

# GRIFFIN NEWS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
RACE LEYS JUNIOR SCHOOL



## SUMMER 2 2022

Welcome to our final newsletter of the 2021-2022 academic year. What a year it has been and in true Race Leys style, we have had an extremely busy Summer 2 half term.

Firstly, congratulations to our current year 6 griffins. They have worked extremely hard throughout the year, attending afterschool boosters, Saturday and Easter school and this has certainly paid off, as we received our best ever SATs results earlier in July, with 85% of children reaching the expected or greater depth standard in reading, writing and maths. This is well above the national average of 59% and we are extremely proud of each and every one of them.

Staying with year 6, we launched another new proud tradition this half term as year 6 completed their Junior Duke award. This is an earlier stage of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and our griffins have been working very hard by completing a range of activities in order to receive their award. In addition to this, year 6 have been working very hard on their Wizard of Oz production and delivered quite a show when this was performed to families in the Grand Hall at Nicholas Chamberlaine this past Friday – many thanks to our fellow Griffin School for providing this amazing venue.

A special mention also goes to our year 4 griffins, who became the first year group to complete the brand new national multiplication check. Year 4 griffins have been working extremely hard to learn their times tables this year, both within lessons and at home, with some children also attending afterschool sessions in June. This was greatly appreciated and we are delighted that 90% of our Griffins scored over 20 correct answers. To celebrate this and thank our griffins for their hard work, year 4 recently enjoyed a picnic in the park in addition to their planned trip to Warwick Castle.

Another fantastic achievement for our school this half term was being highly commended at Times Educational Supplement Awards in June. Although we were initially disappointed not to win the school of the year award, to be one of only three highly commended schools across the whole evening is an amazing achievement and recognises the fantastic improvements that the school has made over the last three years.

We were delighted to be able to host multiple events for our families over this half term, beginning with our proud tradition of Father's Day football. Despite the emphatic victory for the parents, it was wonderful to see so many people turn out to celebrate this event. Mr Bevan assures me that the staff team are already in training for next year and we also hope to arrange a parent netball match when we return in September. The return of our Summer Fete was a resounding success with multiple stores and activities on offer for our families to enjoy. We also held our annual sports day at the Pingles Stadium for the second year running and thank you to all who attended to support our griffins.

Our proud tradition of the Griffin Arts Festival took place during June and July, launching with our big top circus event. Competition winners from year 5 had an amazing time at the Birmingham GAF residential, visiting places such as the Botanical garden's and symphony hall, whilst griffins within school produced some stunning work around the theme of changemakers, with a whole school greatest show performance for our families to finish.

Finally, please can we finish by thanking all members of our griffin family for your support this year. It is hard to believe that this is the first time in three years where we have not had any school closures and I hope that you will agree that it has been another successful year for everyone associated with Race Leys Junior School. I would also like to wish the very best to our year 6 leavers, who have been a wonderful year group and a credit to our school. On behalf of the staff, please can I wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable Summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you when school returns on Wednesday 7th September.

Warmest Wishes

Sue-Ellen Lamb  
Head of School



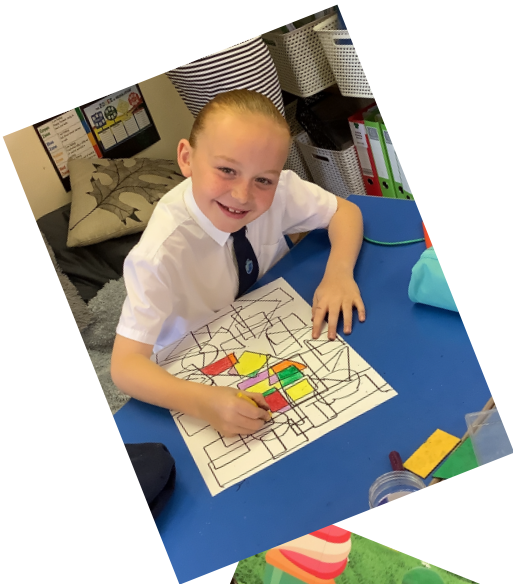
# Our Learning

## Year 3

We have had an amazing last half term! In our topic of Gods and Mortals we created exceptional art designs of Medusa, studied ancient Greece and wrote narrative pieces on Hercules.

Maths has incorporated time, including Roman numerals and geometrical shapes.

Celebrating GAF has allowed us to delve deeper into our legendary learners, creating masterpieces of Nelson Mandela and Marie Curie. The circus was an amazing surprise, the children's faces were priceless when we were watching the performers!



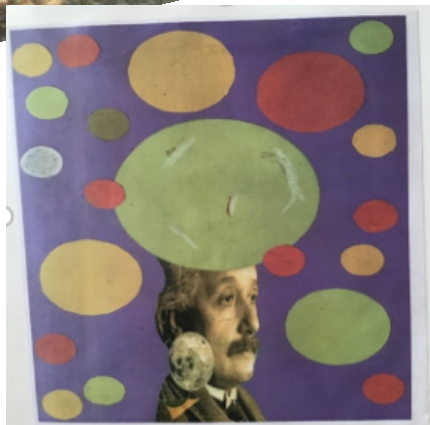
# Our Learning

## Year 4

This term in topic, year 4 have studied Traders and Raiders. We have researched and written about the time period of the Anglo Saxons to the battle of 1066. We also visited Warwick Castle and took part in a workshop based on the battle of 1066. We learnt that the castle was a Motte and Bailey castle in design, climbed the five hundred plus steps up the tower and enjoyed a close encounter in the falconry show.

Also this term, Griffins have taken part in GAF week. We based our artwork on the achievements of the change makers Albert Einstein and Nelson Mandela. Griffins used a variety of techniques and produced some fantastic pieces of art in the style of surrealism. They were also given the opportunity to learn new circus skills in the Big Top and continued practicing these skills during their P.E lessons.

In Maths the year 4 Griffins blew us away with their dedication and perseverance to learning their multiplication tables. They showed great resilience in the times tables government check, setting the bar extremely high for others to follow. As a reward for all their hard work they were treated to a picnic in Bedworth Miners Welfare Park.



# Our Learning

## Year 5



This half term we have enjoyed and took part in lots of artwork to celebrate the topic of Gallery Rebels. We researched a chosen artist and wrote biographies about their lives and work. In art we sketched and painted ourselves into a famous painting and they turned out brilliantly.

During the GAF fortnight we decided to make stamps of some of the Legendary Learners. To start off, we sketched a portrait of the artist. Then, we created a montage of their achievements which we used to draw images from. These were added onto a large piece of paper and the portrait was stuck on top of the collage. Finally, we added a border and an image of the Queen's head and our limited edition was ready to show. We also wrote a poem about the circus visit which was so much fun.

In PE we continued learning some of the skills performed at the circus: juggling, plate spinning and diablo were a few of the activities. We also wrote newspaper articles about the visit. It has been clear, this half term, that we have some artists in the making.

In addition to the above, we spent a week of STEM designing and making self-propelled cars. The winners took their designs and cars to a science festival to take part in a competition where they had a really fun afternoon.





# Our Learning Year 6

It has been an amazing half term for our Year 6 Griffins at Race Leys and we cannot believe it is now time to say goodbye to them. We have had many experiences this half term; from our PGL trip to taking part in the Junior Duke Award with the year ending in our Year 6 performance of the Wizard of Oz, which all Griffins did fantastic in!

GAF week was also a success where we explored fast fashion and environmental protest banners linked to our GST theme of Change Makers. During Sports Day, all Griffins showed great perseverance even in the hot weather.

It was lovely to see our Year 6 Griffins celebrate their prom with us and the arrivals were the talk of the town! This year, our Year 6 Griffins have worked incredibly hard and we are so proud of them. We wish you all good luck at secondary school and in your future!





# Pastoral Update



This year has been successful for our Pastoral Team. We have been able to support our griffins and their families with a range of interventions, clubs and services.

In order to protect our griffins from exposure to inappropriate games, programmes or YouTube videos (eg Fortnite, Squid Games), from September griffins will no longer be able to bring in lunch boxes, drinks bottle that promote them.

We would also like to remind griffins that they do not need to and we strongly discourage them from bringing in personal items (this includes pencil cases) as they get upset and distressed if they got lost or broken.

Over the summer you are still able to access the National Online Safety Platform <https://info.nationalonlinesafety.com/> for courses.

We would also like to remind you if you are concerned about the wellbeing of a child during the holidays to contact:

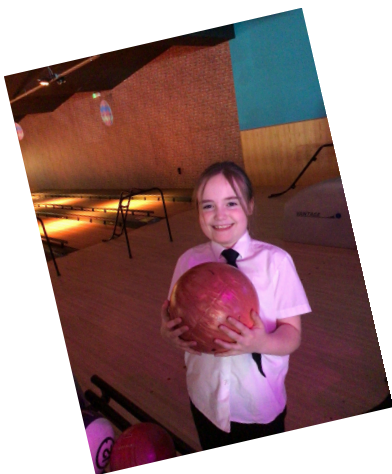
Police 999 or 101

NSPCC 0800 800 5000

Warwickshire Integrated Front Door (previously MASH) 01926 414144 out of hours 01926 886922.

We hope our Year 6 griffins enjoy their move up to their Secondary School; look forward to Years 3, 4 and 5 moving into their new classes, and welcome our new starters in September 2022.

Have a lovely summer.





# Tea Party in the Mad Hatters Tea Room!

Congratulations to the following Griffins who attended the Tea Party with the Senior Leadership Team on Thursday morning:

Noah, Reilly, Terry, Ellie, Leah, Sophie J, Caris and Lucas.

Staff selected Griffins who have shown outstanding values together with a high attitude towards learning throughout the term.



## House Cup Winners - 2021/22



We have now completed the final count of all the house tokens this year and the results are as follows:

1st Place: Hogwarts with 1382 points

2nd Place: Neverland with 1005 points

3rd Place: Oz with 984 points

4th Place: Scrumdiddlyumptious with 857 points

Congratulations to all of our griffins for receiving so many values tokens this year and a special well done to everyone in the Hogwarts house for their victory!





# Apetito



We recently hosted a taster session for our Race Leys Family to introduce you to Apetito, our new lunchtime provider from September. This was a very well attended event with lots of compliments received regarding the quality of food on offer.

We would now like to extend this further by offering all of our griffins a free taster session during lunchtime on Wednesday 7th September. Our griffins will be able to order a tasty school dinner from our new providers for free on this day only!



## Youth Club

This year saw the successful launch of the new Race Leys Youth Club. The club, for children in years 4, 5 and 6 is run separate from the school by a team of committed volunteers, some of whom have been involved in running activities clubs for children for nearly 40 years.

Youth club will not run during the Summer holiday but we look forward to welcoming them back when we return in September.

Please find the link at [www.raceleys-youthclub.co.uk](http://www.raceleys-youthclub.co.uk) if you would like to register your child.





# So Long, Farewell

The end of the school year will bring a little sadness, as we say goodbye to the following members of staff and wish them all the best for the future.

## Mrs Bolesworth

We are sad to announce that Mrs Bolesworth, who has been teaching at Race Leys for over 23 years, will retire at the end of this academic year. Mrs Bolesworth has made many contributions to our school over the years and Race Leys will not feel the same without her. We are sure that you will join us in thanking her for everything that she has done to support our griffin family.



## Miss Coles

We will also say goodbye to Miss Coles, who has secured a position in a school closer to home. Miss Coles has been instrumental in raising the standards of maths across the school and played a crucial part in helping us secure our best ever year 6 SATs results!

## Miss Carter

Miss Carter, who joined our pastoral team earlier this year, has been inspired to continue her learning journey and we wish her all the best as she starts university in September. Miss Carter will be fondly remembered for the level of support and care that she has shown our griffins.

