



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Summer Term Week 6

It feels as though this half-term has flown by! As always, I am super proud of our children and staff team and I feel excited to be moving into our final term of this academic year. Lots of children are already showing us that they are ready for their next year group, through their superb behaviour and hard-working attitudes, which is very impressive. This week in Nursery, the children have been recapping their maths learning from this half-term. The children also had the exciting opportunity to release our butterflies, after taking fantastic care of them and learning all about a butterfly's life cycle.

Reception children have been comparing minibeasts and their features. They had a big focus on 'tricky' words in phonics and explored how to use Rekenreks in maths. (A Rekenrek is a manipulative used to build number sense and number relationships).

Year 1 children have been explored the story 'Beegu' and used it as inspiration for their own imaginative aliens. They then planned their own narratives, with their unique alien characters as the main focus of their stories. Brilliant creativity!

This week, Year 2 have been working incredibly hard in their SATS. They have absolutely blown Miss Fitzpatrick away with how much they have learnt throughout the year. They demonstrated confidence and maturity whilst sitting the tests. Well done Year 2 – we are so proud of you all!

We ended the week with our Nursery and School Sports' Days and we thank you for the fantastic turn out, to cheer the children on. We hope you all enjoyed it – the children certainly gave it their all! Congratulations to the winning team – Emerald! Well done to everyone involved and, in particular, Mr Martin and the Nursery team for their superb organisation of the afternoon and support in coaching the children in advance.

A big thank you from the team for your continued support this term – we really do appreciate it. Enjoy the holiday.

Year 2 SATS

Well done to all of our Year 2 children who completed their SATS this week. This is the first time that children have sat a series of more 'formal' tests (even though we make them as informal as possible) and they have really impressed us with their positive approach to them. As explained on the document Year 2 parents received a few weeks ago, schools can choose to complete these as part of their ongoing assessment process and we feel that they are very helpful - children will encounter 'tests' throughout their education and each little bit of exposure helps children feel more comfortable with them. They also help us to identify what children know confidently and what they need to work on next, informing our end of year assessment for each child.

We, therefore, do not share individual test scores – this will happen at the end of Key Stage 2.

Vacancies

The vacancy for a new cleaner from September is now live. This is for 2 hours a day after school hours.

Please visit our website www.thegriffinprimary.uk/about-us/vacancies for further details and an application form if you are interested.

Can you help?

Our new nursery building is nearing completion and we are beginning to gather resources for the nursery children. If you are considering parting with any good quality wooden toys, dolls, small world items e.g. toy farm animals, dinosaurs, sea creatures etc, items for a home corner or ride on cars/trucks etc or balance bikes please do let us know. Thank you. We like to do our bit to reduce, re-use and recycle.

'Happy, Kind and Confident'

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Nursery – Avni for being extremely kind and caring to her friends.

Reception – Esmerelda for her kindness, helpfulness and effort with her independent writing.

Year 1 – Tishe for the fabulous way she has settled into her new class and her positive attitude towards her learning.

Year 2 – Arvinder for his amazing attitude towards his SATS. He went into each test knowing exactly what to do and used all of his knowledge to answer the questions.

Presentation Awards

Reception – Niyara for super effort with her letter formation and attention to detail in her artwork.

Year 1 – Evangelia for her beautiful handwriting and the effort she takes in the presentation of her work

Year 2 – Kaydee for her improved handwriting and determination to ensure her writing is on the line and starting in the correct place.

Mr. Martin's PE Award

Year 1 – Finley for always giving 100%.

Year 2 – Zac for great listening and taking part.

House Points



Well done to everyone in Emerald House for earning the most Dojo points this week.

Enrichment Trips and Visits

We have been able to reschedule 'Captivating Creatures' to come to school on Friday 5th June – children will get up close and personal with a host of creatures. However, contributions are still required for this to go ahead.

Year 1 children are visiting Ryton Pools on 4th June, to take part in pond dipping amongst other things and Reception children are visiting Twycross Zoo on 15th July.

Children's Commissioner

Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner is interested in hearing from children aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country, and asking parents' support to help make that possible. She is asking children about what they enjoy, challenges they face, changes they want to see in their communities, and what they think a good childhood should look like. If you think your child would be interested in taking part, please visit: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

25/05 Half-Term

03/06 Recorder Club performance (pm)

04/06 Year 1 visit to Ryton Pools

05/06 Captivating Creatures experience

09/06 New Intake Parents Evening – Nursery and Rec

12/06 Class Photos (am)

15/06 Year 2 Trip to Birmingham Botanical gardens

15-18/06 New Nursery & Reception Pupils Home Visits

19/06 Marvellous Men (Fathers and Others) Gift Trolley

03/07 CHANGE OF DATE True Music and Singing Club Performance (am)

11/07 Summer Fayre & Farmers' Market

15/07 Reception trip to Twycross Zoo

Voluntary Contributions

Recently, a few people have asked about why we ask for voluntary contributions.

In England, state-funded schools can ask parents for voluntary contributions to fund activities, equipment, or extras that go beyond the core national curriculum. However, parents are under no obligation to pay, and schools cannot exclude any child from an activity or treat them differently if their parents are unable or unwilling to contribute.

Schools should not pressure parents or use colour-coded reminder letters for donations and should make it clear that, if a school trip or activity relies on voluntary contributions and doesn't raise enough money, the activity may be cancelled.

Schools cannot charge for materials, books, or activities required to fulfil the National Curriculum. At The Griffin, we ask for voluntary contributions for our enrichment activities – those that provide an experience or enhance our teaching and learning but are not a required part of the curriculum. We aim to get a minimum 90% of donations but, for pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium, the school will offer to support these payments.

Safeguarding

For safeguarding concerns over the holiday please call **Warwickshire Children and Families Family Connect** on **01926 414144**. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am–5.30pm, Friday 8.30am–5.00pm. Outside these hours please call **01926 886922**.