



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Autumn Term Week 2

Our first full week has been a busy one and children are now finding their feet and remembering routines.

Our Nursery children have been talking about feelings, developing their friendships and they have continued to explore their learning environments. We are pleased that we have been able to add 2 new pieces of outdoor equipment for the children to explore, in order to develop their gross motor skills.

In Reception this week children have started their phonics and maths, as well as enjoying their continuous provision activities. In Year 1, children have started their maths using our new scheme 'Power Maths' and they have enjoyed their focus text 'Cave Baby'. They have been revisiting phase 3 phonics and impressing the staff with their knowledge. Both Reception and Year 1 have worked with two teachers from Lawrence Sheriff this week – Mrs Sally Hewitt will be teaching them Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Mrs Steph Standing will be teaching them French. This will be on a fortnightly basis, with Mr Marcus Gregory teaching them PE on the alternate week. As always, we hope you enjoy your weekend.

Harvest Festival

This year, as last year, we will be supporting Rugby Foodbank at our Harvest Festival on 11th October. During the financial year 2023-24, Rugby Foodbank provided over **7,000** emergency three-day food parcels in the Rugby area, with **37%** of this food going to children. We distributed over **100** tonnes of food during this period. The demand for our services remains high, as many people face food poverty due to the ongoing cost of living crisis and issues of low income.

Over the past six months, they have experienced shortages of several essential items. Their Harvest shopping list is up by classroom doors and in the main entrance, which outlines the items most needed to continue supporting those in food poverty in Rugby. Please note, however, that they do not need pasta, baked beans, or cereals, as they currently have an excess of these items.

Rhubarb

Next week Mrs Hine will be bringing in organic rhubarb for you to enjoy. We ask for donations of £1 for 5 sticks and an honesty box will be left out. As it is out of season, it will need to be cooked for a bit longer and will probably need some sugar.

Patience Please

As I am sure you appreciate, the school office is an incredibly busy place. It deals with daily tasks, including unexpected events, messages from parents, colleagues, contractors and random sales calls to name but a few, whilst also dealing with HR, finance, app management, registers and other legal requirements and requests from staff and children. This is always multiplied at the start of a new school year, as there is a lot of additional work setting up new classes, ensuring all children are registered on all of the apps/systems we use and dealing with external services.

May I please request that you show some patience in your dealings our fabulous office staff – things do take time, but they will definitely be dealt with and they will get back to you as soon as they can with a solution to an issue or an answer to a request.

Grapes – Safety Message

Doctors have warned that young children can choke to death on whole grapes. We have noticed that some children Please ensure that grapes for snack or lunch have been halved lengthways, to avoid any chance of choking.

'Happy, Kind and Confident'

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Reception – Alfie, for growing in confidence in the space of a week and a half. It has been a pleasure to witness.

Year 1 – Arron, for overcoming his nerves about starting the new year and working hard in his lessons.

House Points

The winning house this week is .

Well done to everyone in Sapphire House for earning the most Dojo Points.

Let's get Digging!

Thank you so much to one of our new parents who spoke to his employers, Rugby Borough Council, and managed to get us a donation of 12 bags of compost – we are really grateful.

Reception Phonics Evening

Miss Byrne is looking forward to seeing lots of our Reception parents at our information evening on Tuesday 24th September at 6pm. Children are welcome.

Phonics Flashcards

Thank you to all of the Reception parents who expressed an interest in purchasing a set of Phonics Flashcards to support their children with their phonics at home. ParentPay is now set up to place your order and we will have the cards ready for you as soon as possible. If anyone else is interested please do buy them as children learn best when we all work together. They cost £7.06.

Lunch Boxes

Please could you put your child's name on the outside of any lunchboxes so that they can be identified as lots of the boxes are the same and we want them to ensure they have the correct lunch.

In Nursery, if your child is having a school lunch but also has a snack in a lunchbox, could you please make sure that the staff are made aware of this. Thank you.

ParentPay

Please could any parents who have not yet done so, log in to ParentPay. If there are any issues please speak to the office staff. Thank you.

FROGS – ASDA Rewards

Please see the poster about Cashpot – a reward scheme from Asda, where schools get money donated every time you shop. Please share it with all your friends and family. The money raised by our PTA – the FROGS – goes directly back into school to buy super things for your children. If you wish to come along and see what the FROGS is about our next meeting is on the 26th. Thank you.

Parent Trustee

The deadline for applications, if you wish to be considered as a Parent Trustee is Friday 20th September at midday.

Birthday Gifts

As we aim to be a Healthy School, I would ask you to consider possible alternatives to lots of sweets if you bring party bags on your child's birthday, such as pencils, notebooks. It is of course, entirely your choice and simply a suggestion.

Dates for the Diary

20/09 – Deadline for Parent Trustee Nominations

24/09 – Reception Parents Phonics Information Evening (6pm – children welcome).

24/09 – Year 1 Toys and Games workshop (in school)

26/09 – FROGS meeting 7pm (in school)

30/09 – Individual School Photos

10/10 – Tours for Prospective 2025/26 entry

11/10 – Harvest Festival (9am – all parents welcome)

14/10 - Tours for Prospective 2025/26 entry

15/10 – Parents' Evening (3.45-6.30pm)

17/10 – Parents' Evening (3.45-6.30pm)

25/10 – Teacher Training Day

28/10 – 1/11 HALF TERM

