



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Spring Term Week 5

I always enjoy welcoming visitors to our school. This week Miss Byrne met with some visiting teachers to show them our wonderful EYFS. We also welcomed back Reverend Diane to lead assembly on Wednesday afternoon.

As always, there has been some fabulous learning happening and in Nursery, children have innovated their story to We're Going on a Dino Hunt. They have learned that Earth is the 3rd closest planet to the sun and also that the sun is a star. In Reception this week, children have been reading a book called 'Planet Awesome' and discussing ways to help look after our planet. They have also been comparing New Year celebrations and this week looked at Persian New Year and the Haft Seen Table. They impressed the staff by noticing the similarities to Diwali celebrations. Year 1 children have been doubling and near doubling in maths and learning about season change in animals, looking specifically at squirrels. They have also learnt what an axle, chassis and wheel is, in Design Technology. Next week is the final week before half term – that means we are halfway through the school year!

Parents' Evenings

Lots of you have already booked your Parents' Evening time slot. Thank you. For those of you who haven't yet booked, please remember to book as soon as you can, to guarantee your preferred time. Also, please let us know if you require a TEAMS link, if one of you is unable to join us in person.

Earrings

This is a reminder that any earrings worn to school should be plain studs, not hoops. Thank you. Other jewellery should not be worn unless it has a religious significance (please inform your child's teacher if this is the case) or is a wristwatch.

National Storytelling Week

Did you know that this week has been National Storytelling Week? It is important to keep reading together, no matter your child's age. Even once children can read on their own, sharing a book together is a great way to bond. Whether it's snuggling under a blanket with hot chocolate or listening to an audiobook in the car, reading together makes it special. Offer a mix of reading materials. Books are brilliant, but so are magazines, comics, graphic novels, eBooks, and audiobooks. It all counts! Find stories that match their interests. If a child loves football, fantasy, or superheroes, there are books about those topics! Linking reading to their hobbies makes it more engaging. Make reading accessible. For children with dyslexia, autism, ADHD, or visual impairments, publishers like Barrington Stoke and Ransom create brilliant, accessible stories. Let children choose. Giving them the freedom to pick their own books (even if they want the same one over and over!) helps build confidence and independence. Be a reading role model. Let children see you enjoying books and talking about stories – enthusiasm is contagious!

New Dates for the Diary

As you know we always have a lot of exciting things happening at The Griffin. Mrs Isaac's has been busy updating our 'Dates for the Diary' sheet with all of the new events we have planned over the course of the rest of this academic year. This will come out to you via Class Dojo and a paper copy will also be sent home today.

Reception Class Visit to the Space Centre

Thank you for your voluntary contributions towards this trip which is on Thursday. If you wish to order a packed lunch from school, please place an order on School Food United as usual. If you wish to provide your own packed lunch that is fine. Please ensure that nothing contains nuts, in line with our 'no nut' policy.



Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Nursery – Maninder for a super enthusiastic approach and being so sensible with his new glasses.

Reception – Evangelia for her all-round excellent attitude to learning and her kindness.

Year 1 – Zora for his superb effort with his learning and the fabulous progress he is making with this reading and phonics!

House Points



The winning house this week is

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

High Temperatures

If we have sent your child home from school during the school day due to a high temperature, could you please recheck their temperature before returning them to school the next day.

Half Term Activities

You will be sent a flier about some half term activities being organised by Circles Network in Cawston. We hope it may be of interest to some of our families.

Safer Internet Day – 11th February

Even though our children are very young, I am sure that most of them will have accessed the internet for games, music, zoom/TEAMS etc. It is really important to start thinking about how you can keep your children safe online and here are some **GOLDEN RULES** for parents to consider when thinking about safe use of the internet:

Some of the rules are: Discuss and agree as a family how the internet will be used in your home. Let your children tell you what they think is and isn't acceptable for them to do online, such as not being nasty to people, keeping personal information private and speaking to an adult when they are worried. Then add your own rules such as how long they can spend online and when and where webcams can be used.

Ground Advice: Discuss and agree as a family how the internet will be used in your home. Let your children tell you what they think is and isn't acceptable for them to do online, such as not being nasty to people, keeping personal information private and speaking to an adult when they are worried. Then add your own rules such as how long they can spend online and when and where webcams can be used.

Online Safety: Make sure you apply parental controls to all internet enabled devices in your household, including tablets, phones and games consoles. They can restrict access to inappropriate content and can help you manage how much time your child spends online.

Listen: Take an active interest in your child's online life and talk openly with them about the things they do. Talk to your child about which websites and apps they like to use and why; engage in their online world with them.

Dialogue: Make sure your child knows they can come to you for help if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable. Many children won't disclose online worries because they are scared adults will blame them or remove their access to the internet.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

13/02 - Reception Trip to the Space Centre

14/02 Valentines' Day Themed Lunch

17/02 - 21/02 Half Term

24/02 - PE session from Superstar Sports for Year 1 and Reception.

25/02 - Parents' Evening

26/02 - Extra Parents' Evening (Nursery only)

27/02 - Parents' Evening

04/03 - Parent Information Evening 6pm –

Supporting your child's emotional development.

06/03 World Book Day – children are invited to dress up as a book character. Also, a book themed lunch will be available.

18/03 Year 1 Coronation Day

01/04 Reception – School Nursing Service Visit

08/04 Mad Hatter's Tea Party Themed Lunch

14/04 to 25/04 HALF TERM

Seaside Trip

On Saturday 21st June, we are hoping to take a coachload of people to Hunstanton for the day. Please complete the link below to express an interest in coming.

<https://forms.office.com/e/LF8FJCPcEX?origin=lprLink>