



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Autumn Term Week 15

This week has been such a special time! On Tuesday, we had a wonderful time at Warwick Arts Centre seeing 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' – I could not have been prouder of all of the children, as they represented our school so well with their impeccable behaviour.

On Monday and Wednesday, we were delighted to see so many family members at our Christmas Craft Sessions – thank you to the staff for organising this lovely, festive event.

On Wednesday we had a really busy day – it was Christmas Jumper Day, we had a virtual visit from Santa all the way from the North Pole and we had an extremely delicious Christmas lunch. A huge 'thank you' to Alex and Annette in the kitchen for their superb cooking and the way they go over and above – not just for Christmas but every day. To cook 130 Christmas lunches, whilst accommodating for allergies and still smiling is quite simply incredible!

On Thursday, the Nursery children had two performances of their Christmas Celebration. They were so impressive; singing, playing bells and doing actions with such confidence that it was easy to forget that they are only 2, 3 or 4-years old. Children have also been busy completing some Christmas activity booklets, provided by the fabulous FROGS.

Today, we ended term with our recorder group performing 'Jingle Bells' and families joining us for 'songs around the tree' and our Christmas tree light switch off. All that remains is to wish you all a very 'Merry Christmas' and Happy New Year! We will see you on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Attendance

Here is the latest data for our attendance this term.

Nursery E2 = 91.6% ; Nursery N2 = 92.2%

Reception = 97.7%

Year 1 = 96.2%

Year 2 = 96.2%

This means that for this term our whole school attendance rate is 95.5% against our target of 98%.

Well done everyone – this is really impressive, especially as there has been so much illness around.

Individual Attendance letters have been sent to those with attendance lower than 95%. These are really to keep you informed of current attendance levels so that we can work together to reduce the rate of absence as we move forward. It is my duty to send these and they are not sent to upset people, as I know that in the majority of cases there have been genuine reasons for the absence. In Nursery, although pre-school age, I send them to N2 children so that you are aware of the expectations once children start school next academic year, as we are a school-led nursery.

Communication

As part of my duty to look after staff's work-life balance, I have asked teachers to limit their ClassDojo messages to the weekly notification about information for the following week. To help you, we are also going to schedule send the majority of our messages for a Friday so that you know to look at Dojo on a Friday evening or over the weekend. This also includes this weekly newsletter.



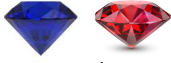
Saving Time

We have put up two folders on the parent noticeboard by the office, to help save time in the mornings or at the end of the day – these contain forms that parents may need to complete and it will save you needing to queue up to talk to the office team. We will also soon have a post box inside the entrance for you to return them in – this will be checked on a daily basis. This new system should save both you and the office staff time.

'Happy, Kind and Confident'

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

We did not have a Celebration Assembly today but can announce that we had a draw for the winning house for this term. It was..... Sapphire and Ruby



They had an extra playtime today as their reward.

Admissions - URGENT

Just a reminder that the Admissions portal for Reception starters in September 2026 closes on 15th January – **DO NOT MISS THIS DEADLINE OR YOU WILL GO TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST.**

Spring Term Wraparound Clubs

Mr Martin and Game On have decided that next term's clubs will be as below. Please book these via ParentPay:

- Monday** – Mr Martin – Tennis
Game On – Board Games
- Tuesday** – Mr Martin – Crafts
Game On - Dance
- Wednesday** – Mr Martin – Puzzles
Game On – Dodgeball
- Thursday** - Mr Martin – Puppet Making / Origami
Game On - Gymnastics
- Friday** - Mr Martin – Multi-Sports
Game On – Colouring

Mr Pouton

We wish Mr Pouton a successful 6 week placement at a local school which starts in January. Mrs Day will be taking the lead for these 6 weeks, supported by all of our wonderful Nursey team (and, no doubt, Mr Pouton from afar, as he will not be able to resist!)

End of Term Reports

You will all have received your child's end of term report (not E2 children) to keep you informed about the progress made and their next steps.

Thank You

On behalf of the staff team, may I say thank you very much for your generosity with the gifts we have been given for Christmas. It is always such a lovely surprise and is much appreciated. It is a joy to work with each and every child in our school.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary – 2026!

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

05/01 – Teacher Training Day

We will publish the next list of forthcoming dates in the first newsletter of 2026!

Mrs Clarke – Year 2 Placement

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Clarke to Year 2 for the first half of the Spring Term. She is training to be a teacher and, we look forward to helping her develop her skill and knowledge, under the expert guidance of Miss Fitzpatrick. We know you will make her feel very welcome.

She will start the half term by observing only for the first partial and full week, teaching 20% in weeks 3 and 4 and finally teaching 50% in weeks 5 and 6.

Miss Fitzpatrick will be supporting children during lessons within the classroom when needed and also leading interventions to help children close any gaps or correct any misunderstandings they may have.

She will still be in school on a daily basis to support you and your children.

We are Explorers

We have some very exciting news to share! Here at the Griffin we feel incredibly lucky to have families with such a wide range of skills and expertise — including someone who builds submarines!

As a result, the Griffin is the first primary school ever to be gifted its own brick, which will form part of the exterior of an exploratory submarine, diving to the depths of an ocean trench. In a very real sense, our primary school will be travelling deep into the unknown parts of the ocean! We'll share more details when we're able to, but what an extraordinary thing to be able to say!

