



THE GRIFFIN GAZETTE

Keeping you up to date

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Autumn Term Week 3

Wet and Windy

What a change to last week – we have been blown about a bit this week but, yet again, our children coped incredibly well. They got stuck into their learning and continued to be good friends to each other. In Reception this week, the children have been using measuring scales to think about ‘lighter’ and ‘heavier’. They started their phonics and have learnt the phonemes S-A-T-P and also been practicing how to write these – thank you for completing the home learning that has been sent – it really does make a difference. On Wednesday 27th September at 6pm, we have our Phonics Information Session – if you need to bring your children we will provide a creche. In Nursery this week, the children have been learning about their bodies, making beautiful hearts for their ‘someone special’ and reading ‘Lost and Found’ by Oliver Jeffers to discuss feelings. Next week they will be reading ‘Leafman’ by Lois Ehlert and learning about Autumn. Reception will be reading ‘The Little Red Hen’ and making bread. Both year groups enjoyed their first PE lesson with Mr Gregory from Lawrence Sheriff School. All in all, it has been another great week!

Fire Drill

We will be having our first fire drill next week – you may want to talk to your children over the weekend to explain that even though they will hear a loud noise, it is nothing to worry about and that we have to practice getting out of the building safely in case of emergency.

Volunteers

We have been very fortunate in that we have people who would like to volunteer their time in our school. This includes parents who have been building sandpits, shelving and weeding our borders, as well as professionals and locals who are now retired and want to give something back.

Next week your children will see a new face in Nursery - Miss Mooney, a qualified Early Years Educator, will be volunteering her time on Tuesdays.

Punctuality

Please remember that Nursery starts at 8.45am but Reception children can arrive from 8.45-8.55am.

FROGS (Friends & Relations of The Griffin School)

Would you like to help the school raise extra funds through organising fun events for our children and families? If so please speak to Mrs Tucker or send an email to admin2072@welearn365.com with the title FROGS. This is such a rewarding thing to do, a great way to make new friends and, the more of you there are, the easier it is to share the tasks. You may want to be on the FROGS committee (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) or just be willing to help with events. Any help is much appreciated and benefits the school and all of the children.

House Groups

Children have been allocated a ‘House’ – Ruby (Red), Sapphire (Blue), Emerald (Green) or Topaz (Yellow). From next week, we will announce the winning house in the celebration assembly. This will be based on the total number of Dojo points for the week.

Holidays During Term Time

We have a shared responsibility and duty to ensure that children are at school so that they achieve their full potential - we appreciate your co-operation in this matter. **We are aiming for 95% or above for our attendance rate.**

The regulations regarding term time leave of absence are detailed below:

- Headteachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application. Any application for leave must establish that there are **exceptional circumstances** and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.

- The school can only consider applications for Leave of Absence which are made by the resident parent. i.e the parent with whom the child normally resides.

- Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". Applications for Leave of Absence which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being recorded as "unauthorised". This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.

- The Warwickshire Attendance Service have the authority to consider issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for Leave of Absence in line with the Warwickshire County Council's Non-School Attendance and Penalty Notices Code of Conduct. (A copy of which can be found at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pupilnonattendance>).

Each application will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Parent Governor - reminder

A reminder to contact the office for a self-nomination from if you are interested in this position.

Star of the Week Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to our stars of the week:

Nursery - Charlotte for putting her hand up to speak in class sessions, doing good listening and lighting up the room with her smile.

Reception - Summer for always being ready for learning, with good listening and a positive attitude, as well as being a kind friend to others.

Parent Council

Thank you to the parents who have already responded regarding the Parent Council. We do, however, need a few more. If you are interested, please email admin2072@welearn365.com with the title 'Parent Forum'

Dates for the Diary

An updated 'Dates for the Diary' sheet is attached:

25/09 Open Morning – Please let any parents who are looking for a 2024 Reception place know

26/09 School Photographs (Individual) – in the morning. If your Nursery child does not usually attend on Tuesday mornings you can come in just for the photos at 9am.

27/09 Phonics Information Session (6pm) - Reception parents only.

30/09 Saturday Football Academy Starts – flier on Dojo

10/10 Flu Immunisations – Reception only

12/10 Open Afternoon – Please let any parents who are looking for a 2024 Reception place know.

13/10 Harvest Festival (2.30pm - families welcome) – Nursery children are welcome to stay for this as an additional paid session. If you wish this to happen, please let Mrs Tucker know. Thank you.