



# THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

## Keeping you up to date

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### Spring Term Week 3

We now let out our hall nearly every weekday evening and also the hall is super busy at the weekends too. This is great for the school as it helps to enhance our income. I am very proud of our premises staff – Karl, Dawn, Greg and Millie – as every visitor who uses our school cannot believe how clean and tidy it is. It also means that our children have a lovely environment in which to do their learning. They really are unsung heroes!

Our learning has continued to impress me and also one of our Trustees who came to do a monitoring visit this week. In Nursery, the 2 year old cohort (E2) have been doing finger rhymes, All children have been learning about brushing teeth and the older children have been doing swirly paintings in the style of Vincent Van Gogh's Starry Night. In Reception, children have been learning about perseverance in PSHE. They have painted their papier mache planets and represented numbers using concrete and pictorial methods.

This week in Year 1, the children have designed, marketed, and sold carnival costumes, bent our bodies into letters in PE, and begun creating 3D artwork inspired by James Rizzi.

This week, Year 2 children have been using coins to find change. They have been using their number bond knowledge to work out amounts of money and have been looking at what different animals need in order to survive. During the lesson, they realised that animals need the same things as humans! As we reach the halfway point of this half-term, we hope you have a good weekend.

### Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

We are fortunate to have three DSL's at school – Mrs Hine, Miss Byrne and Mr Pouton. If you ever had a concern about a child or just wanted to seek advice about something you are aware of, that might mean that a child is at risk of harm, please come and speak to one of these people. **If you ever had an immediate concern for the safety of a child you can contact the Children and Families Team on 01926 414144.**

### Free Communication Workshop for Parents

We are hosting the above on 11<sup>th</sup> February from 9.30-11.30am. Please see the flier on Dojo for further information. It includes information about how to use Visual Timetables, Now & Next Boards & Social Stories to support your child.

### Smart Glasses

Please be aware that, if you wear smart glasses and came to school in them, to safeguard our staff and children, you will be asked to turn them off and/or remove them.

### Plastic Bottle Tops Please

The Eco-Club are learning about why we should reduce, reuse or recycle plastics. They were shocked to know that plastic does not rot away, so all the plastic ever made and not recycled is still in existence on our planet's surface and also to find out that around 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million seabirds are killed by marine plastic pollution every year.

They are now collecting plastic bottle tops so that they can reuse them in a piece of art. Please send any clean lids into school. Thank you.

### Man's Best Friend

*"Channel 4's The Dog House is looking for local families to offer a loving home to a rescue dog and share their reasons why on the show!"*

*If you're interested, find out more*

*here: <https://c4thedoghousetakepart.co.uk> or email [thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk](mailto:thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk)."*

You can find clips from previous series on their YouTube channel **@thedoghousetvofficial** and I have also attached a flier on Dojo.



## Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

**Nursery** – Guinevere for her contributions in class and happy attitude.

**Reception** – Harrison for super effort, especially in phonics.

**Year 1** – Evangelia for her positive attitude, hard work, and for being a joy to teach.

**Year 2** – Elizabeth for her attitude towards her learning. She has impressed Miss Fitzpatrick with her maths skills, using her number bonds to work out larger subtractions. She knows that if  $7+3=10$  then  $70+30=100$ .

## Presentation Awards

**Reception** – Nelly- for super effort with her letter formation and controlling her letter size.

**Year 1** – Arlo for his outstanding effort across all books and tasks.

**Year 2** – Riya for her outstanding handwriting across all subjects.

## Mr Martin's PE Award

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

**Year 1** Harriet for her enthusiasm and fantastic effort.

**Year 2** Kirpa for her improved attitude in PE. She is making a real effort to show Mr Martin that she is listening and participating in the lessons.

## House Points

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

## Enrichment Activities

Year 2's Marvellous Monarchs workshop (4<sup>th</sup> March) is now live on ParentPay and information has been sent on Class Dojo previously. Reception's Living Eggs experience is also live on ParentPay.

## Invite an Adult to Lunch

Thank you so much to the Year 1 and 2 parents who were able to join us on Wednesday lunchtime. We really enjoyed having you here and hope you had a good time.



As always, a huge thank you to Alex and Annette in the kitchen for their hard work and for making this go so smoothly.

## Forthcoming Dates for the Diary – 2026!

**06/02 Number Day** – in aid of the NSPCC (see below)

**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 Marvellous Monarchs 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**



## News from the FROGS

We have the first meeting of 2026 on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the school.

Following the appeal for more people to get involved, we are really hoping that those who signed the list on being interested, might be able to come along and join us as we start to organise our next events.

## Volunteers

As well as our FROGS who are all volunteers, we are really lucky to have some amazing volunteers helping with a range of tasks in school. If you are interested in listening to readers, helping with classroom admin e.g. trimming, sticking and laminating or even doing some cooking with children on a weekly basis, please let the ladies in the office know.