

# GRIFFIN NEWS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
RACE LEYS JUNIOR SCHOOL



## Summer 1 2022

Welcome to our Summer 1 half term newsletter. Despite it being a relatively short half term, it has of course been a busy one for our Griffins.

It seems appropriate to start with the completion of the year 6 SATs tests. This is the culmination of a four-year journey for our Griffins since they arrived at our school. Despite the huge disruption to their education caused by the Covid pandemic, our year 6 Griffins have continued to work exceptionally hard, attending school on Saturday mornings and during their Easter holiday, staying for afterschool boosters and completing additional literacy and maths work during their afternoon lessons when needed. We are extremely confident that all of their hard work will enable our school to achieve our best ever results, but regardless of this, they could not have given more effort and they have made themselves and our school proud – we hope that they have enjoyed their rewards with trips to Drayton Manor and Matilda in London.

Another fantastic thing about the Summer term is that the improvements in the weather enable us to increase the amount of sports opportunities that our Griffins have to represent the school. We have been delighted to host football matches against local schools. This has included a match between our year 6 Griffins and year 7s from Nicholas Chamberlaine, where it was lovely to see the teams mixed across both schools from our Griffin Family for the second half. Our Griffins have also enjoyed packed lunches and sports on the field during their lunchtimes.

In relation to this, we are delighted to announce that from September, we will be changing our lunchtime meal supplier to Apetito. This will enable us to cook our own meals on site for the first time and we look forward to giving our Griffins and families the opportunity to sample some of the dishes available in the near future.

Democracy continues to play an integral part in shaping the future of our school. Our Griffins have already chosen their new house names and this half term have had the opportunity to create a shortlist of new school values, with our current 22 being shortened and redeveloped into 11 values, one of which will be the focus for each month of the school year. Griffins, families and staff were then invited to select their best three and you will find the list of our new chosen values further on in this newsletter.

Our desire to promote Diversity continues to grow and develop, with our year 4 Griffins visiting a local Mandir to support their learning on Hinduism and increase their understanding of other religions and cultures. We have also added a display to celebrate the diversity at Race Leys within our school entrance.

It was wonderful to see so many families join us for our picnic to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we truly celebrated this event in style! We are thrilled that, once again, we have the opportunities to welcome our families back into the school and this has been evident with how excited our Griffins have been during our recent awards assemblies.

Finally, we had the great pleasure this half term of announcing that Race Leys has been shortlisted for the prestigious Times Education Supplement Primary School of the Year award. This has been the culmination of the journey that we have been on during the last two years and fantastic recognition of all the hard work and support that we have received from both our staff and our families. Please keep your fingers crossed for us when the winners are announced at a special ceremony in London on Friday 17th June.

We always end with details on what we are looking forward to in our next half term and as always, it will be a memorable one. Mr Bevan is already in training for the return of our traditional 'Father's Day Football', where a team of parents will take on the staff in a (friendly!) match. Our sports day extravaganza sees us return to the Pingles stadium and our focus will also be on ensuring that our Griffins transition successfully to their new classes and/or schools.

Warmest Wishes

Sue-Ellen Lamb  
Head of School

# Our Learning

## Year 3

What an exciting term our year 3 Griffins have had! We had the amazing opportunity of visiting Twycross Zoo, where we saw lots of interesting animals and created magnificent memories. This led to us creating a wonderful fact file recount in English and some textured art images.

In Geography, we researched where animals live, looked at their habitats and created our own information leaflet. Not forgetting Maths, we secured our understanding of equivalent fractions and began our next unit of time. What a busy short half term we have had!



# Our Learning

## Year 4

This half term in English, Griffins have demonstrated their understanding of using sub headings, paragraphs and fronted adverbials by writing a biography on Jacque Cousteau. They have used stimulus from the book 'Man Fish' to write a descriptive setting on what lies beneath the ocean, using adjectives and expanded noun phrases. They have also written a story about a child that goes on an adventure to discover what lies beneath the ocean.

In Maths this half term, Year 4 have completed our learning on decimals and moved on to look at money and time. We are also working extremely hard, practising their times tables for the upcoming multiplication check.

In topic they have studied the layers of the ocean and what lurks beneath. Griffins have identified the continents of the world and the seas and oceans that surround them. They have studied the Great Barrier Reef and identified why the area is changing due to humans and climate change. To strengthen their understanding, they have also visited the Birmingham sea life centre, which was an enjoyable experience for all.

Our Science topic, Living things and their habitats, has fit nicely into our topic this half term. Griffins have completed a local habitat survey and looked at environmental changes that are affecting different animals.

In RE, Griffins have had the opportunity to visit a Mandir, Hindu Temple, in Coventry. This has really helped when comparing the Hindu faith with Christianity. Everyone showed the upmost respect for the faith and asked many interesting questions.



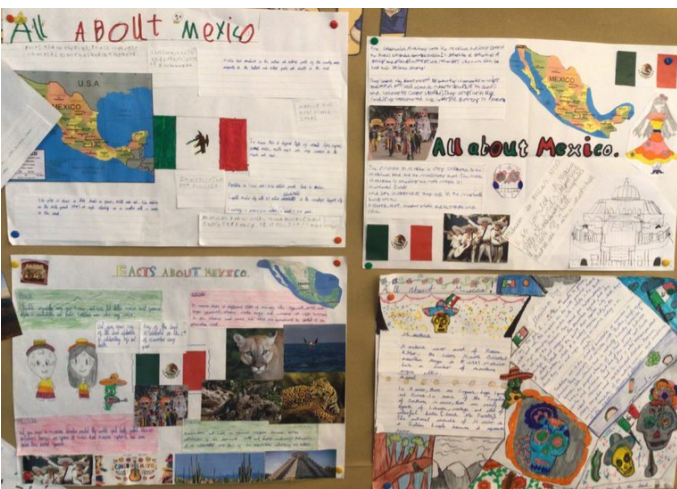
# Our Learning

## Year 5

This term we have been working on the topic of 'Hola Mexico' which is all about the Geography and Culture of Mexico. We have used Google Earth to compare the different environments within Mexico and have investigated the climate in different parts of the country.

We have used Internet research to create information posters and have compared Mexico to the UK. In Art we have designed our own Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) masks using the traditional Mexican designs for inspiration.

We have also used the theme of this year's GAF, 'Change makers', to create a range of artwork for the Birmingham GAF trip competition. Ten lucky winners will be able to take part in a week of Arts related activities staying at Nicholas Chamberlaine school.



# Our Learning

## Year 6

The time finally came for our wonderful Griffins to sit their SATs. After months of hard work, they really did showcase all they know and should be incredibly proud of themselves.

We finished the week with an exciting trip to Drayton Manor where all our Griffins and staff had a fantastic time: they showed us their bravery on some of the rides! As well as this, we also travelled down to London where we watched the West End production of Matilda- again another fantastic reward for our Griffins.

In other lessons, Griffins have designed their Day of the Dead masks and have also began learning more about Mexico. In PE, Year 6 took part in International Dance Day and have been working on their cricket skills. They are also working towards Sports Day which I am sure will be a fantastic event.

We are nearly at the end of Year 6 and our Griffins time here at Race Leys Junior School, so we will ensure that Summer 2 is a half term that they will not forget!





# 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 Max, Harrison, Millie, Daisy, Miles, Logan, Gracie and Olivia this term.



## Parking - Please Help!!!

Please can we ask that you take the time to read a recent email that we have received regarding parking around our school site:

I am sending you this email with concerns from residents living on Mayfield Close bungalows who are part of the Housing 21 scheme close to your school.

We as a housing and care company have recently provided a street sign below the street name advising parents of children at Race Leys school that the parking on the close is for residents only. I have had several reports during the last week since the sign was put up that there are still a number of parents parking their cars there. I wonder if you would be so kind as to send a memo out to parents whose children attend school and kindly ask them not to park there.





# 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 Summer 1 standings are as follows:  
1st Hogwarts with 637 points  
2nd Neverland with 425 points  
3rd Oz with 417 points  
4th Scumdiddlyumptious with 362 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 Summer 1 half term was 3WK with an average of 97.3%

Congratulations also to 4AB, who have made the biggest improvement with a huge increase of 6.8%



# 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