



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Autumn Term Week 6

It has been another busy week and one that has unfortunately seen a few 'bugs' around – we have had quite a few staff and children off with illness and we just wanted to make you aware.

This week in Nursery, the children have been learning about the seasonal changes in autumn leaves and developing their language skills by exploring key vocabulary from 'Rosie's Walk'. The children have also been creating a Scarecrow which you might be able to see in the Nursery garden.

Reception children have been continuing their learning about maps and journeys as well as innovating their story of 'The Little Red Hen' – this is where they change the characters and setting of the story. They have also been 'subitising' 1 and 2. This is where they can 'see' the number of items without needing to count them.

This week in Year 1, we began our science project by testing a range of materials to find out which were waterproof and flexible. We'll use our results next week to create some colourful bunting! In geography, we explored hot and cold places around the world, learning about the equator and the different hemispheres.

This week in Year 2, children have been developing their maths skills by exploring number bonds to 10 and 100 through fun, hands-on activities. They also learned about the importance of washing their hands to stay healthy and prevent germs. Additionally, they enjoyed tasting and comparing a variety of raw and cooked foods. Enjoy the weekend.

FROGS Harvest Disco – 17th October

The first event of the year is coming up next week! Due to increasing numbers and children's sizes we have decided to hold 2 discos. **Nursery and Reception's disco is at 3.40 until 4.25pm; Year 1 and Year 2's disco is at 4.30 until 5.30pm.**

If children are going to the first disco, we will look after them until the disco starts. If they are going to the second disco, you are welcome to sign them up to wraparound until it starts. That would cost £3.85.

Parents can attend the first disco if they wish to. At the end of the disco, parents need to come to the enclosure at the end of the hall and we will return your children to you there. For the Year 1/Year 2 disco, please enter via the office to avoid congestion. Collection is at the end of the hall. Tickets must be brought in advance and cost £3.

Please book and pay for your tickets via this link: <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QJKCUPZ5> If this does not work, you can send £3 in cash in a sealed envelope to the office, marked with your child's full name and the word 'Disco'. The card machine will also be available on Thursday morning to pay as you arrive at school.

FROGS Dress Down Day – 23rd October

On Thursday 23rd we are having a dress down day in return for a gift for the Rainbow Raffle at the Christmas Fayre. This means that instead of wearing uniform, children can wear an outfit of their choice to school and, in exchange, should bring a gift which is the colour of their house – Ruby (Red), Sapphire (Blue), Topaz (Yellow), Emerald (Green). If you are not sure which house your child is in, I will ask teachers to put a list up by the classroom doors for you to check. Some ideas of gifts last year were sweets, toys, toiletries, candles, biscuits, hairbands, socks, notebooks, pens and erasers.



Ages for Drop Off and Collection

We ask that siblings who drop off and collect children at the classrooms are at least 16 years old. Thank you. If there are ever any extenuating circumstances around this, then please do let us know in advance and we will consider on a case by case basis.

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Nursery – Avni for being super helpful around the provision and being a good friend.

Reception – Carter for being so respectful to others and to the classroom, by tidying up, even when not asked!

Year 1 – Joel for shining so brightly, taking immense pride in his work and sharing kind words with others. Well done, Joel!

Year 2 – Tara for her improvement in her learning approach and always being kind towards both children and staff.

Presentation Awards

Reception – Esmerelda for her fabulous story map.

Year 1 – Alex for outstanding progress with his handwriting — it has completely transformed in just a few weeks.

Year 2 – Maahi for using joined writing in all subjects, ensuring her descenders are sat on the line.



House Points

Well done to everyone in Topaz House for earning the most Dojo points this week and being the winning house.

Parents' Evening

Don't forget to book your appointment using the details in last week's newsletter

Cycle to School Week

13th–17th October is cycle to school week.

We would love to get more children pedalling to school, discovering the joy of cycling and building lifelong healthy habits.

From Monday 13 to Friday 17 October, everyone is invited to take part by making one (or more) of four fun pledges:

- Cycle to school at least 3 times during Cycle to School Week
- Swap one car journey for cycling
- Discover somewhere new on my cycle
- Go on a cycle ride with my family



Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

Each week we publish the dates that are coming up in the next month, so that you don't forget.

13/10 - Tours for prospective 2026/2027 intake
1.15/2.00/2.45pm

14/10 – Year 2 Inspirations Day

14/10 - Sugar Swap session with AiP – Year 2

17/10 - **Harvest Festival – 2.30pm – Parents**

Welcome. Please note the change of time. This is because our Year 2 children will be leading the assembly and each of the other classes are singing a song. Donations for the foodbank can be dropped off at the office at any time between now and then. If anyone is able to come to school at 2pm and help set the Harvest table up that would be much appreciated.

17/10 FROGS Disco

21/10 Health Monitoring- Reception class

21/10 – Parents' Evening

22/10 – Parents' Evening (Nursery Only)

23/10 – Parents' Evening

23/10 – Flu Vaccinations (Reception, Year 1 and 2)

23/10 - FROGS Dress Down Day

24/10 - TEACHER TRAINING DAY – no children in school

27/10 – 31/10 – HALF TERM

News from the FROGS

In this newsletter you will find further information about the Autumn Disco and Dress Down Day. Remember that by joining in with the FROGS you are helping the school grow and develop and every penny goes back into the school. Last year they raised funds to subsidise coaches for school trips and to pay for the playground/EYFS outside decorations.



Spare Pants

We seem to be running low on our stock of spare pants and knickers, in case of accidents. If you have any you have not returned or could donate, we would be very grateful. Thank you.



Year 2's Inspiration Day

Year 2 children are invited to dress up as someone who is inspirational to them – this could be a sports person, singer, historical figure or someone with a profession e.g. nurse, teacher or maybe a family member. We can't wait to see who inspires them! After half-term, Year 2 will be visiting Rugby School, as they have been learning about William Webb Ellis our local inspirational person, who created the game of Rugby.

Tax Free Childcare Eligibility

Did you know that you may be eligible for Tax Free Childcare? If you are, you can use this for wraparound care at school.

Please visit this link to find out more

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/tax-free-childcare>



Parking

Each week there seems to be a development for this item! As you will have seen, the construction staff now have off the road parking. This now means that you can park past the school down the hill towards Rocherbie Heights, which is where they were parking previously. This should prevent any illegal parking by road entrances. I have been sent a photograph from a local resident of a car overhanging the junction to Platinum Jubilee Road and the complete lack of visibility this creates for turning out of that road onto Lower Lodge Avenue. This is why I have put some posts out on the road.

I have contacted the local PCSO to see if they can come and do some monitoring at drop off and pick up times to be sure we are being safe for all of our community.

If you are able to

- a) Walk/cycle/scoot from home
- b) Park further away and walk the last part of the journey
- c) Use our early morning (8.30am) or late pick up (until 3.35pm) slot (£1.10 per session)

This will help ease congestion.

I have also spoken to Kevin, the site manager at Bloors, and requested that the road sweeper does not clean the road during the drop off and pick up times.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arrival Times

We have now checked all of our clocks are running to time, as we had a slight issue the other day when our clock was ahead of time by a few minutes during morning drop off.

Just to clarify, we have a fluid drop off time from 8.45-8.55am in the morning, and children should be in the classroom by 8.55am. If it has reached 8.55am and we are about to close the door, but staff see you coming, they will let you in but your child will still be marked as late before register closes.

If it is almost 8.55am when you reach the front playground gate, you will be asked to bring your child in through the front office doors. The office team will let the teachers know that your child was here on time. If it is 8.55am or later, you will need to sign them in.

Part Time Cleaner Vacancy – Fixed Term

We have a vacancy for a cleaner for 7 hours per week. This is for a fixed term initially and we would then consider keeping you on our books as supply cover, should one of our cleaners be unable to come to work.

This involves light duties such as vacuuming, cleaning the bathrooms, mopping hard floors, cleaning tables, emptying litter bins.

The hours are 3.30-4.30pm Monday; 3.30-5pm Tuesday – Friday. Alternatively, these hours could be done later in an evening.

If you are interested in this role, but would need childcare in order to do it, we would be happy to have any Griffin Primary children at wraparound for no charge.

£12.65 per hour.

Please speak to Mrs Tucker if you are interested, or complete the application form on the school website www.thegriffinprimary.uk

The successful candidate would need to have a clear, enhanced DBS check and pre-employment checks. No previous experience required.

