

RACE LEYS JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

July 2023

Welcome to our Summer 2 half termly newsletter, our final newsletter of this academic year! In true Race Leys Junior School style, it has been a busy half term as we have tried to maximise all of the opportunities available for our griffins before they break up for the Summer holiday or in the case of year 6, move to their new school!

As you would expect, sport has taken a leading role during this half term. Our proud tradition of holding sports day at the Pingles Stadium continued and it was wonderful seeing our griffins take part in a range of sports whilst being supported by the many families in attendance. Mrs Austin, Mr Stewart and other members of staff have also been busy taking griffins to the Brownlee Foundation event, girls football tournaments (including a very special session with former England international, Laura Bassett at the Oval) and various other sports matches such as cricket. However, perhaps our proudest sports moment from this half term was seeing our Sports Leaders work with younger children when they supported Race Leys Infant School during their sports day.

Continuing with the sports team, another proud tradition continued as the staff challenged the parents to a football match for Father's Day. Thanks to some late transfers to the staff team to make up the numbers, they were victorious on this occasion. Next year will mark the ten-year anniversary of this tradition and Mr Bevan assures me that there are big plans in motion!

It has also been a busy half term for trips, with griffins attending various events such as the year 3 visit to Twycross Zoo and year 4 going to Warwick Castle. However, this was not all, as our history ambassadors were able to sleep at the Natural History Museum in London for their DinoSnore event; our STEM ambassadors were treated to a day at the Science Museum following their strong performance at this years Griffin Science Symposium; the English and RE ambassadors visited Coventry Cathedral for a storytelling event and our maths ambassadors visited the Belfry Golf Centre as part of the British Open event, with special thanks to our local MP, Craig Tracey, for arranging this special opportunity for our griffins.

Events in school continued, with year 6 having a wonderful time at their prom (with lots of interesting entrances including an ice cream truck and a police car!). Years 3-5 had their school disco, hosted by our friends at the Race Leys Youth Club and year 5 spent an evening camping on our school field!

Our longstanding proud tradition of the Griffin Arts Festival (GAF) continued during June and July, with classes having the opportunity to explore a range of arts, culminating in our GAF showcase in school to share our amazing work with our families. In addition to this, selected children from year 5 attended the Birmingham GAF residential for four days, held at Nicholas Chamberlaine. As part of this event, they visited the Birmingham Royal Ballet and Symphony Hall, watched *Demon Dentist* at the Birmingham Alexandra Theatre and attended a very special Folk Dance during the final evening.

Please can we take this opportunity to thank our amazing staff for providing all of the above experiences for our griffins. These events often involve staying late afterschool and, in some cases, sleeping in uncomfortable conditions, to ensure that griffins have an amazing time. We simply could not do this without our staff's willingness to go above and beyond their normal duties on a regular basis.

Finally, we would like to wish all of our griffins, families and staff a restful and enjoyable Summer holiday and look forward to welcoming both our existing and new griffins back to school on Wednesday 6th September.

Best Wishes

Mrs Lamb

Head of School



As we are approaching the end of this academic year, our griffins were given the opportunity to round their track-it points up to the next reward! The final two weeks of school have been filled with many children attending in non-uniform, spending café vouchers and sitting with friends. However, some of our griffins have also reached some of our higher points activities, meaning that they have attended swimming sessions, played laser tag in school and also had an in-school karaoke/disco! As expected though, the most popular reward saw a record 50 happy meals being delivered to the school for griffins to enjoy as their Friday lunch.



At the start of the next academic year in the Autumn Term, we will be making some changes to how we start our school day. Griffins will now assemble on the school playground, with a bell being rung at 8:45am to signal that they should line up ready to begin the day. Class teachers will then lead classes into school, with support staff being on hand to take any messages from parents. The school day will then end as normal at 3:15pm, with classes being dismissed from their usual doors. Please can we highlight to our families that years 4 and 5 will swap classes during the holiday, meaning that the year 4 classes will now be by our MUGA with year 5 taking the two classes at the front of school by reception. Please can we also remind families that our school admin team are not able to answer the phone until their day starts at 8:30am.

Unfortunately, due to increasing in food prices we have had to take the difficult decision to raise the cost of schools dinners. From September these will now be £2.35



Unfortunately, Summer term two also brings a pinch of sadness as we say some goodbyes. Miss Forrest has finished (and passed!) her TA apprenticeship and will leave at the end of the Summer term. Miss Forrest has been a fantastic support to our griffins in year 5 and we wish her all the best. Miss Cave has recently left her position as Midday supervisor (and anything else needed in school!) and will be greatly missed by all. In addition, Mrs Clarke will also be leaving at the end of this term. Her positivity and enthusiasm has been infectious during all of the years that she has worked at Race Leys Junior School and this has been hugely appreciated by our staff, griffins and families. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.



Our final goodbye and good luck goes to all of our griffins and families in year 6. The start of their journey at Race Leys Junior school may have been greatly disrupted by the pandemic, but they have not let this stop them and their hard work and determination was rewarded as they achieved incredible SATs results that were well above the national averages. We wish them all the very best as they move to secondary school and will look forward to our secondary colleagues informing us of their future successes.



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