

# RACE LEYS JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

## Welcome to the 1st newsletter of the 2022-23 academic year

### What is new for Autumn 2?

We are delighted to announce that a temporary swimming pool will be installed in our MUGA over the half term. Years 3 and 4 will benefit from daily swimming lessons to ensure that they can confidently swim over 25 metres independently in accordance with government guidelines. We will then offer this opportunity to any of our year 5 and 6 Griffins who have yet to meet this criteria.

Moving forwards, we will be sending out weekly updates regarding our Lifewise PHSE scheme, informing families about key learning that has been covered during lessons and any discussion points or recommendations for further learning.

The power of democracy will continue to be showcased at Race Leys. Our Griffins have recently changed our school by renaming our houses and choosing eleven new values to focus on and will now have the opportunity to vote for their most important experiences that they feel we should offer alongside our amazing curriculum at Race Leys.

We are also delighted to announce that the Mad Hatter's Tea Room (our community café) will be opening every morning between 8am and 9am. This will be a great opportunity to get a warm drink as the colder mornings approach!



As always, it has been a busy start as our Griffins settled in to their new classes or in year 3's case, their new school!

Work for the new academic year began in the Summer holidays with the installation of our stunning new 'Great Hall' which celebrates our family of schools.

“



”



<https://raceleys-gst.org/>





It was a busy return to school for our year 6 Griffins, who were fortunate to visit the Warner Brothers Studio in London to enhance their learning around Harry Potter. They then took part in their rescheduled camping at school experience, where there were lots of activities including archery and roasting marshmallows over a fire! Staying with year 6, a proud tradition continued as they were visited by the inspirational Bart Gee, who worked with our Griffins to highlight how he has adapted to living with a disability in order to complete multiple triathlons and develop his love of music.



We were delighted with the installation of our new kitchen in preparation for our catering partnership with Apetito. For the first time at Race Leys, meals are now cooked on site and we have received lots of positive feedback from our children (and staff!).

Year 5 also had a busy half term, beginning with their sleepover at school. Lots of resilience was needed as our Griffins realised that it is not always easy sleeping in a new environment but they persevered and the ice cream sundaes and movie night softened the blow. In addition, year 5 visited Stratford this week to act as Shakespeare tour guides. We received lots of positive feedback from members of the public regarding how friendly and knowledgeable our Griffins were about the life of Shakespeare.



Other proud traditions continued this half term, including the annual Griffin Sports Festival. Griffins competed in additional sporting activities across our school, with selected year 6 children chosen to represent Race Leys at Nicholas Chamberlain against other schools within the Griffin Schools Trust. It was lovely to see how our Griffin family came together in friendly competition and supported all schools as they took part. We were also delighted to once again visit All Saints Church in Bedworth for a Harvest Celebration. This truly is a stunning venue for our griffins to experience and we look forward to seeing them again towards the end of Autumn 2 for another special service (We won't say the word just yet!).





As always, we continue to look at ways to enhance pupil leadership across our school. Alongside our usual Head Griffin, House Captain and Junior Leadership roles, we recruited subject ambassadors to provide pupil voice in driving improvements for each individual subject. As part of this, our STEM and Computing ambassadors visited Silverstone for the day to participate in a range of Formula One related activities and our History ambassadors were very impressive as they introduced a whole school assembly to celebrate Black History Month. During the assembly, we were visited by Ronald, who performed some inspiring African Drumming before holding workshops with each class about how drums were used to communicate.



Whilst pupil voice continues to play an important role at Race Leys, parent voice is equally valued and this was evident as we held our first Parent Leadership Team meeting of the new academic year. Lots of plans were discussed including future information sharing, our PHSE curriculum and how we can increase parental involvement in specific subjects. As always, we welcome any new members to our PLT so please contact the school office or Mr Bevan if you are interested in joining.



Finally, we would like to recognise and celebrate our wonderful staff at Race Leys Junior School, who have once again gone above and beyond for our Griffins by sleeping on hall floors, outside in cold tents and frequently arriving early and staying late whenever needed to ensure that school trips run smoothly. We really are lucky to have such a committed team and congratulations to both Mrs White and Miss Nicholds, who have been promoted to the Senior Leadership Team as Year 3 and Year 6 leads respectively.

Finally, please can we wish you a restful and enjoyable half term and we look forward to welcoming you back to school (in Halloween attire!) on Monday 31st October.

Mrs Lamb

