



PARK LANE PRESS

Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders

Autumn 1



Dear Park Lane Family,

We are delighted to have welcomed back our Griffins to the start of the academic year of 2023/34. To hear the school once more filled with the sound of laughter and learning has brought joy to many. We have welcomed various new faces - both pupils and parents - and were excited to rejoin and reconnect with our Family once more. Our newest Griffins have embraced those precious first few weeks of school life displaying courage and determination; they should feel immensely proud! We welcome Rebecca Patten (our new SEND Assistant) to the Staff Family and it is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Shirley Greaves, who after 14 years of service to our school satisfying the many hungry children, has moved on to a new chapter - we wish her the very best in what ever is next. We are pleased to report that our half termly Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) group meetings are relatively well attended and provide a forum for, sometimes difficult, discussions to be held in a safe environment. Please look out for the date of our next meeting on our communication platforms and do come and visit our new 'warm spaces' community room next door to Poppies offering retired members of our community the chance to relax whilst saving on heating bills in a cosy environment offering various games... and free biscuits, tea and coffee!

Enjoy your half-term holidays, make lots of cherished spooky memories, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 7th November.

Warmest Wishes,

Carrie Clare

Executive Head

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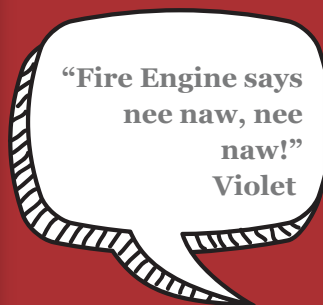


Please visit our
Curriculum
Year Group
Pages.



Mini Griffins & Pre-School

A promising start to the year for our Mini Griffins filled with much curiosity and joy. We have been focusing solely on Family, linking well to our topic of 'Why do you Love me so Much?' We have enjoyed creating our very own playdoh portraits; developing fine motor skills when shaping and moulding to resemble faces; and even added our features such as eyes and hair. Through frequent story time sessions, the children have been developing their listening and attention skills and in turn, their communication and language abilities within our key worker groups. A strong theme of celebrating differences across Pre-School demonstrated that we are all unique individuals within a wider Family, the Griffin Family. A visit from the Nuneaton Fire Service was an exciting experience for our Mini Griffins: they presented their Griffin Learning Behaviours in an exemplary manner and should feel so very proud!



Our Pre-School Griffins have been exploring their topic of 'Me and My Community:' the children have been discussing what their families are made up of and celebrating the many differences within. When questioned who was in his family, Grayson replied, "Mummy, Daddy, Ava, Jacob and Me!" In addition to this, they have been exploring features and what makes them wonderfully unique, making comparisons and contrasts in hair, eye and skin colour and exploring with paint colours to represent themselves through creative activities. Through further investigation of local people within our community, visits from the Nuneaton Fire Service, and our very own Mr Cove, truly allowed our learning to come to life. Exploring roles, responsibilities and job duties excited our Pre-School Griffins very much and even inspired some to consider their own job roles for their futures.



Reception & Year 1

Our Reception children have transitioned into school life astoundingly: through courage, perseverance and joy they have made an invaluable start to their Park Lane Journey. Through the topic of 'Me and My Community,' they have established routines, classroom code of conducts and have spent time getting to know their new friends. Observing the seasons change has been incredibly exciting, particularly watching the leaves turn brown and describing the warm colours that this season brings. Through RWI sessions, they have been focusing on single sounds and have applied this learning throughout the provision by completing sound hunts and forming letters in different textures: they even created their very first piece of writing for their Gallery. A huge well done to all of our Reception children for displaying fantastic Griffin Learning Behaviours - we cannot wait to observe as you flourish throughout the rest of the year.



"I like learning new sounds every day - I like the pictures on the cards that help me!"
Luna



Our Year 1 children have started the year thoroughly enjoying their role as key scientists as they have embarked on their Year 1 topic of Dinosaurs! They commenced with dinosaur exploring herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. The children were able to recognise herbivores, carnivores and omnivores by looking at the dinosaurs' teeth: they learnt that if a dinosaur had sharp teeth, they were carnivores and if they had flat teeth, they were omnivores. They were then able to apply this learning to recognise other animals teeth. They have also been learning all about the different animal groups and the children were able to identify: mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and amphibians, as well as identify their features. In addition to this, Year 1 then became keen Palaeontologists within their history learning: the children became fascinated with Mary Anning and loved learning all about fossils - they even had the opportunity to make their very own fossils!



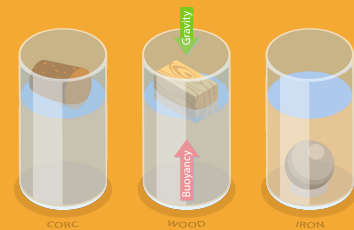
DID YOU KNOW?

"Mary Anning was the first person to discover dinosaur fossils!" Vinnie T
"A fossil is an imprint left behind by animals." Gracie



Year 2 & Year 3

Year 2 have had an incredibly busy start to the year: they have been keen scientists and have investigated a variety of materials. Looking at objects both inside the classroom and within our outdoor environment, discovering the concept of manufactured and natural objects, and comparing the similarities and differences between the two. They have immersed themselves in their learning about floating and sinking and even made predictions about objects prior to conducting the tests - they were surprised to find out that a glass could float! The most enthralling part of their learning was when they designed and then constructed their very own boats: using a variety of materials, learning all about cargoes and plasticine. As any avid scientist should, the importance of ensuring for a fair test was essential and weighing the materials prior to the build was a key part of the experiment. The children were so engaged as they observed the results from their experiments and were engaged throughout.



Our Year 3 Griffins have had an incredible start to their learning exploring the wider subjects within the curriculum through their topic of 'Heroes and Villains.' They launched their history lessons with a focus on significant events that have occurred within their lifetimes. One of those events was the Covid Pandemic: researching the various heroes throughout the pandemic and how they contributed to saving humanity was insightful - Captain Sir Thomas Moore was a favourite across the children. Further to this, they researched significant individuals across History such as Neil Armstrong, Rosa Parks, Emmeline Pankhurst and Ghandi. Through science lessons, the children have explored plants and what they need to grow successfully. They then discovered the various parts and functions of a plant and then applied this new knowledge to their very own diagrams of plants. A first hand experiment of finding out what plants need to grow to remain healthy was a lot of fun: light, warmth and water were key essentials and the discussions had surrounding this were articulated wonderfully! It's been a busy start to Year 3 and they have all embraced the transition in key stages very well: we cannot wait to see is next.

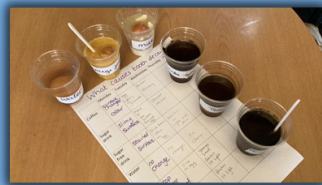


We have loved observing the plants at each stage of their journey!



Year 4 & Year 5

What a start for Year 4: 'Burps, Bottoms and Bile' has involved delving into the science of our very own human bodies. Through exploring the digestive system, they have confidently learnt to name and describe the functions of each organ within our body that help us to eat and digest foods, as well as detailing how each of these link to one another. They even completed a gut-wrenching observational experiment that involved chewing and spitting out foods to observe how saliva breaks down the enzymes in food to support digestion. In addition to exploring our digestive system, the children even became dentists and completed impressions of their own teeth. To discover the effects that different liquids have on tooth enamel, they conducted a week long observation involving placing eggs in a number of their favourite drinks and comparing their results: it was interesting to compare the actual results to their predictions. To test their brushing skills, they discovered how plaque harms teeth and how they can effectively fight against this through proper, accurate dental care.



DID YOU KNOW?

"The small intestine is 6m long: that is as tall a giraffe! Can you believe it?!"

Oscar

Our Year 5 children have been exploring the classification of plants and animals through their science learning this half-term. They have been researching the scientist, Carl Linnaeus, who devised the Linnaean Classification System: a way of organising all living things. The children have also been creating classification keys in an attempt to classify animals into different groups, as well as heading outside to collect leaves and classifying different plants based on the shape and structure of their leaves. Through history, the children have been studying World War 2 and the impact this had across the world. They have learnt about the Allied and Axis powers, the daily lives of a typical evacuee and have explored the impact of propaganda posters. Using our Now Press Play platform, their learning was brought to life with an interactive bombing air-raid experience. Year 5 have been focusing on displaying their Griffin Learning Behaviours during the first half-term and they should be proud of what they have achieved and continue to reflect on how they can develop these.



"I think I've found a compound leaf - it's made up of smaller leaves!"

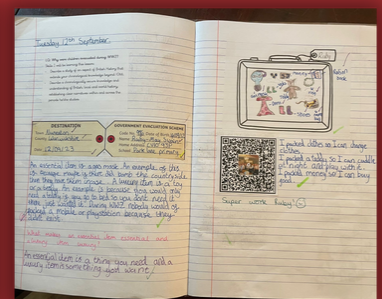
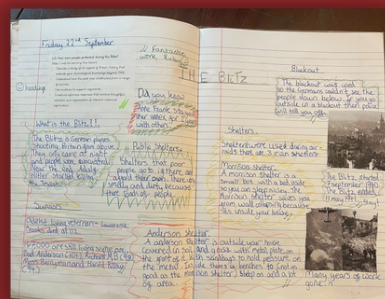
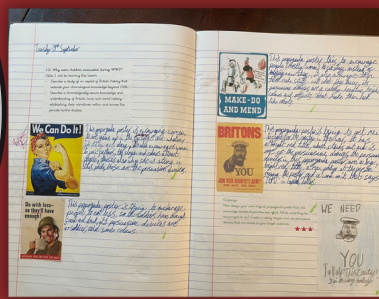
Oscar



Year 6 & Thrive

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the year with our topic 'A Child's War'. As this topic explores World War 2, we have had a large focus on subjects such as history and geography. Within history, the children have researched key themes during WW2 such as child evacuation, propaganda and The Blitz. Each lesson, the children have been able to build on their prior knowledge and create meaningful discussions around life during the war and the impact that this had on society. Geography allowed the children to explore Allied and Axis powers during the war and identify these countries on maps. For the final week of this half-term and the closing of our topic, the children had a WW2 Experience Day involving many exciting and immersive activities such as: exploring code breaking techniques; designing detailed Anderson Shelters; researching and cooking wartime recipes; and recreating a black-out scenario during The Blitz. The children have shown wonderful enthusiasm and engagement for our topic throughout Autumn 1 and we are excited to see what our next topic brings!

"I've particularly enjoyed making my own propaganda poster in the style of the war!"
Ebonye



This has been our first half term embedding Thrive into our community: the aim of Thrive is to help children become more emotionally resilient and in a ready to learn mind frame. We have been working with children individually, and in small groups, to ensure that their bespoke targets and strategies are a key focus throughout. Thrive is implemented through activities and play, allowing the children a safe place to talk around their worries and feelings. Children have enjoyed various activities such as: sensory play with the kinetic sand, turn taking with games like Battleships and Pool and some mindfulness colouring to calm and help children with anxieties.



Attendance

Well done Park Lane!

This term so far, our attendance has been 96.2%, which is above our own target of 96% (just!) but also is above the current national figure, which is 94% and a huge improvement on the percentage from this time last year. That's a great effort and something we hope we can build on as the term progresses. Figures can mislead though: if your child told you they got 95% in an exam, you would be so pleased; having 95% attendance doesn't have the same positive meaning, particularly when you think of all the things they could have been learning in those 9 days.

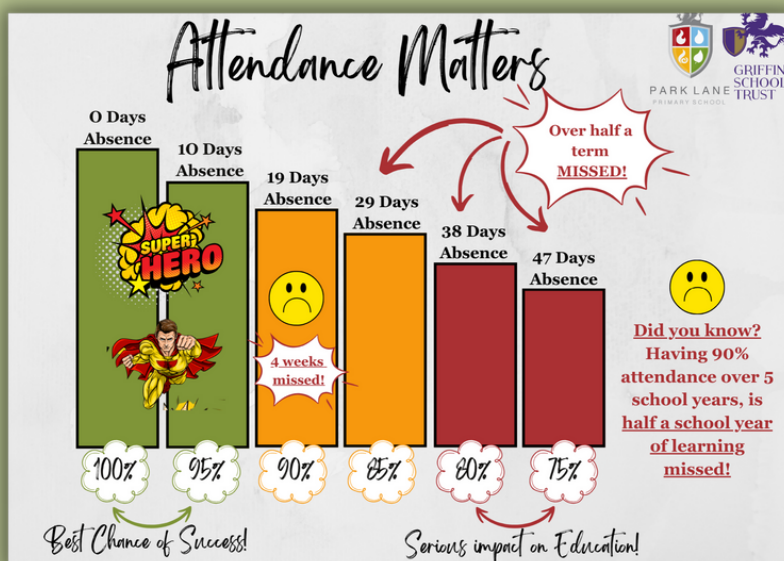
As we head into the time of year where coughs and minor illnesses are more common, it can be difficult to decide when to keep your child at home. You (and we) want to keep children from spreading illnesses across the school and recover, but equally, we do not want them to be at home when they could be in school learning. The Department of Health has suggested that it is usually appropriate for parents to send children to school with mild respiratory infections, including common cold symptoms such as cough, runny nose or sore throat.



Want to know whether
to send your child into
school?



You might have noticed the posters by the school gates about the importance of your child attending school regularly. We would like children to design their own posters about attendance so that we can use their artwork motivate others. The 3 top entries will be used around and outside school and will also receive a prize. The poster should be capable of printing off A3 or A4 and can be either portrait or landscape orientation. It should be colourful, inspirational and eye-catching. Children can either hand in a hard copy to their teacher or send it digitally to the office by Wednesday 7th November.



Be an 'Attendance Hero':
Here
Everyday
Ready
On Time



Wide Horizons

Richmond Retirement Village

Our Arts Ambassadors visited Richmond Retirement Village, Bedworth.

They were greeted with enthusiasm by both staff and residents who waited eagerly for their arrival. Together with the residents, the children chatted, as they made wonderful firework images using paints and glitter before eating their lunches together. They finished off their time there with a spooky dance to The Monster Mash, before returning to school. We hope they had a wonderful time!



Y5/6 WW2 Experience Day

Our Years 5 and 6 were taken right back in time and had a wonderful day celebrating all things World War 2! They began the day with an insightful assembly from Jim to talk to the children about what his experience of WW2 was like.

The children explored artefacts, designed and built their own Anderson shelters, created Blitz artwork and even baked bread pudding. It was a fantastic experience!



National Poetry Day - Jodi Russi-Red

Park Lane celebrated National Poetry Day in October and were fortunate enough to receive a visit from writer, poet and artist Jodie Russi-Red. The children were wowed in an assembly full of magic tricks, poetry and confetti!

As well as this, Years 3 and 4 were lucky enough to have her join them for their English lessons where there was more confetti and some excellent poetry was written about their imaginary safe spaces.



Sports Festival

Park Lane hosted the Boccia, Curling and Archery festival at Park Lane. Some of our KS2 Griffins represented the school against another local school. Our Griffins showed great teamwork, self belief and respect during the festival. Congratulations to all on winning your medals - very much deserved and a huge thank you to our Sports Leaders for encouraging and supporting with the running of the festival throughout.



Coming Soon



**Christmas Dates
Coming Soon!**



November

2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	

6th - Teacher Training Day: Schools closed
 7th - All children return to school | Boys Rowing Comp
 10th - Y2 Assembly @ 9am | NCS Remembrance Service
 13th - Individual Photos in the Hall | Girls Football Comp
 14th - Girls Rowing Comp
 17th - EYFS/KS1 Celebration Assembly @ 9
 21st - Y4 Trip to Bosworth Battlesfield
 23rd - Book Fair @ 3:30pm
 24th - KS2 Celebration Assembly @ 9 | Book Fair @ 3:30pm
 27th - Final week for Co-Curricular Clubs | Book Fair @ 3:30pm
 28th - Book Fair @ 3:30pm (Final Day)
 29th - Family/Teacher Consultation Evening - Appointment only
 1st - EYFS/KS1 Celebration Assembly @ 9

PE Timetable

Monday 3PP 2SB Year 5 Year 6	Tuesday Reception Year 1 Year 2
Wednesday Year 4 Swimming Year 3 Year 5	Thursday Nursery Year 1 3EW Year 6
Friday Mini-Griffins Reception 2SN	

Park Lane proudly presents...

Art of the Month

Each month we would like to showcase artwork created by local artists within our community: November sees artwork created by Katie Fessey, otherwise known as Kate Brush.

Please come along to Poppies Cafe, where you can view Katie's work, which is also available to purchase.

If you are a local artist, and would like your work to feature in one of our upcoming displays, please do get in touch by contacting admin2636@welearn365.com.

Keep your eyes peeled for December's Art of the Month!



We will be selling a variety of Remembrance items from Tuesday 7th November. These will be brought to classes from 2pm daily, until all stock has been sold.

lest we forget

