



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Summer Term Week 7

In the words of the band 'Arrow' (1982), this week we have been feeling 'Hot, Hot, Hot'! (Showing my age there I am afraid!) Everyone has really impressed us with how they have carried on this week, even though it has been really difficult conditions – we have reduced the time outside at lunchtimes and bought ice to add to children's drinks to try to combat the heat!

Our learning has also been 'Hot, Hot, Hot'! In Nursery children have been learning their new story map for 'Come On, Daisy'. They have also been looking at where different animals live, with a specific focus on sea animals and coral reefs and amazing the staff with their knowledge!

Reception children have been busy writing their 'All About Me' sheets and Year 1 have been learning the vocabulary of time in maths, as well as finding out about the UK in geography. We also really enjoyed having our first stay and plays for Nursery and Reception. Have a fabulous weekend – just 20 school days left to the end of term.

OBE

Huge Congratulations to Peter Kent, our Chair of Trustees and ex- Headteacher of Lawrence Sheriff School, for being made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his outstanding services to Education in the King's Birthday Honours List for 2025 for outstanding services to education. As well as his work leading schools, Peter has extended to working with the DfE, OFQUAL and the Ethical Leadership Commission. He has also been closely involved in developing education across the country through his work on data and leadership training with fellow professionals at the Institute of Education at University College London, the University of Nottingham and the University of Warwick.

During his distinguished career, Peter has also held the role of President of the Association of School and College Leaders, having led its members who are responsible for the education of more than four million young people and children across Britain. He was subsequently elected by his global peers to become President of the International Confederation of Principals, a global association of school leadership organisations, for a two year term of office on the international stage. Peter's work continues to resonate with and influence fellow professionals in countries as diverse as Kenya, Nepal and China.



Nursery Eligibility Codes

You will have received an email with documents attached about applying for your eligibility code for DfE funded hours. Please complete this by **Friday 11th July** to save the office needing to spend time chasing late applications. If you have any queries please speak to the office team who will be happy to help.

Staffing for Next Year

I am delighted to announce the staffing for next year:

Nursery – Mr Pouton and the same amazing team as this year.

Reception – Miss Byrne (Teacher), Mrs Cole (TA) +1 (tba)

Year 1 – Miss Barrow and Miss Powell (TA)

Year 2 – Miss Fitzpatrick, Miss Crossin and Mrs Wright
On Wednesday, we also appointed an apprentice TA to work across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, as well as covering wraparound, lunchtimes and PE.

Congratulations Mr Martin - welcome to the team!

You may have noticed that Mrs Cation is not on this list. Sadly, at half term I received her resignation, as she has decided to leave to spend more time with her family. We will be sorry to see her go, but are excited to welcome Miss Barrow, another excellent teacher, into Year 1. Our new teachers will be in school on the 26th June and 2nd July to spend time with their new classes and start to get to know The Griffin. If parents want to meet them they will be around at the end of the day on 2nd July from 3.20-3.40pm in the Reception and Year 1 classrooms.

'Happy, Kind and Confident'

Need Help Paying your Energy Bills?

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is once again distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund to support people who may benefit from some extra help towards their energy bills. The Household Support Fund can provide short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment to meet an immediate need and help those who are finding it hard to manage the cost of their energy bills. This supplements ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis. Warwickshire County Council is encouraging families and households to apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of a bill. Residents are invited to contact the Local Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation.

Applications can be made over the phone or online Warwickshire County Council is encouraging families and households to apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of a bill. Residents are invited to contact the Local Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation.

Applications can be made over the phone or online - call 0800 4081448. Applications can be made over the phone or online - call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182 or visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme

This support is time limited and available until 27 June 2025, eligibility criteria can be found on the website. Those entitled to benefits eligible free school meals have already received this support as part of their recent cost of living payment. More information on Cost of Living support is available <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk>

School Coat

We have finally received a sample of the coat which will be an optional (but from listening to parents at the gate, very popular) item of clothing from September. I certainly think it looks very smart! We will send further information out about how to buy this very soon.

Road Safety

We all know that it is important to get your child to school on time, but this is not at the expense of driving safely. Although there are no speed limit signs on the road outside of school, as there are street lights the limit would be 30 mph. I have received a letter from a parent who is very concerned about the speed some parents are travelling to school between approximately 8:50am and 8:53am — the time when Reception and Year 1 are due to start.

It appears that some parents, rushing to make it on time, are driving at unsafe speeds along the road outside the school. Many parents and pre-school children/infants are leaving school at this time and crossing the road during this time, and have experienced situations where cars speed past so fast that it is not safe. Please consider everyone's safety and slow down.



Attendance – well done and thank you!

Our latest data shows that our attendance across the whole school is 95.16%, with Reception and Year 1 both above 96% and no persistent absence (90% attendance or under). This is great news and we thank you for your commitment to this.

Adopting an Orangutan

The new Eco-Club/Better Planet Schools Crew have been learning all about endangered species and they would like to help protect one of these species by adopting one. The focus animal at the moment for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is the Orangutan and so the children have decided to have a **cake sale on Friday 27th June** to raise money so that the school can adopt an orangutan. They have made posters to remind us of the event.

If you are able to help support this by providing cakes it would be much appreciated. All cakes will be 50p, payable in advance or on the day. CASH only – we will make sure that children at wraparound are able to buy a cake if they wish.



‘Happy, Kind and Confident’

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Nursery – Alexander for his superb knowledge and answers during group time.

Reception – Aanvi for always doing her best and being a fabulous friend .

Year 1 –Riya for being such a good role model with her focus and attention – always doing the right thing.

House Points

The winning house this week is  .

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

Values Ambassadors

As well as our motto ‘Happy, Kind, Confident’, we also have 5 values that we try our best to show to be our very best selves! This is true for staff as well as children.

Today the last Values Ambassadors for this year were selected. If your child has not been an ambassador this year please do not worry, this is purely and simply because we did not start this until January and so have not had time to have them all. They will receive a Headteacher sticker to say ‘good job, well done’, as we think they are all brilliant. Next academic year, by starting in September, all children will be an ambassador at some point. Our new ambassadors are:

‘We Listen’ – Niyara (YN) ; Alfie (YR) ; Oscar (Y1)

‘We Talk’ – Alexander (YN) ; Harriet (YR) ; Aarna (Y1)

‘We are Kind’ – Lucas (YN) ; Chloe (YR) ; Zainab (Y1)

‘We are Respectful’ – Oscar (YN) ; Alex (YR) ; Zora (Y1)

‘We are Considerate’ – Srihitha (YN) ; Archie B (YR) ; Harry (Y1)

New Trustee Required

We are looking for a new Trustee for the school – this is a really interesting voluntary role where you help support and challenge The Griffin to be excellent in all that it does. If you are interested, or you know of someone who you think might be interested in this role, please let the ladies in the office know. We meet 6 times a year and help monitor performance during the year as well.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

23/06 – Year 1 Trip to Ryton Pools

24 & 27/06 – Stay and Play Session (new 2 year olds)

27/06 – Break the Rules Day – please see below.

27/06 – Eco-Club Cake Sale – 50p per cake.

01/07 – New Nursery Intake - Home Visits

01/07 – Road Safety Assembly (Reception and Year 1)

02/07 – Move up Morning (spend time with your new teacher – including Miss barrow (Y1) and Miss Fitzpatrick Y2)

04/07 – Sports Day (in the afternoon)

08 & 10/07 – New Intake Reception - Home Visits

08/07 – Silent Disco for all year groups – more information to follow

09/07 – New Nursery Intake - Home Visits

09/07 – Singing Club Performance (2.50pm parents welcome)

11/07 – Annual Reports sent home

14-17/07 – Reception Class Bikeability

18/07 – LAST DAY

Nursery Leavers’ Assembly (9.15am)

Reception Graduation Ceremony (11.15am)

Family Picnic (11.55am)

Parents welcome to all the activities on the last day term.

News from The FROGS



Break the Rules Day – 27th June

Get ready for some fun! On Friday, 27th June, students are invited to take part in Break the Rules Day.

You can choose to break up to 3 rules. **For each rule broken, please bring 1 item for the tombola** (new or unused, not second-hand). Items should be brought in the morning or after school.

Rules you can break:

- Wear non-school socks – any fun or colourful socks welcome!
- Wear trainers or different shoes (no flip flops, please)
- Come with crazy hair – the wilder, the better!

The tombola will be at the Family Fun Day being held at the school on Saturday 9th August.

‘Happy, Kind and Confident’