



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Spring Term Week 7

We hope you all had a wonderful half term holiday. The children have come back to school full of beans and raring to go! It was great seeing you all at our Parents' Evenings on Tuesday, Wednesday (Nursery) and Thursday – we had a fabulous turn out and it is much appreciated, as we can only help your children to fulfil their potential if you are committed to working in partnership with us to support and encourage your children. Thank you!

This week, our Reception and Year 1 children had a superhero sports session which they really enjoyed. Nursery children have started their new Talk for Writing Text – The Gingerbread Man – and they made and ate their own gingerbread men! They have been looking at patterns in their maths work and have started their new topics, 'Dangerous Dinosaurs' and 'Puddles and Rainbows'.

Reception children had a letter from a little old man who had lost his turnips when he was pulling them up and throwing them over our fence! Luckily the children found them all! This is linked to their book 'The Enormous Turnip'. They have also been working on 'A Bit More' in maths.

Year 1 children have been architects this week, when they drew on squared paper using a ruler. They were imitating the main character in our new book 'Iggy Peck: Architect'. They have also been moving over 50 in maths and drawing a timeline of events since 1950 in their history topic. Phew! Another busy week here – enjoy a super weekend everyone.

School Meals

Following our 'Invite a parent to Lunch' day we have had a few parents asking for clarification on portion sizes for the children. I wanted to reassure all parents that portion sizes are done by weight and that all meals have been designed and planned by nutritionists and dieticians, in line with Department for Education guidelines. Children are given the correct amount of protein and carbs, for their age in the meal provided.

If any child finishes their meal (especially the protein/carb part of their meal, unless they genuinely do not like it) and they are still feeling hungry, Midday Supervisors ask the children if they have had enough, and if not, children are welcome to have more vegetables, fruit or yogurt.

Also, if a child has not eaten any of their meal because they do not like it, despite lots of expert encouragement by our Midday Supervisors, we will always make sure that the child has eaten by making them a sandwich.

Another way we monitor how much children are eating, to be sure they have enough energy for the rest of the day is by asking children to let us know when they are ready to start their pudding. From many years as a Headteacher, I know that without this monitoring, some children would not eat anywhere near enough, sometimes only eating their pudding and throwing the rest away. I have used these systems of monitoring food intake over many years as a Headteacher and I feel confident that they ensure, that we are ensuring our children eat well and healthily, whilst avoiding unnecessary waste.

This week, Alex and I met with our Values Ambassadors about the meals we offer in the future, as 'pupil voice' is very important to us. For the menu we have starting in April, the children helped us select the meal options, so that we can be sure they are meals that the children are familiar with. It is called the 'Familiar favourites' Menu. There will also be pictures of the meals so that parents can see what their children are going to be eating that day, although please remember that there is also an additional salad cart on most days and a choice of vegetables. It is important that you ask your child every day whether they liked their lunch so that, if they didn't, you can make a note not to select that meal choice again. As I am sure you can appreciate, it is impossible for us to report this information back to parents when we are feeding so many children!

We are very lucky to have such highly experienced and skilled kitchen staff, Alex and Harriet, as well as our wonderful team of experienced Midday Supervisors and I can assure you that they would never leave a child feeling hungry.

'Happy, Kind and Confident'

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Nursery – Raegan for being a superstar in all that she does.

Reception – Ezgi for always being a great role model, showing kindness and being a good friend.

Year 1 – Frida for her hard work and perseverance with phonics, resulting in great progress. Well done.

House Points



The winning house this week is .

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

Values Ambassadors

Our new Values Ambassadors for this half term are:

We Listen – YN – Patrick, YR - Aanvi, Y1 – Arthur

We Talk – YN – Daniel, YR - Archie S, Y1 - Karthi

We are Respectful – YN – Asees, YR - Hugh, Y1 - Denver

We are Kind – YN - Raegan, YR - Rosabella, Y1 - Riya

We are Considerate – YN - Loewe, YR - Amelia, Y1 –

Niamh

Well done to you all.

If you have not yet returned an Ambassador badge from last half term please do so, so that we can pass them on to our new Ambassadors. Thank you.

Uniform – a decision has been made!

Thank you for completing the slip about whether you would be interested in a school coat. The result is that, we will have the option of a school coat for parents to buy from MyClothing. As we are setting up an account for this anyway, and we have a legal duty to ensure we are providing affordable uniform, we will also be looking into having other items available on this site. This would mean that in the future you will have a choice of provider. We will keep you informed.

World Book Day

Next Thursday is World Book Day. Children have the option of dressing up as a book character on this day. We look forward to seeing your amazing costumes.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

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.

08/03 Family Tree Planting Session – would you like to plant a tree with your family members. Come along from 9.30am to 3.30pm to help us 'Grow the Griffin!'

19/03 Year 1 Coronation Day – n.b. date change

21/03 Red Nose Day – Cake Sale for Comic Relief 5pm
50p per cake. (Donations of cake appreciated)

Dress Down Day – wear something red (FROGS) £1

Disco/Party (Bluey theme) - £3.50 3.30-5pm

01/04 Reception – School Nursing Service Visit

08/04 Mad Hatter's Tea Party Themed Lunch

11/04 Easter Bonnet Parade - 2.30pm

14/04 to 25/04 HALF TERM

News from The Frogs

Next Event

21/03 – Dress Down Day – wear something Red £1

- **Bluey and Disco** (£3.50 including dancing, games, snacks and a gift. 3.30-5pm. Nursery parents will need to stay with their children in case it proves a little loud or busy! Wraparound club session will be the disco. If your child needs to stay beyond 5pm please send Mr Martin a message on Dojo and we will be in touch.



Ramadan

Did you know that Ramadan starts today. It is a time for celebration, reflection, doing good deeds and spending time with family. We hope that any of our families who celebrate this have a 'Happy Ramadan'.

Nursery Consultation

We are consulting about expanding our Nursery. The letter is on our website on the Nursery page.