

GRIFFIN NEWS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
RACE LEYS JUNIOR SCHOOL



Spring 2 2022

Welcome to our Spring 2 Newsletter. It's hard to believe that we are already two-thirds through this academic year and, as always, there has been so much to celebrate in what has been a busy Spring 2 half term.

Our first highlight took place this very week, as our Griffins across the school took part in an Easter service at All Saints Church in Bedworth. These visits are crucial to help us celebrate the culture and diversity of our local community and we look forward to visiting more religious buildings in the future. Another proud tradition at Race Leys also continued, as we held our annual Easter Egg raffle. Thank you for all of the wonderful donations towards this special event for our Griffins.

We were extremely proud when our Griffins qualified for the county final of the inclusive games. Four of our pupils, accompanied by Miss Smith and Mr Stewart, travelled to Leamington Spa to compete against other Warwickshire schools. As always, the values being shown were exemplary and we were delighted when they finished fourth in the event

A very special event was organised for our Junior Leadership Team and History Ambassadors as they travelled to the Houses of Parliament in London. The Griffins took part in a guided tour, where they got to witness both the House of Commons and House of Lords take part in a live debate. They then took part in a workshop to help them understand how they can take actively participate in democracy. However, the highlight was undoubtedly being joined by Craig Tracey, our local MP, who then gave us a further private tour where we were able to see the ministers' balcony overlooking the Thames, the Prime Ministers private entrance and the Westminster Palace Gardens, allowing an up close and personal look at Big Ben that is not available to the general public. Mr Tracey has visited Race Leys on multiple occasions and has been a fantastic supporter of our school so we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for providing this amazing experience.

For the first time in three years, we were delighted to be able to welcome our families into school for our Mothers' Day celebrations. These were led by a special assembly delivered by our Year 5 Griffins and it was wonderful to see so many people join us in the hall. This is something that we are keen to continue so are pleased to announce, that after the Easter holiday, families of award winners will be notified by text and are welcome to join us for our Friday celebration assembly. Griffin Promise events also continued in school as we celebrated British Science Week by welcoming the WonderDome into Race Leys. This interactive experience focused on enhancing our learning about Space and the planets and all children were provided with the opportunity to participate.

Another highlight of this half term was undoubtedly our Founders Day celebrations. Part of this proud tradition has always been to focus on how we can serve the community and we were delighted to offer our families the opportunity to enjoy refreshments, at no charge, in the Mad Hatters Tea Room. Griffins also shared a communal meal in school and each child dedicated a special moment from Race Leys to our newly buried time capsule, which will be excavated in ten years' time.

Forest school continues to go from strength to strength, with all of our 4AB Griffins now having this opportunity. This will now be provided to 4CR in the Summer term and we have extended the space available by allocating the grass area by the Mad Hatters Tea room to provide further opportunities to our Griffins. Please can we ask for your help in maintaining this equipment by staying off it at the start and end of the day.

Our attention now turns to the Summer 1 half term. Our Year 6 children, who have been working so hard throughout the year, will finally sit their SATs test, where we are predicting the best results that our school has ever seen. The improving weather will also allow a greater focus on sports and outdoor activities – our Griffins were fortunate to get some time on the field at lunch before the snow returned! We hope that you have an enjoyable and restful Easter holiday and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 25th April.

Warmest Wishes
Sue-Ellen Lamb
Head of School

Our Learning

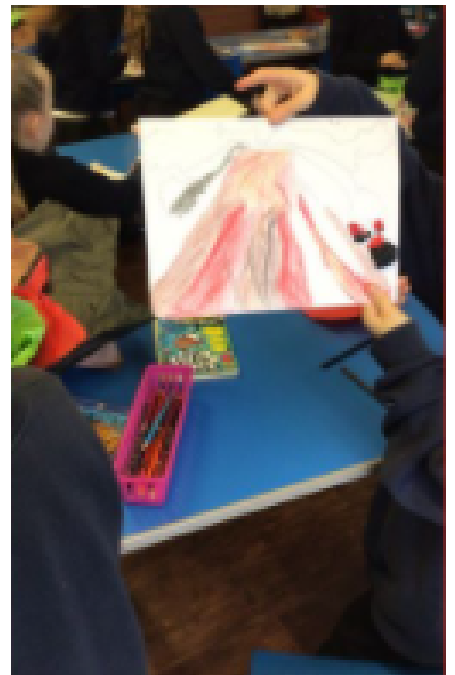
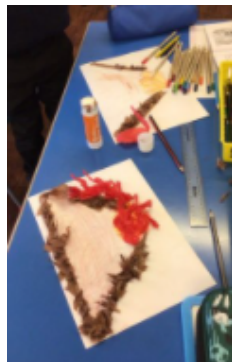
Year 3

This term has been an extremely busy one for our Griffins. We have took part in a very exciting British Science week, where we focused on parts of the plants, grew our own broad beans and had an exciting experience exploring planets in the Wonderdome.

In Design and Technology, Griffins have enjoyed creating their own volcano masterpieces from scratch by building their base using newspaper, plastic bottles and papier mâché. Then we added the final touches by exploring colours and textures.

In English, we focused on the book *Escape from Pompeii* and produce some extraordinary pieces of work, from a setting description to a diary entry. We explored volcanos in real life to assist with our imagination and creativity within our writing.

In Maths, we have continued to explore our learning of length by focusing on converting cm to mm and vice versa. The year 3 team and our Griffins are excited to continue our learning next to term and to start our new topic: Predators.

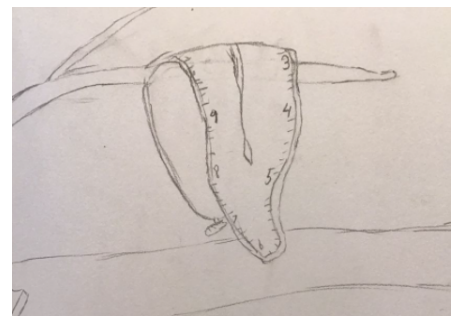


Our Learning

Year 4

This half term in English Griffins have read Georges Marvellous Medicine. They have written a set of instructions of how to make their own medicine for Grandma. Griffins have written their own playscripts on a conversation between Grandma and George. They have also written a non-chronological report on the history of antibiotics.

We have also celebrated Shakespeare Day. Griffins have researched and written reports on the famous writer, they have also produced playscripts on Romeo and Juliet. They wrote the end scene where the pair drink the poison. We have also taken part in science week, where Griffins engaged in different experiments and experienced the inside of a space dome.



Our Learning



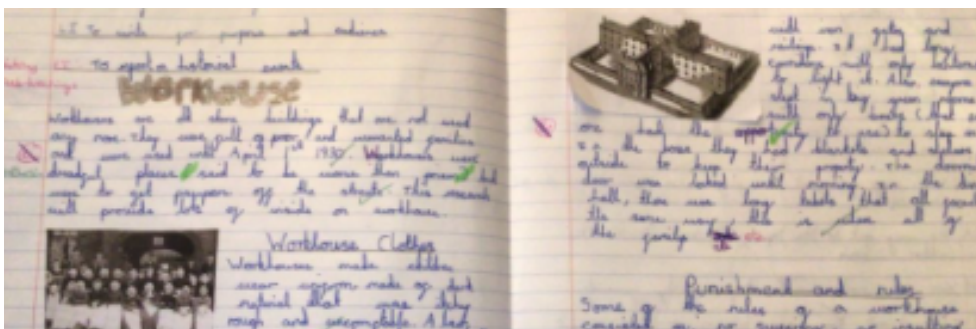
Year 5



This term we have been working on the topic of 'Blood Heart' which is all about the workings of the heart and the circulatory system. We labelled parts of the heart and took part in an investigation on the effects of exercise on the body. We took our own pulse rates and created a graph using excel which showed a comparison of the resting heart rate and after exercise. We also did some artwork linked to the book 'Clockwork' where we used chalk pastels and collage to show the cogs in a mechanical heart.

In English, we wrote character comparisons and a piece of persuasive writing, where we used a range of features such as modal verbs and rhetorical questions. We also delivered a 'Mother's Day Assembly' where we all wrote poems for the person that cares for us and enjoyed learning two songs to sing - it was truly magical.

We had a great time in the Space dome where we saw the planets and stars and learnt lots about them. Some children were lucky enough to work on stained glass windows with an artist who visited our school.





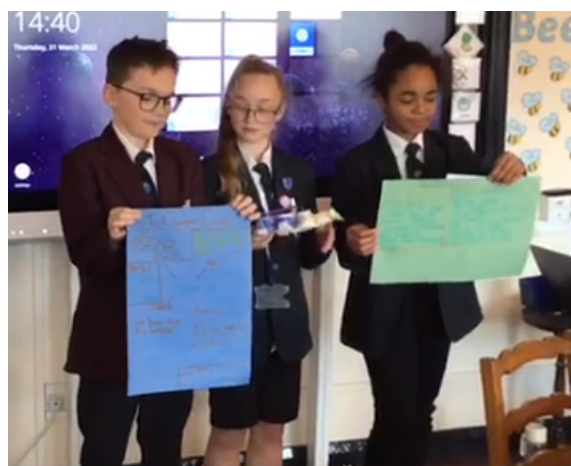
Our Learning

Year 6

This half term, Griffins have been extremely busy in preparing for their SATs and are working incredibly hard.

In Math, we have been looking at key arithmetic calculations as well as measurement. In English, we have had many exciting opportunities to write; we started our new book Clockwork where we created a persuasive piece about the wonderful town and compared the two key characters. We are currently writing a Witches potion inspired by the play Macbeth- watch out for these pieces of work!

Year 6 have also been working extremely hard for the Griffin Science Symposium! They created their own Moon shelter and looked at the equipment needed to survive on Space. This was also followed up by a zoom call by the Open university! We hope our Griffins have a lovely break and are ready for the final push for SATS: the end is in sight!





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 Jenson, Luca, Riley, Natalia, Mia, Sophie, Zaina and Ellie this term.

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



Parking - Please Help!!!

We have once again been contacted by members of our community regarding how our families park their vehicles during drop off and collection each day. Whilst we appreciate that this is an issue for most schools and our location at the end of a closed street does not make this any easier, please be considerate when parking around our school by avoiding driveways and junctions whenever possible.

In addition to this, multiple concerns have also been raised about the speed at which cars are driving around the local estate. We are a busy school with lots of families needing to cross the road and no installed crossings at which this can happen safely. In light of this please can we implore you to slow down and rest assured that we will keep our Griffins safe in school until they are collected by an adult.





House Points



Our new house names – Scumdiddlyumptious, Oz, Neverland and Hogwarts - are now fully embedded across our school, with new flags waving proudly in the car park and a wonderful new display in our year 3 cloakroom that celebrates how they were chosen through the means of our whole school democracy project. Our Griffins are eagerly competing for precious values tokens to win the weekly house cup but alongside this, we are now keeping a cumulative total to see which house leads overall throughout the year.



The Spring 2 standings are as follows:
1st – Oz with 669 points
2nd – Neverland with 596 points
3rd – Hogwarts with 520 points
4th – Scumdiddlyumptious with 481 points



Attendance



The attendance of our Griffins continues to be of upmost importance. Whilst we realise that there will be times when circumstances mean that a child is not able to come into school, please help us to ensure that Griffins are learning in class whenever possible.

We will continue to promote the importance of this within school by giving out weekly prizes for the classes with the highest and most improved attendance. In addition each child with a 100% attendance will be entered into a prize draw to win the bike that is currently hanging from our hall ceiling.

The class with the highest attendance for the Spring 2 half term was 3WK with an average of 96.9%

Congratulations also to 3BL, who have made the biggest improvement with a huge increase of 7.3%





Griffin University



Every Friday afternoon, Race Leys Junior School transforms into the Griffin University, with adults leading a seminar based on their own talents and/or areas of interest that our Griffins can attend. In order to continue the success of this during the Summer 1 half term, please find below information about what seminars we are offering to our Griffins during the next half term:



Elite Tenpin Bowling (Year 6 Only) – Mr Hole and Mr Hamilton

One of our newest Griffin University uni's featured an action packed few weeks. Our Griffins spent some time in class talking about bowling and what they already knew. Mr Hamilton and Mr Hole then explained some more terminology and reviewed some different bowling styles, whilst looking at some basic techniques.



Then we had two sessions at Nuneaton Bowl putting some of the things we learnt into practice, whilst challenging themselves and each other to improve their scores.

Griffin Children's Chorus - Miss Marsh

In Griffin Children's Chorus, we are currently planning for a performance at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall. Our Griffins, amongst other schools such as Nicholas Chamberlaine School and Park Lane will be performing brand new music (never performed anywhere before) for the Queen's Jubilee. Amongst the audience will be a member of the Royal Family.



Our Griffins will be working hard to learn these new songs ready for our performance in May. After this, we will be preparing our own performances for an upcoming Spring Recital here at Race Leys Junior School.



Spanish - Miss Badland

Come and join our new and exciting Spanish sports seminar which will incorporate learning about new vocabulary, such as nouns and verbs linked to Sports. This will involve learning Spanish names of sports and famous Spanish sportsmen. We will then be learning how to follow instructions in Spanish and participating in teams by taking part in outdoor activities. This will involve taking part in football, tennis, and competitive games against one and other.



Photography - Mrs Clarke

Photography - explore the world around you through the eye of a lens! Record snapshots of detailed and colourful images and discover new ways of showcasing them by editing and enhancing the photographs that you have taken!





Griffin University

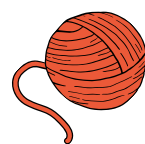
Coventry Uncovered - Mrs Armstrong

During these seminars, you will learn all about Coventry's past. From the earliest history featuring Lady Godiva, through to the Blitz and Coventry's transport industry. Each week there will be something new to learn and make, replicating Coventry's exciting past



Creative Crafts - Mrs White

Come and join a brand new Griffin University seminar for the Summer 1 half term - Creation Crafts. We are going to design and make a craft item out of wool! This will involve carefully designing, making and evaluating an item of your choosing and you can even take home the finished product.



Well-being Arts - Mrs Rollins

I will be offering well-being art which will explore an engaging theme through stories and art helping the children to develop resilience, enhance their well-being and connections with others. The aim is to encourage creativity, nurture relationships whilst having fun making art together



Griffin Arts Festival Dance- Miss Nicholds

My Griffin University this half term will be in preparation for GAF week! If you wish to be a part of the dance performance that will be taking place during the week of celebration, then join this seminar. We will be learning dance and acrobatic skills that will be incorporated into the final performance. This year's theme is change makers, which will explore the deeper meaning of this and how dance can represent this.



British Isles -Mrs Bolesworth

Find out all about the British Isles. Learn about the main countries in Great Britain, all about counties, rivers and coastal areas. What are the oceans surrounding our country?, can you name the major cities? What is our climate, diversity, population, famous landmarks and major industry? By the end of this course, you will be an expert on Great Britain and its closest neighbours.



Forest School -Mrs Valentine and Mrs Trickett

Our Little Acorns will learn many new skills and really enjoy our campfire cooking. They will learn lots about habitats and even participate in the making of birdhouses and a hedgehog home. We will encourage them to take care of their natural environment, where we will litter pick and even plant new trees around school. We hope to see them using their newfound knowledge in the future.



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