



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Autumn Term Week 2

Our first full week back at school and it has been full on! We noticed that lots of children began to flag a bit towards the end of the week – particularly our youngest ones. Don't worry – this is perfectly normal and it does not take long for children to get used to spending a full week in school.

We have been busy with our learning and in Nursery, children have been enjoying their continuous provision and using the water wall at lunchtimes.

In Reception, children have been singing, counting songs and thinking about amounts. They have also drawn some brilliant self-portraits.

Year 1 children have been exploring shelters and then designing their own, creating posters of animals from their text 'Cave baby' and also started their Computing lessons.

In Year 2, children have been practising using contractions eg. I am = I'm, we are = we're and using a number line to place multiples of 10 to 100. I had a look at children's books this week and they show we have made a great start.

Attendance

At The Griffin we know how important children attending school punctually and regularly is for their educational progress and so we have set a whole school target of 98% attendance across the year.

Please see below for information about term time absence.

Leave of Absence

The Government issued new regulations in September 2013 regarding Leave of Absence; The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

- Head Teachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application.
- Parents do not have any entitlement to take their children on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must establish that there are **exceptional circumstances** and the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.
- Head Teachers will determine how many school days a child may be absent from school if the leave is granted.
- The school can only consider applications for Leave of Absence which are made by the resident parent. i.e the parent with whom the child normally resides.
- Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- Applications for Leave of Absence which are made in advance and refused, will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.
- The Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service have the authority to consider issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for Leave of Absence in line with the Warwickshire County Council's Non-School Attendance and Penalty Notices Code of Conduct. (Please see <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pupilnonattendance>).

Each application for a Leave of Absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

'Happy, Kind and Confident'

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Reception – Oscar, for a great start to Reception and showing our values.

Year 1 – Arlo, for outstanding art and positive contributions in class.

Year 2 – Fabian, for always using his best manners and working really hard in English; with great results.

Nursery will start ‘Star of the Week’ soon.

Apologies to Year 1 parents – I forgot to let Miss Barrow know to invite you to this assembly. If you would like to come in next Friday, we are happy to re-issue your child with their badge so that you can see them.

House Points

The winning house this week is Ruby!

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

Values Ambassadors

Well done to the children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who have been selected to be this half term’s Values Ambassadors:

We Listen – YR – Zephaniah, Y1 - Charlotte, Y2 - Jude

We Talk – YR - Esmeralda, Y1 - Arjun, Y2 - Oscar

We are Respectful - YR - Harley, Y1 – Olivia, Y2 - Aaron

We are Kind – YR - Patrick, Y1 – Aahil, Y2 - Maahi

We are Considerate – YR - Loewe, Y1 – Luca, Y2 – Denver

Well done to you all.

If you still have an Ambassador or Star of the Week badge from last year, please return it to school. Thank you.

Sign up! Sign up!

Please make sure that you have signed up and logged in to the following apps:

- **School Food United** (even if your child receives a free meal or is a 2-year old), as you will need this to order them a Christmas Lunch or parent meal on our ‘invite a parent to lunch’ days.
- **ParentPay** – we use this for clubs/wraparound, charity event donations and school trips.
- **Class Dojo** – our main route of communication
- **Tapestry (Nursery and Reception only)** - our way of sharing your child’s learning journey.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

You should have received dates for the whole year today – we hope this is helpful. Please do bear in mind that these may be subject to change

Parent Trustee Vacancy

Are you passionate about education and your child’s school? Do you want to help shape the future of our academy?

We are currently seeking a **Parent Trustee** to join the **Trust Board** of our School. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the strategic direction and governance of the school.

What does a Parent Trustee do?

As a trustee, you will:

- Help set the vision and strategic priorities of the academy
- Support and challenge school leaders to ensure high standards
- Ensure financial oversight and accountability
- Represent the voice and perspective of parents in decision-making

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from parents or carers of children currently attending the school or nursery. No prior experience in governance is required — just a commitment to improving outcomes for all pupils and a willingness to learn.

If you are interested in this role, please speak to the office team and they will give you a self-nomination form. If we have more than one application, parents will have the opportunity to vote, as a Parent Trustee is elected by the parent body. If we only have one applicant, they will automatically be elected.

Please note that this role is subject to a DBS check and section 148 check.

Parking for Wraparound

Having monitored the car park during wraparound in the morning and after school, I have decided that this year we can continue to allow parents to use the staff car park for this year, but this will not be forever. You can park on site before 8.15am and 5pm onwards. Please note, there are often staff still here at 4.20pm and so parents must still park on the road for this session. Thank you.

Change of Contact Details

We need to have your most up to date contact details – phone numbers and email addresses. If you have changed these recently, please email the school office ASAP to let the team know
 admin2072@welearn365.com

Wraparound

Club Activities are as follows:

	Activity 1 (Game-On Coach)	Activity 2 (School Staff)
Monday	Athletics	Movement
Tuesday	Multi-Sports	Arts & Crafts
Wednesday	Calm Club	Mini Rugby
Thursday	Dodgeball	Board Games / Puzzles
Friday	Arts & Crafts	Gymnastics

Please note that on Monday next week, Mr Martin will not be at wraparound club and so the afternoon sessions may need to be combined.

Recycling Spectacles

We will soon be getting a box in the entrance for recycling spectacles/glasses (not the boxes) – our local Lions group organise this and the old glasses are either reused or recycled. This scheme also includes sunglasses.

Boom Reader

We will be rolling out this method for recording home reading to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 following the trial in Year 1 last year. Please bear with us as we set it up. You will then receive a login and instructions on how to use it.

Harvest Festival

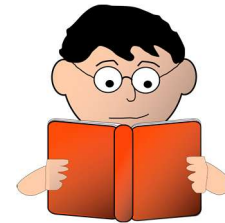
This year we have decided to continue supporting the local Food Bank by asking children to bring in food on Friday 17th October, when it is our Harvest Festival. Lists of the food items that can be donated are on display by classroom doors.

Alex, our School Cook

This is just to make you aware that the fabulous Alex, our school cook, has been on Jury Service this week and is due to continue into next week. We have had an agency member of staff but, as usual, Alex has been super organised and has done a thorough handover of information about any allergies the children have. AiP (School Food United) are managing this cover.

Year 2 Reading

We are going to be starting a new reading program in Year 2 called Accelerated Reader. We have just been sent our login details and will get this out to parents as soon as possible.



PPA Cover

As you know, our sponsor school is Lawrence Sheriff School and we are really lucky to have the opportunity to work closely with them. This includes having Lawrence Sheriff staff come to us to teach lessons when our staff have their PPA time. This year children in Nursery and Reception will have PE once a fortnight with Mrs Dandy and Year 1 and 2 children will have Mrs Webster from the MFL department, teaching French, and Mrs Hewitt from the Teaching Hub teaching RE.



News from the FROGS

The first meeting of this year is on Tuesday 23rd September at 7pm. If you are interested in joining this fabulous group of fundraisers, please do come along - it will be held in school.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND AND WE WILL SEE YOU ALL NEXT WEEK!