



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

The Griffin Primary School

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Autumn Term Week 6

On Monday we had sports stars, pop stars, Mary Anning, a vet, a plumber, James Bond and lots of teachers arrive at school, as Year 2 enjoyed their Movers and Shakers Day celebrating inspirational people. They had a great day and looked amazing! We have had the Flu Immunisations this week and I have to say how impressed I was with the mature and sensible way the children responded to this.

Today has been "Hello Yellow" Day – it was such a bright and sunny sight in assembly and certainly promoted joy and happiness in support of Children and Young People's mental health awareness and the MIND charity. Thank you for enabling your child to take part and your donations which we will send off.

This week in Nursery, in our 3–4-year-old provision, we have been focusing on same and different in Maths using socks. We have also been exploring our families in Understanding the World (UTW), talking about the people who are important to us and the differences in our families. In our 2-year-old provision, we have been enjoying the story 'The Ticklish Tiger' and talking about different animals. We have also created some lovely marble-effect pumpkin paintings using shaving foam, paint and a squeegee.

Reception children have made bread for their hook into 'The Little Red Hen'. In maths, they learned how the amount of objects in a set doesn't change when they are moved into a different arrangement and in Understanding the World they explored autumnal natural objects and what the new season will bring.

This week in Year 1, the class received a letter from Astro Girl, looking for their help writing space facts, requiring research for information about space and developing their writing skills. They have also begun exploring shade and shelter in preparation for their upcoming DT project, where they will be investigating and designing their own structures. Year 2 children have also been working on their addition and subtraction number bonds to 10 and written a diary entry, drafting and editing them to include expanded noun phrases.

This week, Year 3 have linked their prehistory knowledge to their new literacy text, 'The First Drawing.' They have written a diary recount in the role of the Stone Age main character and have been linking plural nouns to certain spelling rules. In Science, they have been learning about how muscles work in pairs and have been identifying what certain movements in the body feel like when their muscles are contracting / relaxing.

We have also had our first tours for prospective parents of September 2027 and they were all so impressed with the calm, purposeful atmosphere around school and the excellent behaviour of the children. So, as always it has been a super busy week – relax and enjoy the weekend everyone.

Wraparound Bookings

In Week 3's newsletter (18th September) I asked that people please book children into the morning early drop off or afternoon late pick up sessions, as this was not being done by quite a few parents. This means that it is confusing for children and staff as we do not know who to expect or for the children, what is happening. We pride ourselves on our flexibility with this, allowing parents to book right up to the last minute. However, we have been monitoring this and, unfortunately it has not improved. We will, therefore, be reintroducing the non-booking fee from Monday 12th October.

PE Kits – Week beginning 12th Oct is Week A

	Week A	Week B
Reception	Tuesday	Friday
Year 1	Monday & Tuesday	Monday & Thursday
Year 2	Wednesday & Friday	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 3	Thursday & Friday (Swimming)	Tuesday & Friday (Swimming)

'Happy, Kind and Confident'

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Reception – Eli for being so focused during independent learning and for being so kind to his peers.

Year 1 – Ayaan for his fantastic effort and hard work this week, consistently showing politeness and patience

Year 2 – Harriet for showing good listening and being kind and helpful.

Year 3 – Bella for always getting on with her work and being calm and kind.

Presentation Awards

Reception – Josiah for his brilliant effort hearing sounds and writing CVC words!

Year 1 – Harley for striving to add finger spaces to his writing and taking pride in presenting his work neatly.

Year 2 – Rihaan for trying to make sure his letters are sitting on the line.

Year 3 – Kenna for taking such care in her work.

PE Award

Year 1 – Pola for demonstrating brilliantly and showing excellent skills and enthusiasm during PE lessons.

Year 2 – Neriah for controlling the ball skilfully.

Year 3 – Summer for listening well and being a great friend.

House Points

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

Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS)

Our Year 3 class have been introduced to the TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars) platform and have gone home with letters and log ins this week. Mrs Birnie can see already who has been playing and has shown the class how to play and gain coins for their rockstar avatar. She was already impressed with the class average heatmap, which reveals which times tables need to be worked on as a class. The challenge is on now to see who achieves their 'Gone Green' certificate first! What a great way to learn!

Communication

Please remember to communicate any significant events that have happened at home to the school office.

Also, any alternative arrangements for collection of your child(ren) from school, need to be in writing to the school office team please. Thanks.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

12/10 - Open morning - tours for prospective 2027/2028 intake 9:30/10:15/11am

16/10 - Harvest Festival – 9am - Parents welcome

16/10 - Y3 visit to St Michael & All Angels Church and mini Harvest Festival (Parents welcome to attend – 2pm from school and 1:30pm (at Church))

22/10 - FROGS Halloween style Dress Down Day, Autumn Disco & Scare Hunt

23/10 - Teacher Training Day – No children in school or Nursery

26-30/10 – Half-Term

4-6/11 – Arts Week

Arts Week

This year our Arts 'Week' is based on the Continent of Africa and will be taking place on 4th, 5th and 6th November. If anyone is able to help with an activity, please let the office know.

Attendance Data for September

Year group	% attendance
E2	89.47%
N2	94.12%
Reception	98.97%
Year 1	97.25%
Year 2	98.67%
Year 3	95.74%

Each month I track the attendance of children and am pleased to share the data for September.

Pupils with attendance below 95% will receive a letter at the end of a half term. We aim for the best attendance possible towards a target set by the Department for Education. In order for children to make the best progress, socially and academically, it is important for children to arrive on time 8:45-8:55am and attend regularly. 95% sounds good but is actually half a day a fortnight of missed education.

Leave of Absence Requests

Just a reminder that you need to give at least 6 weeks' notice for a Leave of Absence (LOA) request.

Without this notice, the LOA will automatically be unauthorised.

Parking

Please be considerate and think about the safety of others. There is still a concern regarding cars parking near the school entrances during the morning drop-off period, particularly around the access ramps, especially by the nursery entrance at the far corner of the school, as it is making it difficult to access the ramps with pushchairs. As this is an ongoing issue, and is presenting some challenges, I have contacted the local PCSO to see if they are able to offer any advice.

Harvest Assembly – next week!

Lists of items that Rugby Foodbank require have been sent via Dojo and are also on the classroom and hall windows for you to see. Thank you.

Christmas Card Design Competition

John Slinger MP is delighted to launch his **2026 Christmas Card Competition** and is inviting primary school pupils across the constituency to submit a design for his official Christmas card this year.

Entries can be submitted as colour scans by email to john.slinger.mp@parliament.uk

The winner will be announced with a special presentation and their artwork will feature on John's official Christmas card. Please note that the competition closes on **6 November 2026**.



Christmas card competition

Open to all primary school children in Rugby, Bulkington and the Villages

Send your colour scanned entries to:
john.slinger.mp@parliament.uk
 or contact the office to arrange collection

Winner of 2025, Belle, Henry Hinde Junior School

Merry Christmas!

Deadline:
6th November

JOHN SLINGER MP
 FOR RUGBY, BULKINGTON and the Villages

Letter Requests

We have had several requests for letters to confirm attendance at our school for visa applications and also for immigration purposes.

Whilst as a school we try to help wherever possible, we have to ask that families give 2 weeks (or more) notice for these documents to be produced.

The office team will advise if this is possible at the time of the request.

Obviously, we cannot give personal details of teachers for references for passports.

Party Invitations

After half term we will no longer be able to distribute party invitations within class – they add another task for teachers to remember and staff often have to support children who have lost their invite or are upset if they are not invited to a party. Thank you.



News from the FROGS

DRESS DOWN DAY Thursday, 22 October

Come to school in a Halloween costume, fancy dress outfit or even in your pyjamas!

In return, please bring an item in your House colour for our traditional Christmas Rainbow Raffle.

It could be anything, such as sweets, toys, toiletries, candles or other goodies in your House colour!

🍁 Autumn Disco 🍁 Thursday, 22 October

£2 per child (A snack will be provided)

3:30–4:30 pm — Nursery, Reception and Year 1

4:30–5:30 pm — Years 2 and 3

- Please bring your own water bottle.
- Nursery parents are asked to stay with their children.

👻 Scare Hunt 👻 Thursday, 22 October

Come and uncover the school's darkest secrets when night falls... but beware — the school will be haunted by teacher ghosts! Enter if you dare... but you'll need to find the secret password to get out!

Bring your own torch, or you could be lost in the dark school FOREVER! 🔦 Escape before time runs out!!! Enter accompanied by a parent or guardian from 5:30, last admission 6:00 pm. Spooky scavenger hunt with a small gift included. **£3 per child**. Come and have frightfully good time! Spookily yours, The FROGS

For the Disco and Scare Hunt, please pay by cash in an envelope - put it in the payment box by the office. Write your child's name and class clearly on the envelope.

PAYMENT DEADLINE: Tuesday, 20 October