone?

It feels like only yesterday we were welcoming our children and families through our doors in September, with eager smiles, a few butterflies, and the excitement of a brand-new school year. Fast forward to today, and what an incredible journey it has been!

This has truly been a remarkable year—a year of learning, growth, friendships, achievements, and unforgettable experiences. Every child has travelled their own unique learning journey, beginning with small, sometimes shy, first steps that have blossomed into confidence, resilience, and success. It has been a privilege to watch our pupils transform into the shining stars they are today. As we reflect on the year, we ask ourselves: Where do we begin? There are simply so many wonderful memories to celebrate!

Our commitment as a European Parliament Ambassador School (EPAS) has taken our pupils on inspiring educational journeys, including memorable visits to London and Brussels, where learning came alive beyond the classroom walls. These experiences have empowered our young ambassadors to become active, informed, and responsible citizens of both Greece and Europe.

We are immensely proud of our achievements as a Rights Respecting School, celebrating the award of our Silver Accreditation while already embarking on the exciting journey towards the Gold Award. Our school continues to place children's rights, respect, inclusion, and participation at the very heart of everything we do.

Our talented dancers have gone from strength to strength, with our Growing Dance Groups bringing energy, passion, and pride to every performance. Through music and dance, our children have celebrated our rich Greek heritage while creating memories that will stay with them for years to come. Our participation in the Commonwealth celebrations at Westminster Abbey, our recognition through prestigious Education Awards, and our unforgettable educational camp in Crete have all added new chapters to our school's remarkable story.

Academically, our pupils have once again made us incredibly proud. From our youngest learners in Nursery taking their very first steps in the Greek language, to our students preparing for GCSE, A Level, and Ellinorathia examinations, every achievement represents countless hours of dedication, perseverance, and support from our exceptional teachers and families.

Throughout the year, we celebrated together all celebrations. Every celebration strengthened our identity, honoured our traditions, and reminded us of the importance of preserving our language, culture, and values for future generations. Perhaps one of the most historic moments of this school year was welcoming so many English schools to our Greek School for the very first time as part of our European Parliament Ambassador School Accreditation Ceremony. It was a truly landmark occasion that showcased not only the outstanding work of our students but also the warmth, hospitality, and excellence of our entire school community. It is an event that will undoubtedly remain one of the defining memories in the history of Ayia Triada Greek School.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our dedicated Management Board and Teaching Team, the continuous encouragement of our families, the support of our governors and community partners, and above all, the enthusiasm, determination, and curiosity of our wonderful pupils. Every success this year belongs to each and every one of you.

As another chapter comes to a close, we celebrate not only what we have accomplished but also the friendships formed, the confidence gained, the challenges overcome, and the dreams that have grown along the way.

To our pupils moving on to new adventures, we wish you every success and remind you that you will always remain part of the Ayia Triada family. To those returning in September, we cannot wait to welcome you back for another exciting year filled with new opportunities, new challenges, and even greater achievements.

For now, enjoy this special edition of our newsletter as we look back with pride on an extraordinary school year and celebrate the many moments that have made 2025-2026 one of the most memorable in the history of Greek School Ayia Triada. Have a wonderful summer, and thank you all for making this year so very special.

Καλό Καλοκαίρι! Have a fantastic summer!

Mr Dimitris Themistokleous, Mrs Natalia Tsikouri

CONTENTS

p2 Poem of the month-Upcoming events

p3 High Achievers Awards July 2026

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

p5 Father's Day

p6 Trip to Alton Towers

p8 EU Ambassador Schools Accreditation Ceremony Highlights

p12 Visit of Sweetpea in our Nursery Classes

p13 End of Year School Events

OUR SCHOOL LIFE

p15-22 Class photos

p 23 Dance Classes

CULTURE

p20-21 UNICEF-Rights Respecting School

p22 European Corner- Cyprus Presidency



ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

"Η πιο όμορφη θάλασσα" Ναζίμ Χικμέτ

Θα γελάσεις απ' τα βάθη των χερσών
σου ματιών

είμαστε μες στο δικό μας κόσμο

Η πιο όμορφη θάλασσα

είναι αυτή που δεν έχουμε ακόμα
ταξιδέψει

Τα πιο όμορφα παιδιά δεν έχουν
μεγαλώσει ακόμα

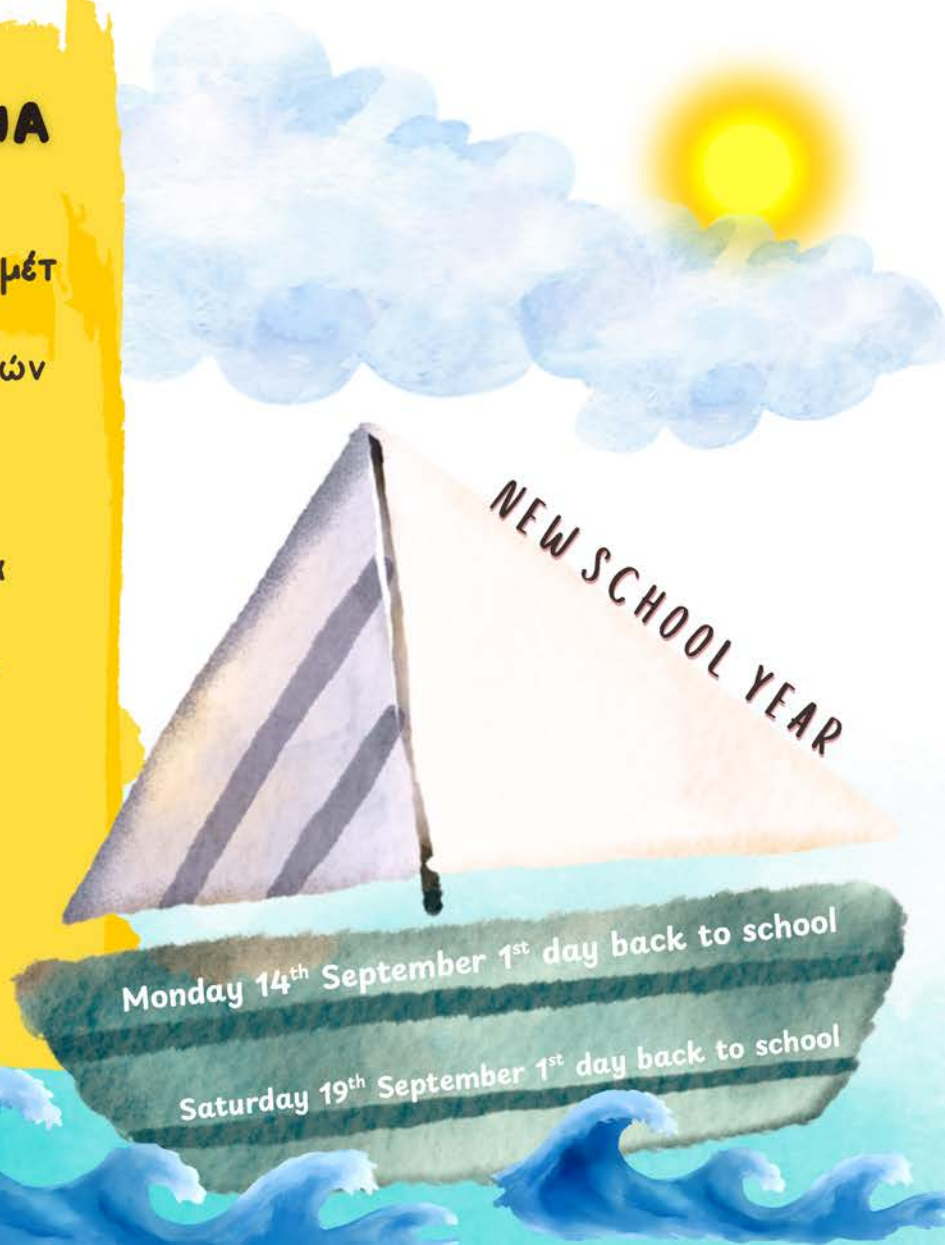
Τις πιο όμορφες μέρες μας

δεν τις έχουμε ζήσει ακόμα

Κι αυτό που θέλω να σου πω

το πιο όμορφο απ' όλα,

δε στο 'χω πει ακόμα.





HIGH ACHIEVERS JUL '26

OUTSTANDING OF THE YEAR

1. Anastasia Archonti Soultana 98%
2. Evdokia Antoniou 98%
3. Melina Kerasidou 98%
4. Mariam Dervitsiotis 98%
5. Georgia Antoniou 98%
6. Panagiotis Deriziotis 98%

STUDENTS

EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME

1. Savvas Panay
2. Athanasios Socratous
3. Vasileios Nanis
4. Anastasios Menicou
5. Evangelos Knais
6. Angelina Batham
7. Efthymia Georgiou
8. Jason Zampas
9. Alexandra Leventogianni
10. Vasilis Kalisperas
11. Maximos Konstantinidis
12. Lydia Georgiou
13. Yiannis Kantidakis
14. Yasemi Gjokaj

MARIA VORGIA AWARD

1. Philip Goldingay
2. Mariam Dervitsiotis

ATTENDANCE AWARD

1. Alexandra Bellos
2. Zacharias Kyriakou
3. Efthymia Georgiou
4. Angelina Batham
5. Andreas Ioannou



congratulations!



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Father's Day

To celebrate Father's Day, our students took part in a variety of creative activities to show their love and appreciation for their dads.

Throughout the week, the children made wonderful crafts, including handmade cards, and colourful drawings. Each creation was unique, filled with imagination, heartfelt messages, and joy. This special project gave the students the opportunity to reflect on the importance of father figures and to express their feelings in a meaningful and creative way. Their excitement and pride were evident in every smile and every artwork.



June

20

ALTON TOWERS DAY TRIP JUNE 2026



OCTONAUTS
ROLLERCOASTER
ADVENTURE

On Saturday 20th June, 63 children and adults joined our school trip to Alton Towers for a fantastic day full of fun and excitement.

The younger children had an amazing time exploring CBeebies Land and enjoying the attractions at Go Jetters. Meanwhile, the older children made the most of the thrilling rides and attractions in the main theme park. There was something for everyone, and smiles could be seen all around throughout the day.

The weather was lovely, which made the experience even more enjoyable for everyone who attended.

We also had a very special surprise. Mrs Evi Platsi, one of our former teachers, travelled all the way from Rhodes to join us on the trip and spend time with her students from last year. It was wonderful to see her again and share such a memorable day together.

What an amazing day! Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this trip such a great success.



20

June
20

ALTON TOWERS DAY TRIP
JUNE 2026

7

GSAT HOSTING EU PARLIAMENT AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS ACCREDITATION CEREMONY

June
30



On Tuesday 30th June, the Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham had the distinct honour of hosting this year's European Parliament Ambassador Schools (EPAS) Accreditation Ceremony, celebrating the achievements of schools and colleges participating in this prestigious educational programme.

The event was co-organised in partnership with the European Parliament Liaison Office in the United Kingdom and brought together around 100 students and teachers from 12 schools and colleges across the country. The ceremony provided an excellent opportunity for young people to showcase their engagement with European democratic values and active citizenship.

The event commenced with welcoming addresses from distinguished guests, including Mr Spyros Miltiades, Deputy High Commissioner of Cyprus, Mr Alexandros Ioannides, Consul General of Greece in Manchester, and the Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in London. Their inspiring speeches highlighted the importance of youth participation in democratic processes and the valuable role that the EPAS programme plays in developing informed and engaged citizens.

Throughout the ceremony, students from participating schools shared their experiences of the programme, reflecting on the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they had gained through their involvement. Their presentations demonstrated the positive impact of the initiative in encouraging critical thinking, collaboration, and a deeper understanding of European institutions and values.

The event was attended by a wide range of distinguished guests representing European countries, organisations, and communities across the Midlands, all of whom joined in celebrating the achievements of the participating schools and students.

The Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham was especially proud to receive the European Parliament Ambassador School Accreditation Award for the third time, a significant recognition of the school's continued commitment to promoting European citizenship and democratic engagement. This achievement was shared with the Greek School of Wales and the Greek School of Bristol, which were also honoured with accreditation this year.

The ceremony was a tremendous success and a memorable celebration of educational excellence, international cooperation, and the active involvement of young people in shaping the future of Europe.

BRINGING EUROPE INTO YOUR CLASSROOM



AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS





Accreditation



Day



ASAT 2026





What a proud

moment

for our school



Another Year
with this
special friend of
our school

Γειά σας! Με λένε
Sweetpea

THIS YEAR, OUR STUDENTS ENJOYED A VERY SPECIAL VISIT FROM SWEETPEA, A WONDERFUL 25-YEAR-OLD COCKATOO WHO CAPTIVATED EVERYONE FROM THE MOMENT SHE ARRIVED. WITH HER BEAUTIFUL WHITE FEATHERS, LIVELY CHARACTER, AND REMARKABLE INTELLIGENCE, SWEETPEA QUICKLY WON THE HEARTS OF BOTH CHILDREN AND STAFF.

THE CHILDREN WERE FASCINATED AS THEY WATCHED HER MIMIC SOUNDS, INTERACT WITH HER HANDLER, AND PROUDLY SHOW OFF HER UNIQUE PERSONALITY. FOR MANY PUPILS, IT WAS THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY BIRD UP CLOSE, MAKING THE EXPERIENCE BOTH EXCITING AND EDUCATIONAL.

SWEETPEA'S VISIT SPARKED CURIOSITY ABOUT WILDLIFE, ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR, AND CONSERVATION, WHILE ALSO BRINGING PLENTY OF SMILES AND LAUGHTER THROUGHOUT THE DAY. IT WAS A TRULY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE THAT OUR STUDENTS WILL BE TALKING ABOUT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.





End of Year Celebration



On Saturday 11th July, our school community came together to celebrate the end of another successful academic year with a wonderful end-of-year event themed around the Golden Age of Greek Cinema.

Parents, children, and staff enjoyed a fantastic morning filled with laughter, entertainment, and a sense of community. The performances, costumes, and nostalgic atmosphere brought the magic of classic Greek cinema to life, creating lasting memories for everyone who attended.

It was a fitting way to mark the achievements of our students and to celebrate another year of learning, friendship, and cultural enrichment. We would like to thank all our families, volunteers, and staff for their continued support and for helping make the event such a great success.

We wish everyone a happy and restful summer and look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting year ahead.



this last day of school year...

Our End of Year Celebration was a truly memorable occasion, filled with joy, heartfelt reunions, and special moments that reminded us of the strength of our school community. We were delighted to welcome back two much-loved former members of our teaching staff, Mrs Eleni Topalidou and Mrs Evi Platsi. It was wonderful to see them once again and celebrate together, reconnecting with colleagues, students, and families who continue to hold them in such high regard.

The evening also gave us the opportunity to bid a fond farewell to Mrs Klio Theodosiou, who joined our teaching team in 2025. From the moment she became part of our school family, Klio brought enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and boundless energy to our classrooms. As one of the youngest members of our teaching staff, she quickly became a valued colleague whose warmth, dedication, and commitment made a lasting impression on students and fellow teachers alike. Although we are sad to see her return home, we thank her sincerely for her contribution to our school and wish her every happiness and success in this exciting new chapter of her journey.

An event of this scale is only possible through the dedication and commitment of so many people, and we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our outstanding Management Board for their unwavering support throughout the year and for making this celebration such a success.

Our sincere thanks go to our Chairlady, Mrs Katerina Jordanou, and Vice Chair, Mrs Chrisoulla Elia, whose leadership and vision continue to guide our school. We are equally grateful to our Finance Team, Kassiani Neofytou and Bobby Thouki, for their invaluable work behind the scenes. We would also like to acknowledge the expertise and guidance of our Educational Advisors: Prof. Mavritsaki, Prof. Psychogios, Dr Virginia Amanatidou, Mr Antonios Agapakis, and Mrs Angeliki Elia, whose support plays a vital role in maintaining the high standards of our educational provision. Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to our dedicated Events and Social Team—Mrs Maria Ellina, Mrs Androulla Cola, Mrs Panagiota Kyriakou, and Mrs Anthoula Georgiou. Their creativity, enthusiasm, and countless hours of hard work behind the scenes help create the welcoming and vibrant community spirit that makes our school so special.

A very special thank you is reserved for our exceptional teaching team. Led by our Headteacher, Dr S. Tryfonos, our teachers work tirelessly throughout the year with professionalism, passion, and genuine care for every pupil. We are incredibly grateful to Mrs Sonia Phocas, Mrs Maria Georgiou, Mr Dimitris Themistokleous, Mrs Despoina Takirdiki, Miss Angeliki Neofytou, Mrs Eva Souza, Mrs Natalia Tsikouri, Mrs Magda Koufomeriti, Mrs Ria Kaparalioti, Mrs Klio Theodosiou, Dr Aglafa Foteinou, and Mrs Sotiria Karafillides for their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence.

Finally, we would like to recognise our wonderful young volunteers—Mr Iakovos Anastasakis, Mr Dimitris Valsamakis, and Mr Alex Agapakis. Their willingness to give their time, energy, and support throughout the year is greatly appreciated, and they are an inspiring example of community spirit in action.

As another successful academic year comes to a close, we reflect with pride on all that we have achieved together. Our school continues to thrive because of the dedication, generosity, and collaboration of our staff, volunteers, governors, families, and wider community. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making this year—and our End of Year Celebration—such a memorable success.

And the celebration wouldn't be the same without the help and support from the whole team of the Board of the Midlands Greek and Cypriot Association and the MB of GSAT with their amazing food preparation—G. Makrys, P. Trattos, L. Anastasakis, C. Elia, A. Elia, K. Neofytou, K. Jordanou, B. Thouki, A. Cola, M. Ellina, P. Kyriakou.



Our
SCHOOL
LIFE

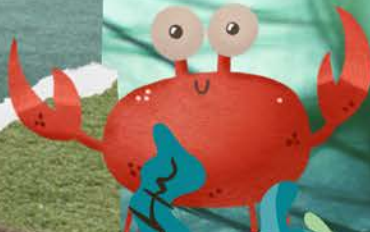
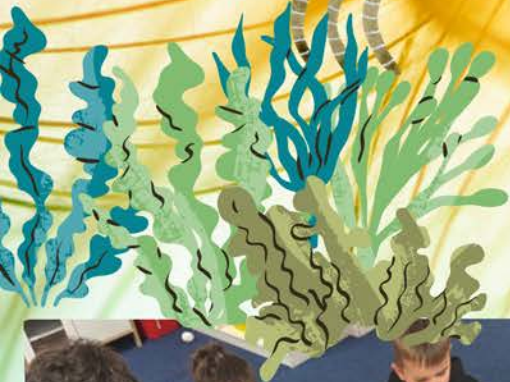
KEEP the OCEAN
CLEAN

Nursery-Reception



Nursery

Mon-Tue



Harborne Nursery-Reception





Year 1 & Year 1+



Year 2
19



Highlights from the participation of our children in the Philanagnosia programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "Η Κύπρος στην τάξη μου"



Year 5-Year 6

Children across the school not only had to read and talk about unique homes but also learnt about the unique homes of Buffer Zone in Cyprus



they had to explore feelings of people living in the houses of Buffer zone, the restrictions and also talk about human rights and childrens rights to safe homes and life safety... And All these in Greek





GCSE



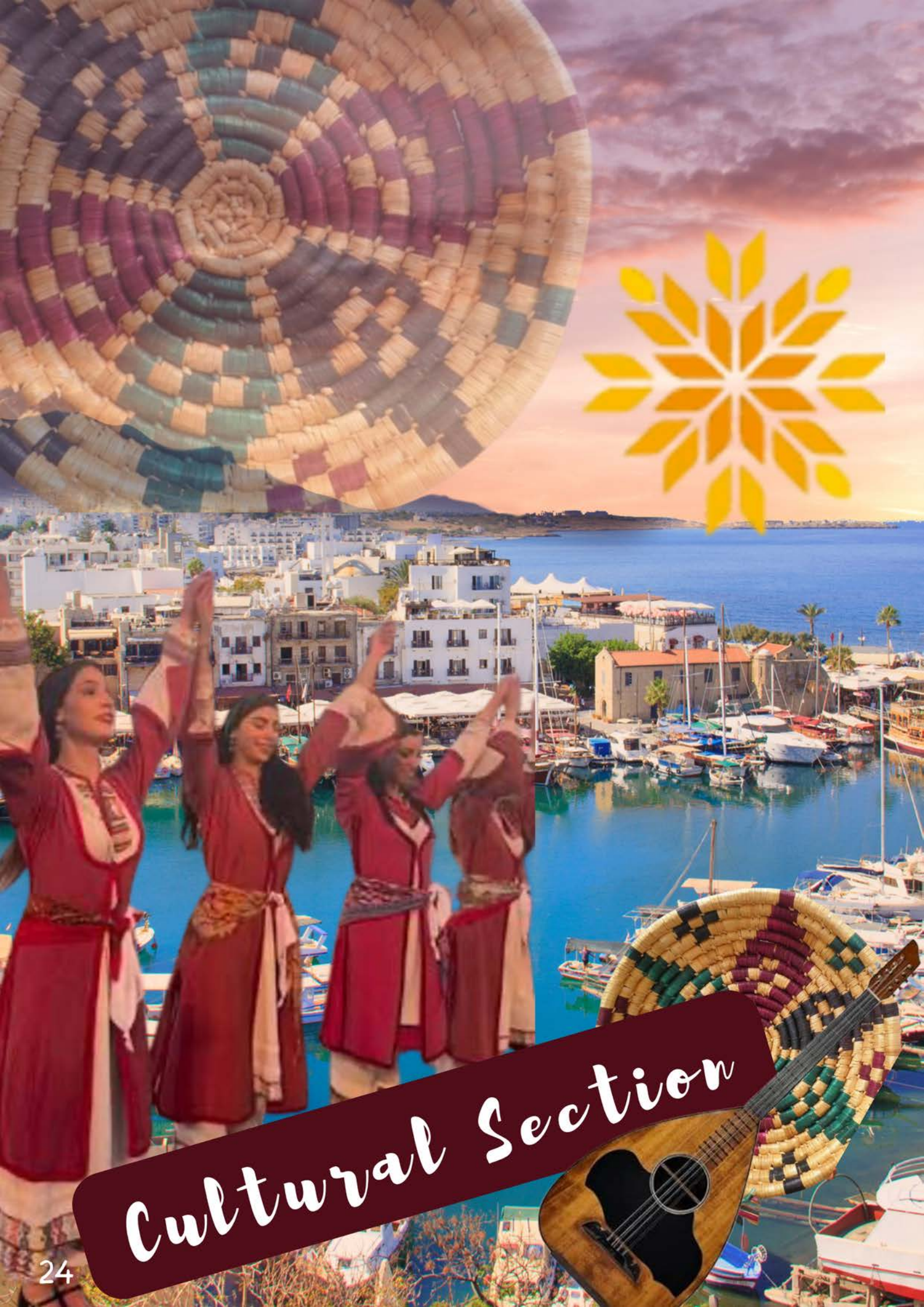
THIS YEAR OUR SCHOOL HAS BEEN RUNNING DANCE CLASSES LED BY OUR DANCE TEACHERS MR DIMITRIS THEMISTOKLEOUS AND MRS SOTIRIA KARAFILLIDES.

DANCE CLASSES ARE ON MONDAY 19:30-20:30 AND TUESDAYS FROM 18:30-19:00 FOR THE CHILDREN, 19:00-20:00 FOR ADULTS, AND ON SATURDAY FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM 14:00-15:45.

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.

**Dance
Classes**



Cultural Section



The Rights of the Child

ARTICLES OF JUNE 2026



ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR

Every year on 12 June, people around the world observe World Day Against Child Labour. This special day was started in 2002 by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to raise awareness about child labour and encourage action to end it.

Child labour happens when children are made to work in ways that are harmful, unsafe, or prevent them from going to school. While some children help their families with simple chores, child labour refers to work that takes away a child's right to learn, play, and grow up safely.

The World Day Against Child Labour reminds us that every child deserves: A good education, Time to play and enjoy childhood, Safety, health, and protection, Equal opportunities to achieve their dreams

Over the years, countries, organizations, teachers, parents, and young people have worked together to reduce child labour. Although progress has been made, millions of children around the world still need support and protection.

This day encourages everyone to help create a world where every child can learn, grow, and build a bright future.

Article 32-35 Throughout history, children have had to work in all sorts of different ways. In the 20th Century the world agreed that work that endangered children or stopped them from enjoying all their rights was unacceptable. In 2002, The International Labour Organization (which was set up by the United Nations) launched the first World Day Against Child Labour to highlight the struggles faced by working children. Held each year on 12th June, the day is intended to promote and encourage the growing worldwide movement against child labour. It is hard for most children and young people in the UK to imagine what it must be like to have to work as a child. Exploring articles 32 and 35, through the activities this week, will help you to understand and think about the effect of child labour

Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham is proudly the first ever supplementary school to have been accredited SILVER AWARD and it is a SILVER Rights Respecting School currently working towards GOLD

Children weren't always protected by the Convention – watch some of this video to find out what life was like for many children in the UK during Victorian era. Discuss what other rights came to your mind as you watched it.



OutRight is UNICEF UK's annual youth campaign focused on children's right to the best possible health. It raises awareness that many children worldwide lack access to basic healthcare and vaccinations. Through free activities, campaigns, and events, the programme encourages young people to learn and take action to help ensure all children can access the healthcare they need.



Did you know?

Cyprus and Cyprus Presidency

Cyprus Concludes a Historic and Impactful EU Presidency

As the six-month Presidency of the Council of the European Union comes to an end on 30 June 2026, Cyprus can look back with pride on a period marked by leadership, diplomacy, and meaningful contributions to the European agenda. Holding the Presidency for the second time since joining the European Union, Cyprus successfully guided the work of the Council during a period of significant geopolitical, economic, and social challenges.

Under the motto "An Autonomous Union. Open to the World," Cyprus focused on strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy, competitiveness, security, social cohesion, and global engagement. The Presidency worked to promote a stronger, more resilient, and forward-looking European Union capable of addressing emerging challenges while remaining committed to its core values.

During its Presidency, Cyprus chaired numerous meetings across Europe and hosted around 260 events and conferences on the island, including ministerial meetings and high-level summits. These gatherings reinforced Cyprus' role as a bridge between Europe, the Mediterranean, and the wider international community.

Who is Next?

Denmark - July to December 2025
Cyprus - January to June 2026
Ireland - July to December 2026
Lithuania - January to June 2027
Greece - July to December 2027
Italy - January to June 2028
Latvia - July to December 2028
Luxembourg - January to June 2029
Netherlands - July to December 2029
Slovakia - January to June 2030
Malta - July to December 2030

Key Highlights and Milestones of the Cyprus Presidency 2026

- Successfully coordinated EU discussions on security, defence readiness, and crisis preparedness.
- Advanced initiatives aimed at improving European competitiveness, innovation, and digital transformation.
- Promoted energy security, interconnectivity, and affordable energy solutions for European citizens.
- Strengthened dialogue on migration management and regional stability.
- Enhanced the EU's global partnerships and external engagement, particularly in the Mediterranean and neighbouring regions.
- Emphasized social inclusion, equality, and policies ensuring that no citizen is left behind.
- Contributed to discussions shaping the EU's future long-term budget and strategic priorities.

The Cyprus Presidency demonstrated the country's ability to act as an effective and impartial mediator, bringing together member states to seek common solutions. Beyond legislative achievements, it showcased Cyprus as a reliable European partner and elevated its international profile.

As Cyprus hands over the Presidency, it leaves behind a legacy of constructive leadership, European solidarity, and a renewed commitment to continue to contribute to the Union's future development and to Cyprus' growing role within the European family.



Cyprus

Population 966,365

Surface 9,253 km²

GDP per capita €35,800



About 12,000 flamingos migrating south stop to feed at Larnaca Salt Lake every autumn



The oldest perfume in the world was found in Cyprus, created over 4,000 years ago



On average, Cyprus has only 40 rainy days a year and the sun shines 320 days a year



Cyprus has the highest yearly EU meat consumption per capita: 88 kg. EU average is 66 kg



Did you know?



CY20
26.EU



Youth at the heart of Cyprus Presidency

One of the most inspiring aspects of Cyprus' Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026 was its commitment to placing young people at the centre of the European conversation. Rather than simply discussing policies that affect future generations, Cyprus actively invited young people to participate, share their ideas, and help shape the future of Europe.

Throughout the six-month Presidency, students from across Cyprus had the opportunity to engage directly with policymakers through a series of thematic dialogues held in schools and universities. Led by the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth and the Deputy Minister for European Affairs, these discussions encouraged young people to express their views on important European issues, learn about the European Union, and understand how they can contribute to democratic decision-making.



CY20
26.EU

CYPRUS PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

The Presidency also provided a platform for creativity and innovation through a range of exciting competitions and events. Students showcased their talents in a graphic design competition focusing on climate change, a song contest inspired by European values, and a children's competition to design a Presidency logo. Young artists and designers were also invited to create decorative artefacts for the Filoxenia Conference Centre, which hosted many of the Presidency's high-level meetings, as well as contribute ideas for official Presidency gifts.

Across the island, exhibitions, cultural events, and educational activities brought Europe closer to young people, helping to build awareness, encourage civic participation, and foster a sense of shared responsibility for the future of the European Union.

Reflecting on these initiatives, Deputy Minister for European Affairs Marilena Raouna highlighted the remarkable enthusiasm she encountered during her meetings with students from every corner of Cyprus. She spoke of their dedication to European ideals and values, their curiosity, creativity, and willingness to dream big. Most importantly, she expressed confidence that their passion and idealism offer great hope for the future.

By placing youth at the epicentre of its Presidency, Cyprus demonstrated that young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow but active contributors to the Europe of today. The initiatives launched during these six months have left a lasting legacy of engagement, participation, and optimism that will continue to inspire future generations.





have a
lovely
summer