



# THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

## Keeping you up to date

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### Spring Term Week 1

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a really wonderful Christmas Holiday, however and wherever you spent it. The staff and children seem refreshed and re-invigorated and ready for another exciting, full and productive term.

This week may have been wintery and chilly outside but the classrooms have been nice and warm, with all of the busy activities and super learning that has been taking place!

Nursery children started this week with a bear hunt, finding lots of different bears hiding around school. This is linked to their talk for writing book 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. Our youngest children (E2 cohort) have been looking at big and small/heavier and lighter as opposites.

In Reception, children have started to learn phase 3 digraphs and are now practising writing captions for pictures in the mornings each day. They have started a new topic; 'Space', discussing what is already known and asking questions to take their interest further. They have also practised part-whole models and found different ways of composing numbers.

Year 1 children have made a fantastic start back to school, and Miss Barrow is incredibly proud of the whole class. They got stuck into their learning, exploring local landmarks, the seasons, and place value within 20.

Year 2 children started the week with an expedition into the woods to look for different types of trees. Next week they will be diving into their new book "House Held Up By Trees", using question marks, expanded noun phrases and synonyms. They will continue their money unit in maths and will also start our new DT unit- Cut, stitch and join where we will be looking at different household materials.

The children (and staff) have enjoyed the snowy conditions today – stay safe and warm at the weekend and we will see you back on Monday, for our first full week of this year.

### Easy Fundraising – Amount so far!

Since November when we set up Easy Fundraising for the school you have managed to raise an astonishing £328!

This is simply by using internet shopping as you would normally, but having the Easy Fundraising app on your phones so that the shop/company you use make a % donation to the school each time you buy. One parent even booked a holiday on it, bringing £150 donation from the travel company! It is that easy! If you have not yet downloaded it, it would really help the school raise funds if you did!

### Don't Forget to Order your Child's Lunches

We have noticed that, since the holiday, quite a few parents are forgetting to order their child's lunch in advance. Please remember to do so.

### Bring a Grown Up to Lunch – Years 1 and 2

On **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**, children in Years 1 and 2 are able to invite an adult to lunch.

The menu will be as follows:

- Honey and Soy chicken with roast potatoes and vegetables (Halal) (Allergens: Soy)
- Golden Sausage roll with roast potatoes and vegetables (Vegan) (Allergies: Wheat)
- Jacket potato with a choice of filling and salad (Baked beans, tuna and vegan mayo, Cheese or Vegan cheese)
- Freshly baked vanilla cookie (Allergies: Wheat)
- Vegan Jelly, fruit and Yogurt (Allergies: Milk) will also be available.

Adults will need to book their meal on ParentPay, which is already live, and **the deadline for booking is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm**, so that Alex can order the food in time. Adults must also let us know about any allergies in advance, so that Alex can prepare their meals separately. The cost of an adult meal is £3.55.



## Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

**Nursery** – Emi for having such a confident approach to everything since coming back this term. Well done.

**Reception** – Mandy for coming back with such a great attitude and for trying her best with her learning.

**Year 1** – Henry for his amazing return to school and outstanding effort.

**Year 2** – Harry for his attitude towards school and being so kind towards other children and staff, he truly is a role model to the rest of the school.

## Presentation Awards

**Reception** – Carter for his super handwriting.

**Year 1** – Hugh for earning two gold stars in one lesson this week for his outstanding handwriting and spelling.

**Year 2** – Karthi for his improved handwriting in his English; he is working hard towards his pen licence.

## PE Award

Here are the children for this week's PE award:

**Year 1** Joel for his enthusiasm and excellent engagement.

**Year 2** Yuvaan for his brilliant listening skills in PE.

## House Points

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

## Values Ambassadors

Congratulations to this half term's ambassadors who are:

We are Considerate: Kiron; Alexander; Casper; Karthi

We are Kind: Avni; Peter; Archie S; Zac

We Talk: River; Oscar; Aanvi; Niamh

We are Respectful: Saffron; Nelly; Archie B; Arvinder

We Listen: Tobias; Dvija; Sahib; Yuvaan

## Online Safety Message

Dame Rachel de Souza (the Children's Commissioner) has published a guide and activity book for parents to support their children in the digital age. These are available on the following web page:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/>

## Miss Crossin

Just to let you know that Miss Crossin has been selected for Jury Service from the 19<sup>th</sup> January. However, as we have Mrs Clarke with us this half-term, Year 2 will still have plenty of staff.

## Forthcoming Dates for the Diary – 2026!

**14/01 Road Safety Session** – Reception and Year 1

**10/02 Safer Internet Day**

**10/02 Parents' Evenings** – Not Nursery (see below)

**11/02 Parents' Evenings**

**16/02 – 20/02 HALF TERM**

**Mr Pouton is back!**

**25-27/02 Arts Week** – Far East Focus – All year groups

**25/02 Chinese Dance Workshops** – All year groups

**04/03 Historical Monarch Workshop** – Year 2

**05/03 World Book Day** – Dress up as a Book Character

**05/03 Big Bedtime Read** – join us in your PJs for a bedtime story (more information to follow)

**10/03 Parents' Information Evening** – Topic tba

**13/03 Comic Relief** – Dress Down & Cake Sale

**17,18 & 19/03 Nursery Parents' Evening** – (see below)

**27/03 Easter Bonnet Parade** – 2.30pm

**30/03 – 13/04 EASTER HOLIDAY**

**13/04 Teacher Training Day**

**14/04 Summer Term Starts**

## Parents' Evenings

**Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

Due to a teacher having their birthday on Thursday 12th of February, we will be moving that Parents' evening to Wednesday 11th February (3.45-6pm). The Parents' Evening on Tuesday 10th February is unaffected.

**Nursery**

Due to Mr Pouton being on his placement this half-term, we will be holding Nursery's Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 17th March (3.45-6pm), Wednesday 18th March (12.30-3pm) and Thursday 19th March (3.45-6pm).

**The links to book these are live and on the Calendar in Class Dojo under 'Events'.**

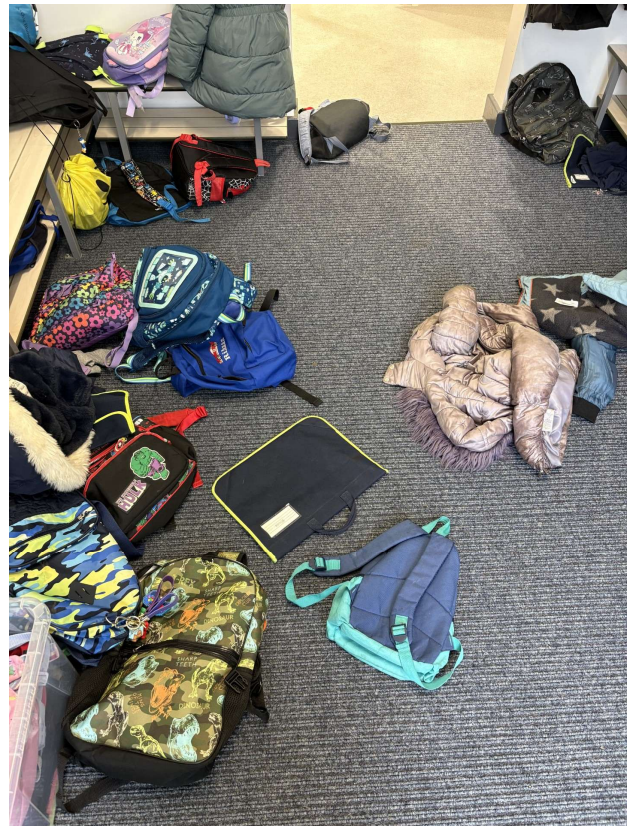
### **Bags of Bags! (Reception, Year 1 and 2)**

We are very lucky to have a beautiful school but there are some elements of it that are not enormously well thought through! One of these is the size of the cloakrooms for 2 classes to share.

Due to the number of backpacks coming into school on a daily basis, our cloakrooms are becoming unsafe. There is simply not enough space on the children's pegs for these, as well as coats. This photo was taken on Thursday after playtime. It shows items that have fallen off of pegs, due to the sheer quantity of items. Children only need to be bringing the following items to school:

- A Book Bag (from Reception up) – this is a compulsory item of our school kit/uniform (for the phonics pack and other reading books, as well as occasional letters or children's work)
- A water bottle
- A lunch box (if not having a cooked meal)

For this half-term, we are going to trial children only bringing the items above.



#### **What do I do if my child rides a scooter or bicycle to school?**

Your child can put their book bag and water bottle in their backpack, if you want them to carry them themselves to develop their independence. Parents would then need to take the backpack home and bring it at the end of the day.

#### **What if my child has spare clothes in case of toileting accidents?**

Put these into a small plastic bag or large food bag, and we can keep those in their PE kit, which is already on a different set of portable pegs, to relieve the pressure on space. The PE kit should stay in school, as they do not get particularly sweaty at this age. We will send it home as and when needed as the children get older.

#### **What if my child has a hat, scarf and gloves?**

If it is dry, we will teach them to push these into the sleeves of their coat – it is helpful in avoiding loss - or they can keep them in their drawers. If it is wet, please provide a small canvas/plastic bag for us to put these items in.

#### **What if there are extenuating circumstances, eg. we have a split household and my child is going to a different house that evening?**

If this is the case, please send the office a Dojo to let the teacher know and we will be able to store this elsewhere.

#### **What if my child needs items for a club?**

Recorders will fit in their book bags and Mr Pouton will be in touch regarding football kit when he is back in school.

#### **What if my child needs suncream or lipsalve etc?**

These will fit in bookbags. They must be named and can then be kept in a central place, e.g. a container in the classroom or in children's drawers.

#### **Can staff help the children hang their things up?**

Yes of course, but they also need to be in the classroom helping with their learning and, to be honest, even when staff help, items still fall off the pegs and create a hazard.

**I would really appreciate your support with this so that we can see what difference it makes to the safety of this busy space – we really do not want anyone tripping over items and having a serious injury or breaking any bones.**