

GRIFFIN NEWS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
RACE LEYS JUNIOR SCHOOL



SPRING 1 2022

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022! The end of our Spring 1 half term marks the halfway point in what has already been a memorable year and we are looking forward to more successes in the weeks and months ahead.

We start by celebrating our sporting successes that have taken place during the Spring 1 half term. Whilst the weather traditionally impacts on sporting events at this time of year, this has not been the case for children at Race Leys....

Griffin promise events continue to widen the experiences on offer to our children in school. This half term has seen many different celebrations including our Chinese dragon dance workshops as part of Chinese New Year; a whole school focus on Safer Internet Day to remind children how to keep themselves safe online; our Alice in Wonderland themed event and book character dress up day to celebrate National Storytelling Day and we were delighted to host a visit from children's author Juliet Clare Bell.

Other experiences included some of our Griffins having the opportunity to participate in STEM workshops, designed to further develop their understanding of science, technology, engineering and maths. Alongside this, some of our year 6 girls spent a day at the Coventry Transport Museum to take part in the Women in Motorsport event, giving them the opportunity to work with real life pit crews from formula one teams. Who knows? Maybe one day we will see a Race Leys Junior Alumni in formula one!

Our Parent Leadership Team met recently to discuss a variety of issues as we continue our journey towards becoming a griffin great and OFSTED outstanding school – please contact Mr Bevan if you are interested in becoming a member. We were delighted when recognising some of the progress made in areas identified as weaknesses in 2019, such as behaviour, communication and swimming.

However, concerns were raised around the amount of children who are using their phones whilst on site both before the school building has opened and when leaving at the end of the day. We understand that some of our Griffins walk to and from school and therefore need mobile phones in case of an emergency, but please can we ask for your support in ensuring that phones are turned off from the moment that children enter the school site as this could lead to a safeguarding incident.

In relation to the above, we are delighted to have registered with the National Online Safety platform. This is something that our whole school community, including children, staff and families can use to keep up to date with the very latest in safety information. The website is continuously updated with advice and support regarding the latest apps and games that are popular and also offers a variety of courses and certificates that can be completed to further develop understanding.

As part of our desire to encourage our griffins to read for pleasure, we have signed up to MyOn, which works alongside our accelerated reading platform to allow access to a virtual library at home, meaning that thousands of books in a wide variety of genres are now available to families at the click of a button. Our Griffins have been provided with login details and have already been using this as part of their guided reading lessons in school.

Enhancements to our school site have continued and we are delighted with the new additions to our lower school playground in the form of new markings for games. All of our Griffins have been provided with the opportunity to learn how to play them together and we are delighted to provide our children with even more additions to make their social times in school more structured and enjoyable.

Warmest Wishes
Sue-Ellen Lamb

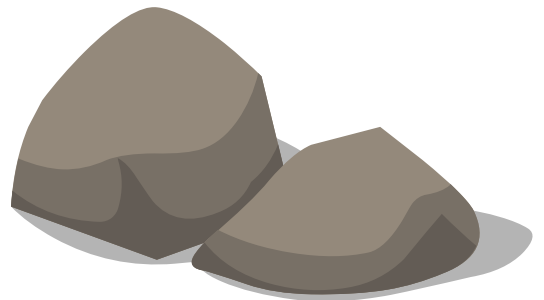
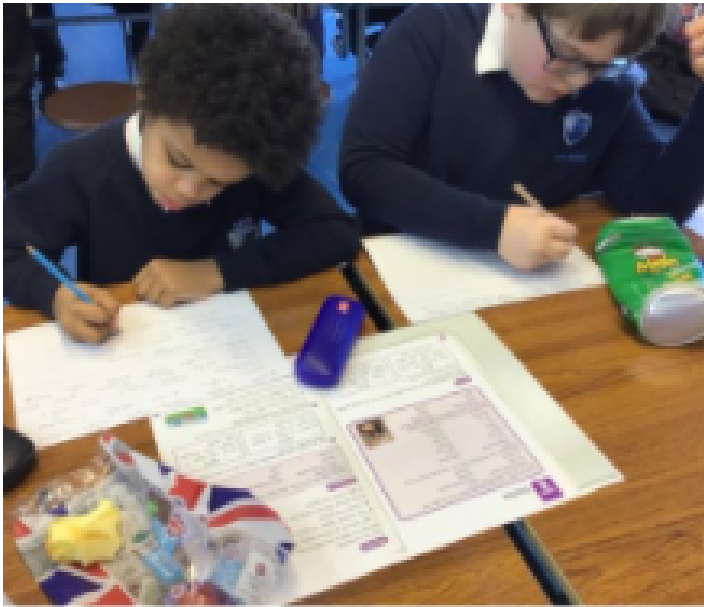
Head of School

Our Learning

Year 3

We have been so busy this term! Stone Age has been a popular book with Year 3 learning about the correct layout of speech, including drama and role play. This led nicely to our topic of Tribal Tales where we studied the properties of Sedimentary, metamorphic and ingenious rocks. We learned about staying safe online which linked with PHSE of the importance of relationships and what this means.

Unfortunately, our plans to make a new year 3 swimming pool did prove unsuccessful. We were so proud of the resilience shown by the children to overcome this adversity and continue their learning in the hall and music room. However, now that we have returned to class, we are delighted with our fabulous new posh floor!



Our Learning

Year 4

This spring term Griffins have been fortunate enough to take part in a life zoom dance workshop with the Royal Opera House. The workshop saw our Griffins retelling the story of Alice in wonderland through dance. This tied in lovely with our Alice in wonderland day where the Griffins dressed up and wrote playscripts on the scene of Mad Hatters tea party, which are beautifully displayed on our working wall in class.

In English we have furthered our learning on the year 4 learning intentions. The Griffins have learnt to write formal letters using persuasive language. They have focused on orally rehearsing and presenting their work to the class.

In maths this half term, Griffins continued their topic on multiplication and division before moving on to learning about Area. They looked at counting squares to find the area of rectilinear shapes. They ended the half term by looking at fractions. So far, we have learnt about equivalent fractions, fractions greater than one and adding fractions.

In topic Griffins have studied the settlements of the Sumerian people. They have focused on the key features of an area which contributed to the settlements being developed. Griffins have also looked at the hierarchy of ancient civilisations and have discussed the question, do hierarchy's exist in todays society.



Our Learning

Year 5



This half term in Year 5 we have been working on the book 'Street Child.' It has linked with our Victorian topic of Revolution which is about life during this era.

We have looked at how rich and poor lived, compared our school day with a child in the workhouse and written a report on workhouses. We have investigated inventions created during the Industrial Revolution and produced art work in the style of William Morris.

In science we also learnt about electrical circuits and how to draw diagrams of these. We have had several special events this half term: National story telling week, Chinese New Year, Alice in Wonderland theme day, mental health week and a visiting author.



Our Learning

Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy Spring 1 term and are now on the countdown to SATS. At the start of the term, Year 6 began to learn about their new topic, Revolution, a History focused topic all about the Victorians. During these lessons we have looked at the similarities between the Victorian era and modern-day society, the amazing inventions they created, and life in the workhouse.

In Art, Griffins looked at the famous artist William Morris, and created some lovely pieces of artwork inspired by his designs. Year 6 have started their Griffin Science Symposium work and are looking forward to continuing this after the half term during British Science Week. In Science, Griffins have also had the opportunity to take part in a STEM event with some of our Year 6 girls attending the Girls on Track event at Coventry Transport Museum. In English, Griffins have been reading Street Child and have written some brilliant pieces of work from diary entries to character description. In Maths, Griffins have been exploring fractions and the translation of shapes. The entire Year 6 team are amazed by all the hardwork our Griffins have shown and we are extremely excited to award them for this.





Special Award



Afternoon Tea in the Mad Hatter Tea Room

Our teachers have had a very difficult task in choosing just one child per class for our new monthly award. Considering those showing positive values, legendary leader qualities towards their work and attitude and overall personal achievement in all areas, the following children have been chosen for this month.

Well done to Stanley, Mia C, Madison, Oliver H, Sofia, Alex, Holly and Rylan.

Look out in March for our next set of lucky children to receive this special reward.



Holiday Safeguarding Concerns

We value our families support in caring for all of children. If you have any serious wellbeing concerns outside of school hours please use the following contacts: Police 999 or 101 Childline 0800 1111 Warwickshire Front Door (previously MASH) 01926 414144 out of hours 01926 886922 Thank you for your ongoing support



Uniform Expectation



Our school uniform consists of:

- white shirt,
- navy school tie
- navy or school branded jumper or cardigan.

These are to be worn with either:

- black trousers, shorts or skirt.

We ask that children wear black polishable shoes.

Uniform can be purchased from Butterfly Sparkle or the Nuneaton Schoolwear Centre.



Race Leys
Junior School

Our School PE Kit



Our school kit allows children to engage in sports sessions in a safe and supportive manner. Please note our PE kit consists of:

- Navy or black t shirt- can be plain or with logo
- Plain, non branded navy or black joggers or shorts
- Navy hoody
- Trainers for outside and pumps for inside sessions.
- Long hair should be tied back
- Earrings should be covered with micropore tape