



# THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

## Keeping you up to date

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### Autumn Term Week 7

It was really super to see so many of you at the Parents' Evening this week – we hope you found them helpful. I could see lots of proud faces as you left, which is always a good sign!

I have seen some really impressive learning this week and my highlight was seeing the Year 1s conducting their experiment to discover which materials are waterproof. Nursery children have been busy sequencing and retelling their Talk for Writing story of 'Rosie's Walk' and playing memory games. Reception children amazed me with their phonics knowledge and I have also enjoyed seeing their wonderful artwork on display in the classroom. With only four school days to go until half term, I hope you have a restful weekend.

### Important Changes to School menus – keeping all children safe

We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure all children have healthy and nutritious lunch options when they are at school. Food safety is our top priority, and we have comprehensive policies and standards, including allergen management, to ensure the safety of our food. Following a review of our processes, we will update our school menus to reduce our special diets menus from nine menus to one menu, and this change will take effect after the half-term break. Designed by our nutritionists in partnership with our culinary team, this new menu eliminates the presence of the 12 most common food allergens (milk, eggs, gluten, crustacean, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, soybeans, sesame, celery, mustard, and lupin) and will help to keep more children safe during our busy lunch service. This change has been designed with the safety and well-being of all children in mind. It's a crucial step in creating a safer, more inclusive dining environment for pupils with allergies, where every child can enjoy their meals without the risk of exposure to allergens. Wherever possible, our nutritionists have aligned the allergen menu choice with the standard menu, and we will continue to offer nutritious, balanced and delicious meals for all pupils. We appreciate your support as we introduce these changes to keep our school community safe and happy.

### Parent Trustee

I am delighted to announce that Mr Ravdeep Jagpal has been elected as our new Parent Trustee. Thank you for taking part in the ballot. We look forward to working with Mr Jagpal to make certain that The Griffin is the best it can be for your children.

### Pedestrians

We have noticed some pedestrians using the vehicle gate to enter and exit the grounds. Please only use the pedestrian gates if you are on foot, in order to keep safe. During the school day between 9am- 11.40am, 11.50am -12.25pm and 12.40 and 3.20pm the Nursery pedestrian gate is locked and so all pedestrians will need to come to the main pedestrian entrance gate. Thank you.

### ParentPay and Wraparound/Clubs

ParentPay has now been updated, ready for next half term – please make your payments promptly.

### Singing Club

If your child is not registered and Emma Butler has not received payment for this club, they will no longer be able to attend. Details have already been sent to relevant parents.



## Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

**Nursery** – Patrick, for his excellent progress and making new friendships.

**Reception** – Chloe, for her determination to always do her best and never give up.

**Year 1** – Maahi, for always putting 100% effort into her work and having great focus.

## House Points



The winning house this week is

Well done to everyone in Ruby House for earning the most Dojo points.

## Mud

You may have noticed that there is a lot of mud being transported onto the building site opposite the school at the moment and we are very aware of the state of the road. Mrs Hine is in communication with the site manager about the state of the road and the traffic movement needing to be outside of school arrival and departure times.

## Shoebboxes

In assembly on Wednesday, I spoke to the children about Christmas shoebox appeals, as we would like the school community to be able to support those with less than ourselves by filling shoeboxes with items and sending them off. You will have received a leaflet about this today in your child's bookbag.

## Panto Consultation – seeking your views

We have decided that, due to the cost of living, we will only have a whole school theatre visit at Christmas every other year. However, we would still like to do something festive and so have been speaking with a company who bring a panto into school.

Mrs Tucker has set up a consultation about this (link below) for you to complete by 12pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October to seek your views as to whether you are happy to make a voluntary contribution towards this special treat for the children, as we are mindful that we also have an enrichment offer for the year in Reception and Year 1. We will go with the majority vote and let you know.

<https://forms.office.com/e/deNumTvrEp>

## Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

From now on we will only be putting the dates for the next month into the newsletter but will update the original dates for the whole academic year document we sent out with any new dates and events in red.

**24/10 – Halloween Costume/Pyjama Dress Down Day** (bring a gift for the 'Rainbow Raffle' - further information to follow)

**25/10 – Teacher Training Day**

**28/10 – 01/11 HALF TERM**

**12/11 – E2 Nursery Parents' Evenings (2 year olds)**

**15/11 – Children in Need** – Children can wear something Pudsey related or come in all 'spotty' on this day to raise money for Children in Need. £1 donation.

## News from The FROGS



### Halloween Costume / Pyjama Day

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October – the last day of this half term – we are inviting children to come to school in a Halloween Costume or in their pyjamas (and dressing gowns). The pyjamas should not be the ones they wore overnight and children should wear their underwear underneath! In return, we are asking for a raffle prize for the Rainbow Raffle at the FROGS Christmas Fayre. Items need to be the colour of your child's house – red, green, blue or yellow. Teachers will make sure that you know which house your child is in by the end of Monday, so that you can start planning what to bring. Items must be new and/or unused! If you are able to provide more than one prize it would be much appreciated. You may have some unwanted gifts that you could donate.

### Cakes Please

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October, the FROGS are providing refreshments at the Eden Park Community Halloween Film event at school. If you are able to donate any shop bought cakes for this (as they need to last for 3 days after donation) it would be greatly appreciated. They would need to be brought into school on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, as this is the last day of half term.

