

# RACE LEYS JUNIOR NEWSLETTER



October 2023

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of the 2023-2024 academic year. It has been a busy start as we have welcomed new griffin families to our school in year 3 and older griffins have transitioned to their new classes.

One of our first events of the year was 'express yourself day', where griffins were encouraged to show their personality through the clothes that they wear. We had an array of sports kits, themed outfits and even pyjamas and it was wonderful to see so many different choices from our griffins.

Our proud tradition of celebrating black history month continued with our African Drumming workshops. Promoting equality and diversity is a huge part of our school and we were delighted to ensure that all of our griffins got to immerse themselves in this cultural opportunity.

Alongside this, the Griffin Sports Festival was held with a team of year 6 griffins attending a residential at Nicholas Chamberlaine and travelling to the Pingles Stadium to compete in a variety of sports against the eleven other griffin schools.

We also celebrated 'hats off for mental health day'. All shapes and sizes were on display but one of the highlights had to have been the waving and clapping hats! It has been a busy start for our new year 3 griffins as they have begun their work with the Birmingham Royal Ballet through their Chance to Dance project. They have also attended their first of many Race Leys School trips as they visited Cadbury World in Birmingham. Despite the terrible weather, our griffins had a great time enhancing their learning about their current Scrumdiddlyumptious topic.

Trick or Treat day was a great success with a wonderful selection of Halloween themed activities being available to our children, culminating in our Halloween disco on Thursday evening. We hope that all who attended had a great time and many thanks to our staff and volunteers for making this event such a success.



Perhaps the highlight of this half term has been the return of our swimming pool for the second time. This has proven to be extremely successful and allows our griffins, who are not yet able to swim 25 metres independently to access daily, swimming lessons. However, this wonderful opportunity does present its challenges and we would like to thank our families for their support. A special thank you also goes to Mr Stewart and Miss Cave for supporting our griffins during changing times.

We would like to thank all of our families who have completed our questionnaire during this half term. We greatly value your feedback and your responses help us to identify our strengths along with things that we can do to make our amazing school even better. We will continue to send different questionnaires out every half term so please continue to give us your opinions.

In addition to this, we are always looking for members to join our highly valued Parent Leadership Team. This involves meeting with senior leaders on a half termly basis to discuss our school and leadership priorities. Please contact Mr Bevan if you are interested in joining the PLT.

We end by looking forward to the Autumn 2 half term as we begin the run up to that special time of year. The Shakespeare Festival will begin for year 5 and of course we continue our proud tradition of being part of the remembrance celebration in Bedworth. We are delighted to announce that the installation of our new outdoor classroom will begin soon.

Kindest Regards

Mrs Lamb  
Head of School





Dear Parents/Carers

The Pupil Premium and Service Premium give schools extra funding to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils from reception to year 11. In order to receive this additional funding, we are required to provide information to the Department for Education confirming which children meet the government criteria.

### **Pupil Premium**

If your child is eligible for free school meals or has been in the last 6 years this will generate pupil premium funding for your child's school. To be eligible for free school meals you must be in receipt of the appropriate benefits and have submitted an application for free school meals to the Local Authority Benefits Team.

### **Do I qualify?**

You must be claiming one of the following benefits to qualify for Free School Meals:

- Child Tax Credit with an annual income assessed by HMRC of less than £16,190

*(If either you or your partner is entitled to Working Tax Credit you do not qualify for free school meals regardless of income).*

- Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-Related Employment Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

If you qualify for the appropriate benefits but have chosen not to apply for free school meals please consider applying. You do not have to take up the free school meal to attract the funding for your child's school.

### **Service Premium**

The Service Premium gives schools extra funding to support children and young people with parents in the armed forces. Pupils attract the premium if they meet the following criteria:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- One of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years
- One of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS).

If your child meets one of the above Service Premium criteria please let us know as this will enable us to claim this additional funding.

Please help us to maximise the amount of Pupil Premium the school receives by applying on the following website.  
[warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

Yours sincerely,

Sue-Ellen Lamb - Head of School





# Can You Help Us?

We are looking for any professionals within our community who would be interested in giving a presentation to and taking questions from our year 6 griffins. This was extremely successful in the past as we have been visited by paramedics, RAF flight sergeants and engineers from Aston Martin. Our griffins highly value the opportunity to speak to adults from different career backgrounds and we hope that this can inspire them in the future. Please contact Miss Nicholds if you are interested.





# Sports News



As always, the new academic year is always a busy start with lots of opportunities for sports at Race Leys. Classes have settled in to their new curriculum with lessons based on the skills involving dodgeball, dance and gymnastics taking place across the school.

The proud tradition of our Griffin Sports Festival continued, with a team selected from each of the 12 Griffin schools to travel to Nicholas Chamberlaine and the Pingles Stadium to compete in a variety of events including handball, 400m race, long jump and javelin to name but a few. It is always wonderful to celebrate these events along with our family of Griffin Schools and whilst some events can be competitive, it is the spirit and values shown by all that make the Griffin Sports Festival such a success.

Swimming continued in school for it's second year, with daily lessons to support our Griffins in reaching the government target of being able to swim 25 metres independently. However, it was also lovely to see that all griffins in school had the opportunity to take part in swim fun lessons during the final week of half term.

Our boys football team recently competed in a match against St Michaels. It was a closely contested game but our griffins made the most of their chances to secure a 5-2 victory. It was wonderful to see the high level of teamwork throughout the team with lots of slick passing between the players. Well done also to Ben in goal for producing some amazing saves at crucial moments in the game.

There is lots to look forward to in the Autumn 2 half term, including our brand new lunchtime house competitions in Dodgeball, Boccia and Cup stacking! This will involve our house captains selecting a team from each year group who will then compete in these events over lunchtime to try and secure more points for their house.





# Music News

What a lovely start to the year we've had in Music at Race Leys. So far, our Griffin Children's Chorus has been selected to take part in multiple concerts throughout the year; firstly, at the NCS remembrance event, where our griffins will be joined by Park Lane and Nicholas Chamberlaine School to sing and commemorate those who have fallen in battle. Our next performance will be in December at St Giles, Barbican in London where we will be singing some Christmas songs with all of the other griffin schools. This will be a lovely way to start the festive season.

Finally, we will be returning to the Royal Albert Hall in July alongside the Armonico Consort to perform a selection of songs at this prestigious venue. We are delighted to share with you our partnership with Warwickshire Music Service and the opportunities it gives our griffins. Each child will be learning an instrument alongside their music curriculum. Year 3 will be learning the recorder, year 4 will engage in flute lessons with Miss Moneypenny, year 5 will look at ukulele and year 6 will be able to explore all of these and more. This will be very useful to them for learning new skills in addition to curriculum lessons.

In the curriculum, our Griffins have just finished learning about rhythms of the world in music lessons and it has been delightful to hear them talking about what they have been doing in their lessons. Next half term we will be looking at 'Pitch Perfect' where griffins will be looking at sounds in music and learning about some of the notes.

I am looking forward to another exciting year at Race Leys Junior School with lots more to come.

