

Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,

A new academic year is upon us... And what a remarkable start it has been. We were thrilled to open our gates once more to our 450 Griffins and their families for what we know will be an exciting, enthralling year. We have experienced so many impeccable values displayed throughout the first few weeks. A special mention to our Early Years: Mini, Pre-School and Reception Griffins, for their positive start; they have embraced their first few days on their Griffin journey, displaying courage, enthusiasm and a real need to succeed.

We must express our sincerest of thanks to our Community for their participation in Jeans for Genes Day. It was heart-warming to see so many of our Griffins wearing their jeans/ denim clothing in honour of this wonderful event. We can confirm that £137 was raised on the day and we thank you, as always, for your continuous support with such events. Another Proud Tradition, The Griffin Sports Festival, has been a roaring success across the school throughout this week - every single Griffin has participated in sporting events. Miss Davies and Miss Everitt have been integral to the organisation of our Festival and we are keen for what is next in store for our Griffins.

The past week has seen the grand opening of our Community Cafe, Poppies at Park Lane. We are thrilled to share and offer this wonderful service to our wider community and encourage everyone to pop in for a warm drink, sweet treat and experience the friendly, warming environment for yourself. We look forward to extending this service further by hosting events at the Cafe for our Family and would love to hear any suggestions that you may have. Feedback from our Community is highly valued: a survey will be issued to our communication platforms throughout the upcoming week.

We wish you a fantastic weekend with your families.

Warmest of Wishes,
Alex Ladbury
Head of School



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Key Dates:

Monday 4th October

*Griffin Olympic Festival Begins
Space Week*

Friday 8th October

Out of This World Dress Up Day

Thursday 21st October

*Spooky Dress Up Day: Raffle donations
Last day in school for Griffins*

Friday 22nd October

Teacher Training Day

Monday 1st November

Griffins back to school

Mini Griffins

Firstly, we would like to say welcome back to all of our families and we hope that you had a wonderful summer. The Mini Griffin Team are very excited to be back and hope you are ready to embark on this wonderful adventure with us...

Our youngest Griffins have settled really well into school life. We have started making new friends and are enjoying exploring the room and our outside spaces. We have been looking at the story of the *Gruffalo* and the *Big Bad Mouse*, and even made yummy Gruffalo Crumble cakes to eat.

We would also like to say a huge welcome to Miss Smith, who has joined our Park Lane Family. Miss Smith has settled in beautifully with us and we look forward to having lots of fun and making memories with our Griffins.

What a start Mini Griffins: you should be so proud of the courage and determination that you have displayed.



Pre-School Griffins

Pre-School have welcomed lots of new Griffins into our Park Lane family this half term and the staff have been so impressed with how well the children have adapted to their new routines. For many of our new Griffins, this is the first time they have been away from their grown-ups and we cannot praise them enough for their courage starting Pre-School. We have had lots of fun though, which definitely helps!

We have been busy exploring the new environment, building, baking, reading and riding - there's so much to do and never enough time to do it all. During this half term, we are exploring 'Me and My Community' before moving on to 'Exploring Autumn.' As the seasons begin to change, we will be noticing the changes that occur and discussing why these changes happen. Now we're all settled, we're looking forward to sharing our experiences with you.

Amazing first few weeks Pre-School Griffins - well done!

Reception

This month Reception have been settling into Park Lane and exploring their new classroom and environment. Together, we have hunted bears in our forest area, opened our own play dough bakery, and build castles in our construction area. Our focus story has been 'The Colour Monster Goes To School' and through this we have focused on our own feelings and thoughts around attending school for the first time, and expressed our emotions through artwork and circle times.

We are really excited to have met our Oxford Reading Tree friends for the first time and have taken our very own reading books home to enjoy. To help us transition into school, we have been on lots of adventures with our Park Lane Bear, both in and out of school, and shared these together as a class.

What a phenomenal start Reception Griffins - it's lovely to observe your adventures with your Park Lane Bears.



Year 1

In Year One this month our topic is *Dinosaur Planet*.

We have been learning all about Herbivores, Omnivores and Carnivores and sorting dinosaurs by what they eat. We have also been reading the story *Dinosaur Drip* and writing sentence predictions about what we think might happen in the story next.

This month, we will be learning all about Mary Anning and about the discovery of Fossils, we'll even be making our own Fossils in art :we can't wait to learn more about our Dinosaur topic!

Year One have had the most fantastic start to the academic year and they have each displayed beautiful values towards their friends, adults and their beautiful environment. Well done Year One Griffins.



Year 2

In Year 2, our current Topic is '*Land Ahoy!*' The children have been exploring the skills needed to become a successful pirate. They have been identifying materials and investigating their properties and will use their new knowledge to help them design and create their own boat in a few weeks' time.

We have been working hard on number formation too and remembering our school values.

The Year 2 team are extremely proud of how all of the children have settled into their new classes. Year 1 to Year 2 is a big step for them all and they have taken this in their stride. Keep up the good work!



Year 3

Our Year 3 Griffins have settled in so well and are enjoying their newly decorated classrooms. They have been so busy sketching new shading techniques to demonstrate volume and shadow. They have been learning column method skills, up to four digits, and many children moved onto level 6 on their new Attitude To Learning chart. A child from each class was chosen to be part of our whole school Junior Leadership Team, being chosen by their peers to represent their class voice and glasses of kindness have been awarded for demonstrating our school values.

Year 3 Griffins have also found time to learn about *Healthy Living* and identified, on world maps, where fruits come from and the journey of the cacao bean. They have demonstrated their healthy living by running their daily mile.

You should be so proud Year 3 - you have had a wonderful first month in school! Keep up the hard work.

Year 4

We have had a very busy start to our year in Year 4: we made the most of the beautiful weather in the first week and did some of our place value learning in the outside environment. We also developed our collaboration skills during a scavenger hunt around the school grounds. Some of our Griffins showed great imagination in the items that they found. We welcomed our first visitor of the year into school, as we had the opportunity to learn from two dentists, who taught us about the importance of looking after our teeth. We also tried chewing disclosing tablets to show the plaque on our teeth, then made sure we cleaned our teeth really well afterwards.

A promising start Year 4: keep up the hard work and we are sure you will achieve wonderful things throughout this year.



Year 5

During our first half month of the new year, Year 5 have been learning all about World War Two in our topic: *A Child's War*. The children have been learning all about the Allied and Axis countries who fought against each other and their motivations for joining the war effort; what the Blitz was and how people protected themselves from the bombings; and what evacuation was, and the sort of things children of similar ages to them would've taken with them as they were rushed away to the countryside.

Year 5 have already produced beautiful artwork that combines silhouettes and red, orange and yellow backgrounds to depict the Blitz and have organised different items that a typical evacuee would take with them.

Well done to Year 5 for all of the fabulous learning that you have already produced in your first weeks back at Park Lane: continue with this same determination and focus, you will achieve wonderful things.



Year 6

This month, the Year 6 team have been very impressed with the transition our Griffins have made in adjusting to the rules and expectations that come with becoming the role-models to the rest of the school. They have been quick to start living up to their role and it has been exciting to see a positive attitude to learning adopted by all Year 6 Griffins.

Not only have they shown great maturity, almost all have looked the part in our school uniform – including their lovely new blazers! It is evident that they wear their blazers with pride and a beaming smile on their face. It has been a wonderful first impression of the year group and it bodes well for a successful year ahead!

A fabulous start to your final year of your Griffin journey Year 6 - we are sure you will each achieve wonderful outcomes.



The Nurture Team

During the first month back, our Nurture Team have been focusing on transitioning back into life at school after a long summer break. This has been made a little easier because of our newest fluffy member of the Nurture Team, and in turn the Park Lane Family, Ruby and Mylo's companion, Ralph. The 'Getting to Know' sessions have included our Griffins getting to know Ralph and exploring his tricks.. And little mischievous ways. Be sure to give Ralph a little stroke if you see him because he sure does love a fuss!

We have introduced something exciting this year with our Nurture Groups: mixing children from various year groups across the school together. This has boded well with our Griffins as they are able to learn from their peers and share thoughts and feelings. We have some exciting things planned throughout the upcoming term and eagerly await what is to come...



Griffin Sports Festival

What a fantastic first week of the The Griffin Sports Festival. It was inspiring to see all of our Griffins participating in each sport and having lots of fun.

As one of our Proud Traditions, we are delighted to tell you that all Griffins have shown Park Lane's *3 P's: Passion, Pride and Perseverance*. Throughout the week our Griffins have taken part in many new sports including: Archery, Handball, Basketball, Tri-Golf, Foot-Golf and on Friday, we had our very own Obstacle Course. We hope that our Griffins had a great and learnt some fundamental skills for each of the sports. We have shared a few of the moments captured of the event below but please do take a look at our Social Media platforms to experience the wonders of the event.



Attendance



Life has been so difficult for us all over the past 18 months, managing the challenges that have been thrown at us by COVID. It is such a relief to see restrictions on our lives and travel lifted, and it feels as if we deserve to take holidays abroad where we can, or simply get away within the UK for a change of scene; however, we are concerned by the high level of absences from school at the moment.

Some children may not be at a level of attainment we expected for them and we need to provide support to them to boost them. As a school, we are only permitted to authorise absence if it is due to exceptional circumstances, and we receive guidance on this from Warwickshire Attendance Service. Although life has been exceptional lately, this does not dramatically affect what is considered exceptional for the purposes of absence from school.

This year, Park Lane is introducing a prize each month for the class with the highest level of attendance. We hope this encourages our Griffins to work together and support each other in coming to school every day possible.

'Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader!'



MyON is a digital literacy platform that offers each of our Griffins unlimited access to an enhanced digital library of over 7,000 books. Reading for Pleasure is a key aspect of any child... and adults' life and something that we encourage daily. *'Reading does to the mind, what food does to the body...'* **Our Griffins are encouraged to access MyON at home and all log ins can be issued from class teachers via Seesaw.**

Since returning to school in September, our Griffins have blown us away with their attitude, determination and passion for Reading and we will be awarding this during our half-termly Celebration Assemblies. A special mention to the top two year groups who are currently winning with most minutes read, collectively:

Year 6: A whopping 57 hours read!

Year 3: A impressive 40 hours read!

Who will be the winning Year Group at the end of this half-term and in store for a special treat?!



"Reading is dreaming with your eyes
open..."



Who's Who?

Meet Miss Hancox

Hello Park Lane Family, my name is Emily Hancox and I am a member of the Year 1 Team. I have recently joined the Park Lane Family and I am thoroughly enjoying my time in Year 1. When I am not at work, I love seeing my friends and family. I also love experiencing new activities and finding new places to explore. I have a sausage dog called Lenny who loves lots of cuddles and long walks.

Something that you might not know about me is that I once sang on stage with Joe Pasquale!



Meet Miss Lavender

Hello Griffins, my name is Georgia Lavender and I am 22 years young and teach in Year 4. Outside of school, my hobbies include Art, Running and Yoga. At University, I studied Graphic Design and Illustration... So naturally, I do love to draw. I also enjoy reading and whilst studying, I had the opportunity to write and illustrate my own children's book.

When I'm at home, I have two huge german shepherds called Ralph and Ruby and I also have three cats called Theo, Socks and Mosely. Unfortunately, I am yet to discover any hidden talents... But there's still time. Something interesting about me is that I love Music and attending live concerts: I have seen AC/DC, Foo Fighters, U2, The Stereophonics.. And many more.



Meet Miss McDonnell

Hello Griffins, my name is Stacey McDonnell, I'm 23 and I am the newest member of the Year 6 team. When I am not at work, I enjoy socialising with my friends, watching films in the cinema and taking my dogs for a walk. I have four pets: a Boxer dog called Cooper, a French Bulldog called Chester, a Terrypin called Terry and a Tortoise called Norbit.

A hidden talent would be that due to living in Germany for 9 years, I am fluent in German. Something that you may not know about me is that I am an avid skier, with having previously visited the Apls in Austria and Bavaria Germany to ski on the many mountains!



Meet Mr Bowerbank

Hello everyone, my name is Kieran Bowerbank and I'm one of the Nurture Team at Park Lane. I joined the Park Lane in September, and I am enjoying working with everyone.

Outside of Park Lane, I am very much into all my sports, from playing to supporting, and I am a Rugby Union Referee. I don't have any pets but I am an avid animal lover and love seeing family friends' dogs. As for my hidden talents, I am still yet to find them, but I will keep looking!

Something that you may not know about me is that I got invited to give a talk at Columbia University (New York), about myself in front of over 200+ families.



Meet Mrs Harrison



Hello Park Lane Family, my name is Emma Harrison, I am 35 years old and I have recently started at Park Lane as a 1:1 Learning Mentor, supporting children with various needs. Outside of school, I love spending time with my husband and children and going on exciting days out and holidays, I also enjoy reading books, especially horrors, - vampires are my favourite!

For the last 17 years I have supported adults with learning disabilities in their homes and in the community, so this job is an exciting new challenge for me. Most people don't know this but I used to be a fully trained phlebotomist (which means I could take blood samples).

Meet Mr White

Hello Park Lane, I am Mr White and I am really excited to be your new Music teacher. Over the year, I will be teaching music to everyone from Years 1 to 6. I have already met lots of you, and if I haven't met you, then we have sung together in our singing assemblies. I will also be running the choir club, and more clubs later in the school year, so watch this space...

I also teach music at Nicholas Chamberlaine School, one of our Secondary Schools within the Griffin Schools Trust, so I might know your older cousins or siblings!

I play the guitar, drums, percussion, piano and I sing, but my favourite musical activity is composing. Something you may not know about me is that I used to live on a boat!



Who will be included in next month's edition?

Pupil Leadership Team 22'

Head Boy



Name: Dominic

Age: 10

Favourite Subject: PE

Hobbies: Football & Gaming

Favourite Book: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (*Jeff Kinney*)

Head of Sports



Name: Jacobi

Age: 10

Favourite Subject: PE

Hobbies: All Sports (particularly football) & Gaming

Favourite Book: Cool Michael Murporgo

Head Girl



Name: Alanna

Age: 10

Favourite Subject: Art

Hobbies: Acrobatics

Favourite Book: The Ice Monster (*David Williams*)

Deputy Head Boy



Name: Mitchell

Age: 10

Favourite Subject: English

Hobbies: Football & Swimming

Favourite Book: The Music Book (*Tom Gates*)



Deputy Head Girl



Name: Emerson

Age: 10

Favourite Subject: English

Hobbies: Swimming & Violin

Favourite Book: Charlie & the Chocolate Factory

What's On in October?!

