

Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,
Frost covering the grounds, carols ringing through the halls and an abundance of baubles, glitter and festive jumpers can only mean one thing: Christmas has finally arrived at Park Lane! The long awaited, much anticipated and equally the most exciting season is upon us and what a memorable time we have had. From Festive Discos, Christmas Workshops, Carol services, a Nutcracker performance and of course our Festive Food Day, to name but a few. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Family for your continued participation, support and encouragement throughout our various festivities during the past two weeks. Our EYFS children were beyond brilliant in their spin-off Nativity performance as they took their Families on 'a Star Hunt'; our Christmas Carol service truly lifted our spirits and our Festive Food Day was a roaring success with turkey and stuffing packed batches and creamy brandy sauce pudding - delicious!

We have a wonderful success to share with our Family: Jake Slipper in 6SM became the very first Griffin Schools Trust 'Spellebrity' this week winning the Spelling Bee Competition against over 1,700 children across the Trust. As each year draws to a close, we do have some staffing updates for our Family. We are thrilled to share the news that Monica Wormleighton has left to continue with her preparations for her new arrival. With Miss Wormleighton's departure, Danielle McMaster will be stepping into our Year 1 Team and Jodie Stevenson taking over as Nursery Manager to continue to drive the successes. We will be wishing farewell to Emma Phillips (Office Manager), Leanne Shelton (Nursery Team) and Kerry Poultney (Catering Assistant.) We also warmly welcome Sharon Clarke into Park Lane, a familiar face already within the Family.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Park Lane Family a wonderfully festive Christmas period, making cherished memories with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back through the doors of Park Lane on Wednesday 4th January for the start of what is to be an exceptional 2023.

Warmest of Wishes,

Alex Ladbury
Head of School



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Key Dates:

Tuesday 3rd January

Teacher Training Day: school closed to all children.

Wednesday 4th January

School opens for Spring Term

Friday 4th February

NSPCC Number Day

Friday 10th February

Reception Valentines Assembly

Thursday 16th February

Children break up for half term.

Friday 17th February

Teacher Training Day: school closed to all children.



Mini Griffins

This term is the best in school and our Mini Griffins have enjoyed getting into the festive spirit, awaiting the arrival of Father Christmas! We took part in the Jingle Bell Jog which got our hearts pumping: the children were all wrapped up in their coats and hats, running in time to the music and having a little wiggle along the way. We spent time decorating our environment by putting the decorations on the tree and enjoying some wonderful, wintery and festive stories.

Mini Griffins have also had fun making salt dough tree decorations to hang on our tree, our grown ups came into school to have a Festive Lunch with us and even took part in our Workshop Day too. It was a real treat to have our Families in school with us and we loved that they joined in with us.

Mini Griffins would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Families a wonderful Christmas period with their families!



Pre-School Griffins

Our Pre-School Griffins have had lots of fun getting into the festive spirit by listening and dancing to festive music and crafting wonderful cards and decorations. They have enjoyed using paints and all things glitter and shiny to create their festive decorations.

Our Griffins have also enjoyed making some melting snowman treats by icing biscuits and creating a marshmallow snowman on top, complete with a strawberry lace scarf. What a creatively delicious combination!

We were thrilled with the turnout from our Families during our workshop day and festive food lunch so thank you to all those that came to support on our Christmas Workshop Day!

We wish our Nursery Families a fabulous Christmas time spending time with loved ones and enjoying the wonderful foods!

Reception

During this half term, we have been preparing for Christmas and have taken part in lots of festivities!

Our Reception Griffins have explored the story of Christmas and where it originated. They participated in a Nativity performance with a twist and took their Families on a 'Star Hunt!' We all had a character to play and learnt different songs. The children took part in a Bake-Off special, where they created and decorated their own Gingerbread men. We have also created Christmas Art work through our provision in class: Christmas cards, baubles, stars and Christmas trees to name but a few of the items created. We also had a wonderful Christmas work shop where our families came into school and worked with the children to make festive art work!

We also experienced our very first school disco, where we enjoyed music, dancing and snacks with our friends and families. Parents also came into school for our Festive Food day, where we all sat together in the hall and enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner.

Reception have had a busy, joyful-filled half-term and would like to wish everyone within the Park Lane Family a very Merry Christmas!



Year 1

We have been feeling very festive in Year 1 these last few weeks! We have had lots of fun taking part in a variety of Christmas and winter based activities. With the help of a few special helpers, our class Christmas tree looks amazing: the children worked very hard as a team to decorate our tree and hang our baubles very carefully - it looks fantastic! As one of our activities, we have been creating special baubles that we independently cut out, designed and placed on our tree. Within our classroom, we have been exploring Christmas and winter through maths-themed tuff trays, writing our letters to Santa and designing our own snowmen pictures in the art area. We have even learnt some festive Spanish vocabulary and took part in game of Spanish Christmas Bingo!

We loved having our families in our classroom to participate in our Christmas Workshop. We made reindeer hats, reindeer food, handprint baubles, became elves for Santa's workshop and made our families snowmen Christmas cards! The children showed great enthusiasm and created some amazing Christmas crafts. We loved being able to invite our families and friends into school during this Christmas period.

What a fantastic end to our Autumn term. Year 1 hope that you have a lovely Christmas and we cannot wait to see you in the New Year!

Year 2

Our Year 2 children were so excited to welcome their families into their classrooms this month to join in with their Christmas Workshop Day! Together we created Rudolph-inspired hot chocolate cones by scooping and measuring amounts of hot chocolate and marshmallows into bags, before decorating them. Alongside our family members, we finger painted hand-print green wreaths applying our cutting and gluing skills to combine together. We used our individual creativity to decorate and thread baubles for our Christmas tree before crafting cards for our family members in a variety of styles.

Throughout the day we worked hard on our Kandinsky-styled calendars combining a range of techniques of paints and pastels. We really enjoyed working together with our families and love that they are able to see how independently we can work in Year 2!

Year 2 would like to wish our Families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to continuing our hard-work in 2023!



Year 3

In Year 3, we have had a fantastic time creating a range of Christmas items, some with a traditional feel, and some with a more modern edge.

We made Christmas cards featuring abstract Christmas trees made from strips of different shades of green paper. Our decoration was a wreath, which we adorned with dried orange slices, bows and holly berries. It was lovely that so many parents could join us to work with their children.

We also made model Santa and reindeer, which required a lot of patience as they were quite fiddly. Our final piece of artwork was a landscape using water colours and rock salt to give a frosty effect. We had a lovely time enjoying our festive crafts and loved that our Families were able to join us.

Year 3 wish their Families a wonderful Christmas and hope that Father Christmas is good to you all! Bring on the new year.



Year 4

On Christmas Workshop Day, Year 4 created beautiful collage Christmas cards. We used all sorts of 'christmassy' paper designs and used them to make detailed Christmas cards for our families and friends. It was lovely to have some of our family come into school and do this with us. Later on that day, we made pom poms, pipe-cleaner tree decorations and paper chains to decorate our environments.

It has been a very busy term for Year 4, we have worked very hard to learn the songs for the whole school carol service, we attended our Christmas disco and completed lots of other Christmas themed learning in English and Maths! We thoroughly enjoyed our shared festive food lunch, particularly the turkey and stuffing filled batches - yummy!

Have a wonderful Christmas Year 4 and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!



Year 5

With the imminent arrival of Christmas, our Year 5 Griffins had a fabulous Christmas Workshop Day. Parents joined us for our activities that included creating Christmas cards and using wool and cardboard to create Christmas Gnomes. The Christmas cards were based on folding paper to make snowflakes, but instead of snowflakes, the children created snowman designs. After decorating their snowmen, they then stuck them onto card and added gold or silver decoration. The children were really proud of their designs!

The Gnomes were created by wrapping wool around a cardboard ring, which they then tied to make a woolly hat. They then made white pompoms for the Gnome beards, which were stuck on to the hats. Beads were added for a nose and also a loop so they can be hung from a Christmas tree.

Finally, the children made their own Christmas Countdown calendars. Thank you to all Families who attended. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the children did.

Year 5 wish their Families a wonderfully Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!

Year 6

In the build up to Christmas, Year 6 have been getting into the festive spirit from taking part in the Jingle Bell Jog to getting creative during Christmas Workshop Day. During Christmas Workshop Day, Year 6 enjoyed displaying a creative side by making several crafts. A particular favourite was the Pom Poms where the children displayed patience and perseverance as they wrapped the wool to create a fuller Pom Pom. As well as this, the children made their own Christmas baubles and Christmas cards whilst getting into the full swing of Christmas with Christmas carols. The children also enjoyed Festive Food day with Larna is 6GR saying *'The food was really delicious'*.

Not only have the children spent the time practising for the Christmas Big Sing, but they were also able to further use their vocal chords in their Cathedral experience. The children really impressed both staff and parents with their singing of traditional German carols – with some even being sung in German. In addition to this, the children have appreciated having Christmas integrated into their curriculum subjects. In RE, we have learnt all about a Pagan festival called 'Yuletide' where the children were able to make links with their Christmas today (from eating a chocolate yule log to carol singing).

It has been a fantastic half-term full of festivity and we cannot wait to see what the new year brings – well done Year 6!

A very Merry Christmas to you all!



The Nurture Team

This half term Nurture groups have been focusing on zones of regulation: recognising and communicating our emotions confidently within the group.

We have had a lot of Christmas fun: decorating the Christmas tree, making displays and doing lots of Christmas crafts.

Also, we have concentrated on improving our turn-taking skills by playing games, and developing our sportsmanship.

Our boxing group have thoroughly enjoyed starting their sessions with Lee and Danny at Boxing Clever Academy, showing their discipline and values at all times.

We look forward to continuing to develop and grow our skills in the New Year: have a wonderful Christmas everyone!





PE Updates

Basketball Success

Our Griffins competed in the Griffin Warwickshire Hub Basketball tournament this half-term against Race Leys. Our Griffins played some great basketball: their teamwork and enthusiasm was incredible to watch. Both our girls and boys teams are now through to the Griffin national finals. Congratulations to you all - a well deserved win!



Netball Team Success

Congratulations to our Netball Team for coming 2nd place in the Nuneaton league. You all showed fantastic teamwork - we are very proud of you all and you should be of yourselves!

Girls Rowing Team

Congratulations to our Girls Rowing Team on winning the Nuneaton Schools Rowing Competition. All 4 girls have worked really hard in their training and it showed at the big event with an amazing team score of 2257. They are now through to the county finals, where they will represent Nuneaton and Bedworth. Well done to you all!



Jingle Bell Jog

On Friday 2nd December, our Griffins took part in the annual 'Christmas Fun Run:' all children dressed in Christmas clothing and ran their socks off in the frosty weather! It was great to see all of our Griffins having fun with their friends.

Park Lane House Points

After an extremely busy Autumn term, please find the house points total. Animo were the winners of the out-of-class pass with a whopping 3180 points. Congratulations to all children in the winning house!

Another busy half-term of Sports at Park Lane: the determination, cooperation and resilience that our Griffins show towards their sports never fails to amaze us. The sportsmanship that they show to one another and also other competitors at competitions is truly what being a Griffin is about.

Bring on 2023 for further sporting fun, excitement and successes!



Safe and Active Schools

Park Lane Primary School and Nursery are taking part in the Safe and Active Schools Programme this year. The programme has been developed to promote and support road safety and active travel activities. It is designed to help schools encourage active travel journeys, whether that be for the whole journey by walking, cycling, or scooting, or for part of the journey using park and stride modes.

Active travel is proven to have many benefits for our children. With only fifteen minutes of exercise completed through active travel, a child's mood can be improved, and concentration increased by up to 4 hours. This is a great way to meet the NHS' recommendation for children to have sixty minutes of exercise per day.

Have you thought about changing **#JustOneJourney** per week? Why not consider Scoot/Bike/Walk on Wednesdays, or if you can't do the full journey actively, consider parking ten minutes away from the school and walking in?

To help your child(ren) become more active on the school journey, a list of useful resources can be found at the links below.

You can also find more information on Warwickshire Road Safety Education's dedicated Facebook page @WCCSafeActiveTravel and Twitter page @WCCSafe_Active

Useful Websites

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/> A UK based charity to get children walking – information about national walk to school weeks, National walking month and all year-round walking

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/> A charity based around getting more people walking and cycling

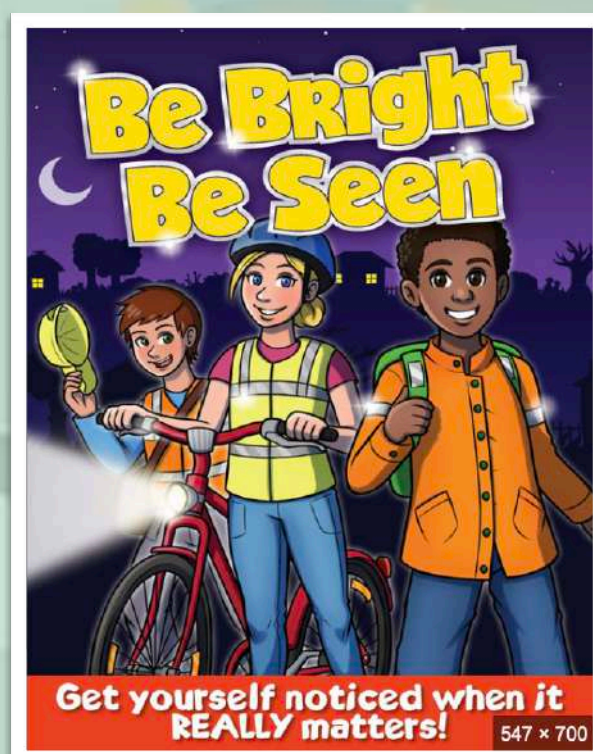
<http://www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk/> by Brake the road safety charity

<https://www.think.gov.uk/road-safety-laws/> rules of the road for drivers and pedestrians

Why not even consider it for a New Years Resolution: small changes can have big impact, particularly with fitness!
#JustOneJourney

Here is what one of our Griffins, who has made a few slight changes to their journey to school by scooting once a week, has to say:

'I love being able to scoot to school: not only do I get to scoot, which I absolutely love, but knowing that these slight changes are making such an impact to my overall health is great.'



Outdoor Classroom Day

On November 3rd, Park Lane took part in Outdoor Classroom Day once again. Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to inspire and celebrate outdoor play and learning, both at home and at school. In total, schools in over 170 countries have now been involved with over 10 million children taking part each time.

Mr Bell, our Outdoor Education Lead, set each year group the challenge to complete some of every lesson outside – whether it be just part or the whole lesson. This led to a wonderful day of outdoor learning including: using natural materials collected from our woodland to create artwork in Reception; completing a five senses scavenger hunt in Year 1; exploring the concept of finding 10 more or less outside in Year 2; completing a mathematical treasure hunt in Year 3; creating Roman mosaics using natural materials in Year 4; exploring symmetry using natural objects in Year 5; and Year 6 investigated how religion is represented in art – making connections between nature and the art created! The nurture team also made good use of the outdoor environment to support the children they work with.

It was amazing to see all of our Griffins excited to complete their learning with many explaining that they wished even more lessons took the learning outside! Watch this space to see how we are going to utilise this further with our plans for Outdoor Learning at Park Lane... Learning is going WILD!



Remembrance Day

This year to commemorate Remembrance Day we wanted to produce something that would be a permanent fixture for our family to enjoy: so why not utilise a tree? To begin with, we looked around the school grounds and chose the area next to the office as a place to display it. Then our 500 staff and children collected clear, plastic bottles to form the basis of the art we have produced. Each child and member of staff, as one Park Lane family, then painted the bottom of the bottles which had been cut down, shaped into petals and melted to form different petal shapes on each of them. In remembrance of our fallen heroes, to show community unity and respect, all of the petals were then attached to some trellis and wrapped around one of the trees at the side of the offices.

We are sure many of you have seen it already but please do try and take a look if you haven't seen it yet. We aim to use our pupil voice and our continued community spirit and unity to add something new to it each year - LEST WE FORGET. Check out some of the other wonderful art that your talented children also produced for Remembrance Day.



DT Day

During the Autumn term, everyone took part in a whole school design and technology day. The aim of the day was to develop a range of new skills and to explore the design process from start to finish.

Throughout the day, the children learnt about their final piece, exploring its uses and features. Then, the children were able to design and prototype their own creation, it was great to see how different everyone's ideas were. Once they had designed their final piece, they were able to create it using the final piece.

Each year group was given a different project, In year 1, the children created their own fruit salads and developed their chopping and grating skills. Year 2 and year 4 both developed their sewing skills to create puppets and festive stockings. Year 3, created story books and were able to create mechanisms for their books, such as pop-up elements. Year 5, explored bridges, and increased their knowledge of joining methods. Finally, year 6, looked at systems, they developed their knowledge of coding.

It was a fantastic day, and the children gained a range of useful skills and had so much fun whilst doing this: it was wonderful to see so many of our Griffins exploring with different techniques.



The Park Lane Cook Off/ STEM Day

This term, everyone took part in the Park Lane Cook Off and completed a range of STEM activities. Across the school each year group cooked or baked a delicious meal for Miss Ladbury and Miss Baker to try. Reception made gingerbread, Year 1 made fruit scones and Year 2 made pizzas. On day 1 of the cook off, it was Year 1 who won. On day 2, it was KS2's turn to cook, Year 3 made a pasta bake, Year 4 made spaghetti bolognese, Year 5 made stir fry and Year 6 made curry and naan. This time Year 5 took the crown. Well done Year 5!

Alongside developing their cooking skills, the children also developed their building skills, team working and critical thinking as they took part in some stem activities. These included foil boats, cup towers, house and car building and playdough bridges.

What fun was had throughout the school: be sure to ask your children to demonstrate their new found skills in the kitchen at home!



Spanish Day

We had our first Spanish Day this half term, the children really immersed themselves in this which led to a very successful day.

On this day, the children took part in several activities, the first was learning some Spanish greetings. The children loved taking part in a circle game whereby they said hello, and then they would turn and pass this onto a partner as quick as possible! The children also enjoyed learning numbers in Spanish, as part of this they had to match birthday cakes to the correct numbers. One of the best parts of the day were the Christmas activities, across Key Stage 1 the children learnt lots of new festive vocabulary and played Spanish bingo: the children loved playing bingo and they were fantastic at remembering their new Christmas vocabulary. Across Key Stage 2, the children used the Spanish Christmas vocabulary they had learnt to write a letter to Santa!

Feliz Navidad a nuestras familias!



Year 6 Cathedral Trip

This half-term, Year 6 had the amazing opportunity to accompany Gabrieli's own consort and Roar Young Singers at Coventry Cathedral.

Year 6 practiced nine new songs in preparation for the concert and they demonstrated fantastic dedication and enthusiasm.

As we arrived at Coventry Cathedral, we had a wonderful rehearsal with over 1,000 young performers from different schools including some from the Griffin Schools Trust. It was remarkable watching the Gabrieli choir perform and to work alongside them as part of Gabrieli Roar.

Every child showed perseverance and courage throughout the day and the concert was a spectacular success - it was a great experience for all and we were extremely fortunate to be a part of such an excellent event!





'Spellebrity!'

We were thrilled to be able to take part in our first Griffin Schools Trust Spelling Bee this year. After 4 heats, our Year 5 and 6 children were whittled down and we were finally down to our 1 finalist: Jake Slipper (6SM).

On Wednesday, Jake represented Park Lane against all of the other Trust schools and after a tremendous effort spelling extremely difficult words (please see them to the right,) he placed proudly placed **FIRST PLACE!**

Congratulations Jake - we are very proud of you: you were as cool as a cucumber and your humility and resilience was admirable.

Round 4 (Final) Spelling List

Word	Definition
turbulence	A state of confusion without any order: <i>there are signs of turbulence ahead for the economy.</i>
authenticate	To prove that something is real, true, or what people say it is: <i>'they used carbon dating tests to authenticate the claim that the skeleton was two million years old'</i>
reservoir	A place for storing liquid, especially a natural or artificial lake providing water for a city or other area.
melancholy	Sad - <i>'that is a very melancholy piece of music.'</i>
dormitory	A large room containing many beds, for example in a boarding school.
elicit	To get or produce something, especially information or a reaction: <i>'have you managed to elicit a response from them yet?'</i>
apparatus	A set of equipment or tools or a machine that is used for a particular purpose: <i>'The divers checked their breathing apparatus.'</i>
metamorphosis	The process by which the young form of insects and some animals, such as frogs from frogspawn, develops into the adult form.
fluorescent	Fluorescent lights are very bright, tube-shaped electric lights, often used in offices.
summarise	To express the most important facts or ideas about something or someone in a short and clear form: <i>'I'll just summarise the main points of the argument in a few words.'</i>
strenuous	Needing or using a lot of physical or mental effort or energy: <i>'his doctor advised him not to do any strenuous exercise.'</i>
vengeance	Wishing for punishment against someone who has caused harm; <i>'the whole town wanted vengeance after the deliberate damage which had been caused to the children's play area by vandals.'</i>
acethe	To feel very angry but to be unable or unwilling to express it clearly: <i>'the rest of the class positively seethed with indignation when Julia won the award.'</i>
specimen	Something shown or examined as an example; a typical example: <i>'Astronauts brought back specimens of moon rock.'</i>
suppress	To prevent something from being seen or expressed or from operating: <i>'the British government tried to suppress the book because of the information it contained about the security services.'</i>
pastime	An activity that is done for enjoyment: <i>'do-it-yourself (or DIY) is the nation's most popular pastime.'</i>
chaotic	In a state of chaos: <i>'the house is a bit chaotic at the moment - we've got all these extra people staying and we're still decorating.'</i>
Marsupial	A type of mammal from Australia or South America that is not completely developed when it is born and is carried around in a pouch on the mother's body, where it is fed and protected until it is completely developed: <i>'marsupials include koalas, possums, and kangaroos.'</i>
multiplicity	A large number or wide range of something: <i>'there is a multiplicity of books to choose from in this library.'</i>
tournament	A competition for teams or single players in which a series of games is played, and the winners of each game play against each other until only one winner is left.

Festive Dinner Day

One of our Proud Traditions at Park Lane is our Festive Lunch Day and this year again was a huge success! We were thrilled to be able to welcome our families in to join their children for a meal - some for their first Christmas lunch at Park Lane! It was a joyous celebration and we would like to thank everyone in attendance for creating such a festive atmosphere.

Please see our Facebook page for more photos.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and kindness!



Pupil Leadership

Team

The school Pupil Leadership Team has been going through a few changes this term to make sure that the voice of our Griffins is heard clearly and improve our children's experience of the things that matter to them. The PLT will continue to evolve and improve, as they grow in confidence and knowledge about their roles, but the current Team have got PLT off to a great start bringing loads of ideas to the table with huge amounts of enthusiasm.

So far, the PLT has discussed the purpose of the Team and agreed the following:

- *To make pupils' lives better in school*
- *To improve learning*
- *To improve the school environment*
- *To be welcoming of all to school*
- *To cooperate and communicate as a team*
- *To help others*

The Team's discussions are recorded in minutes of the meetings and an agenda is agreed for each meeting to keep things focused. The PLT members are keen to let all children in school know what they are working on, by recording a video explaining what they have been talking about and asking for suggestions.

Some of the ideas so far have been about increasing access to art in school, widening the range of after-school activities and older children supporting the younger children in showing respect and manners at mealtimes. The School Leadership Team have listened to all these ideas and have started to implement them.

There are many great reasons for having a PLT that is running effectively, but one of them is to increase understanding amongst our children of the importance of democracy and how it works, so we are so proud that they have understood the voting process and have insisted that elections in school operate a secret ballot system. This ensures that children's votes are genuinely for the person they think will do the best job in representing them, not someone who is popular, or who they think will treat them unfairly if they don't vote for them. Important lessons for our Griffins about fairness, British Values and democracy!



Democracy



Rule
of Law



Individual
Liberty



Respect &
Tolerance

Attendance

This term's prize for the class with the highest overall attendance has once again been awarded to 6SM! Well done - the commitment of the class to keep their attendance as high as possible is fantastic, and we would like to know Miss McDonnell's secret, but we really need to see some competition from other classes please!

6SM will receive their attendance prize bonus when we return to school in January - when we are all in need of a bit of a boost to lift the post-Christmas blues!

We are also introducing a new prize this half term for individual Griffins. Any child who has 100% attendance during the previous half of term will be entered into a draw for a family prize voucher. This term's winners are:

£50 voucher: Tairons P (Y6)

£20 voucher: Jude B (Rec)

£10 voucher: Alfie W (Y5)

Well done to all our 100 percenters! If your name was not drawn out this time, good luck for next term. Another set of prizes will be up for grabs next half term, so come on and aim for 100% attendance from January and you could be enjoying a treat with your family in the February holiday week!

Please remember:

You must tell us about the reasons for absence by 9am on each and every day your child is absent.

This can be via email to admin2636@welearn365.com, by calling the office, using the Teachers2Parents app on your phone or by texting us. There are so many ways to get in touch.

If you don't let us know, we will be contacting you that day to find out the reasons, which could include a home visit. We would much rather be working to help your children in school than spending time phoning you or visiting your home to get information about attendance.

Be open, honest and clear with us about the reasons for your child's absence.

Telling us that they are "poorly" or "ill" is not enough information. If we know more, then we can monitor illnesses working their way through the school and take appropriate action. If you have issues at home, we can support with these, if we know what they are and can understand the difficulties you are experiencing. We will always listen sensitively and try to work with you to find a way through your struggles. If your child is attending a medical appointment, we will require evidence of this in the form of an appointment letter, text message or similar.

