

Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,

What a half-term it has been: from the very first day of school for our youngest Griffins, our Proud Tradition of GSF, the grand opening of our Community Cafe Poppies, a World Space Week extravaganza and more recently, the Big Draw: a celebration of drawing for all of our Griffins to get involved with. A truly exceptional start to a year we have eagerly awaited where we can be together as one and school life, as we know it, can remain as normal. We must express our sincerest of thanks to our Family for their positive response to any Covid regulations that we have had to implement: it is apparent that patterns are arising within cases and as a Community, the safety of all is paramount. We will continue to work together and we fully appreciate your understanding, cooperation and kindness during this time.

Last week saw the opening of our doors to our Family for our Parent Drop In Evening; it was remarkable to see so many members of our community roaming the corridors and classroom environments to celebrate the successes of our Griffins, and greet their new class teachers. A Parent/Teacher consultation will take place during the following half-term and we look forward to welcoming you through our doors once more.

Our World Space Week/Halloween Dress Up was a roaring success and the effort and dedication that was shown by our Griffins was inspirational. Standing on the gate observing the many creative, outstanding costumes was a definite high point of the half-term: these moments would not happen without the support of our Community and we thank you immensely for this.

We wish you a wonderfully 'Spooky' half-term with your Families and you manage to get outdoors and enjoy the warm tones of Autumn and (hopefully) wonderful weather.

Warmest of Wishes,
Alex Ladbury



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Key Dates:

Monday 1st November

Griffins back to school

Tuesday 16th November

Author Visit for all Griffins - James Campbell

Friday 19th November

Children in Need: Griffins to come dressed in dots.

Monday 29th November

School Photographs for all Griffins: full school uniform is to be worn.

All Christmas dates will be issued in our November newsletter.



Mini Griffins

Throughout October our Mini Griffins have had lots of fun exploring a multitude of Autumn Treasures. We have produced some wonderful pieces of art applying our treasures to them. Our Maths focus has been on numbers by rote and during group time we have been singing lots of number-based rhymes using visual aids. Our favourites have definitely been '*5 little ducks*' and '*5 little spacemen*.'

We have also had fun exploring different ways to construct things using different resources available. The children have explored the magnetiles, the blocks and the Lego to create some brilliant structures.

Well done Mini Griffins - what a wonderful first term you have had!



Pre-School Griffins

Pre-school have been extremely busy this half term settling into new routines and finding their feet within our Nursery environment. We have been busy exploring number and looking at developing our careful counting skills. We have had a fantastic opportunity to use the wonderful autumn items collected during our autumn walks to practice counting things like conkers 1:1, pointing to each one in turn and saying one number for each item.

What a fantastic start to your Math journey at Park Lane you have had Pre-School Griffins - if you look closely at the photos, you can see some of your fantastic counting skills!



Reception

This month, Reception were introduced to 'Spot the Dog' who needed some help counting in the correct sequence. Our Reception Griffins were kind enough to correct Spot every time he made a mistake, and worked their way counting to five without any errors... Some even challenged themselves to count on further to ten - amazing effort! Since then, Reception class have gone counting mad as we have learned to count all sorts of things: objects, sounds, actions, and even our friends fingers. To represent these numbers we have orally practised them, using objects to show amounts, and tried writing the numbers ourselves.

For Space Week, we used our super Maths skills to discuss the size, and number of the planets in our Solar System. We used fruit to make size comparisons, and then ate it for our daily snack!

Reception have loved getting busy in the Maths areas as they have applied what they have learnt in classes and begun testing one other independently - what a half term it has been!



Year 1

This half term during Maths learning, Year One have been focusing on number bonds to 20. We have been looking at the part-whole model and how we can combine two parts to make one whole number. We have completed this with concrete objects, and we cannot wait to begin writing number sentences using this method.

During Maths we have been taking responsibility for our own learning and independently practising the skills in our own time at home. This is something we have been really good at and cannot wait to continue with as we learn our number bonds to 20. We have also had a money sense lesson where we looked at the difference between a want and need. We also looked at what is important to spend our money on.

A fantastic start Year One - bring on next half-term!

Year 2

Over the past few weeks, Year 2 have been busy understanding the value of each digit in any given 2 digit number. They have spent lots of time representing different numbers using tens and ones and have had numerous valuable conversations with their peers to consolidate this.

More recently, we began our Addition and Subtraction unit of work. We have been using concrete resources to add and subtract so that the children can physically see what is happening when we perform either operation. It has been really great to see the children progress in Maths and work together with their peers to understand their learning.

As many of you will know, this half-term, we began a whole school approach known as Learning Through Prep. This is where the children are introduced to a new concept prior to a lesson. They have the opportunity to practise their learning so that the lesson time can be maximised and the children can use the time to develop their skills in reasoning and problem solving. We have been truly amazed by the efforts of our Year 2 children and their families regarding this approach. They have embraced prior learning and we have enjoyed seeing their photographs and videos to show what they have been up to.

A huge well done to our Year 2 Griffin - fantastic learning!



Year 3

This half term during our Maths learning, Year 3 have been learning the place value of digits in 2, 3 and even 4 digit numbers. We have just begun adding and subtracting numbers now that we are secure in our place value.

We have demonstrated our understanding practically by placing numbers on a number line, on a place value grid and by rolling dice to make numbers to add and subtract. We will also learn how to add and subtract using the column method with one digit without exchanging and with and without regrouping.

Year 3 have had a promising first half-term of Maths' learning and we can only hope that this determination and courage continues as we progress on. A huge well done Year 3 Griffins!



Year 4

Throughout the first half-term, Year 4 Griffins have had a busy month of Maths. We have been concentrating on recognising thousands, rounding numbers and also completed some work on Roman numerals and negative numbers. Roman numerals can be quite tricky but our Year 4 Griffins persevered with their learning and had some fantastic outcomes.

We have also been learning how to do written addition and subtraction. We have managed to take some of our learning outside, and enjoyed playing some games to help us learn our times tables, which will be an ongoing priority throughout the year.

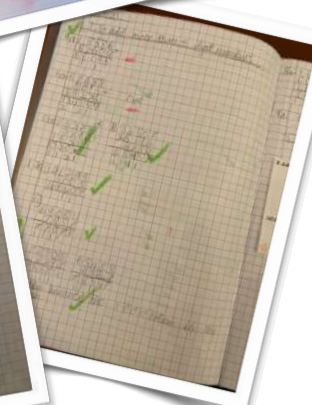
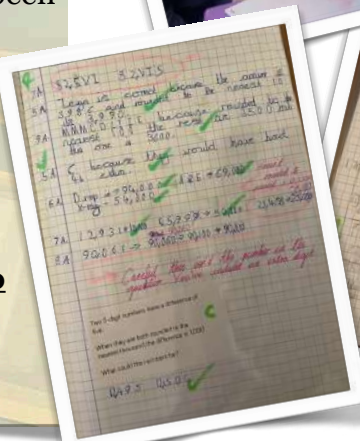
What a successful start to life in Year 4 you have had Griffins - keep up the promising attitudes as we continue to the second half-term!

Year 5

Year 5 have been focusing on number and place value and addition and subtraction within their Maths learning this half-term. We have been learning to write, order and compare numbers to as least 1,000,000 where we identified the value of each digit within a number. We explored how to count forwards and backwards in steps of powers of 10 and how to interpret negative numbers in context by counting forwards and backwards through zero. We then went on to read and understand Roman Numerals up to 1000 (M) and recognise them in real-world contexts.

Our Year 5 Griffins have spent time applying what they have learnt to problem-solving and reasoning type activities. Year 5 have been learning how to effectively exchange values across place value columns, with our Griffins learning how to add and subtract increasingly greater numbers, with upwards of 4 digits.

Well done to our Year 5 for beginning their maths learning this term with such enthusiasm. Well done to you all!



Year 6

In maths this half-term, our Year 6 Griffins have been focusing on subtraction, addition, and multiplication. They have been busy applying and extending the skills they have previously learnt to develop their understanding of the methods: column addition, column subtraction and long multiplication. Not only have our Griffins been using these methods for 2-digit numbers, but they have also been able to extend their learning to numbers up to 10 million.

As well as this, they have been learning all about roman numerals and have been consolidating their understanding through problem solving and the practice of combining it with known methods (ordering and sequencing).

It has been a successful first half-term for our Year 6 Griffins in Maths and the children have produced some fantastic work. The determination shown by all pupils has made an excellent impression on the Year 6 Maths team and we are enthusiastic about the year ahead - well done Year 6!



The Nurture Team

This month, the Nurture Team have been exploring the story 'The Colour Monster,' which allowed us to talk about our feelings and we even managed to create a wonderful display. The children have found this to be a helpful way of recognising different emotions such as: sadness, fear, happiness, anger and love and how we regulate these emotions effectively.

As part of Space Week and improving our Peter Pan area, we have completed lots of creative activities including decorating boiled egg planets and under water creatures. Our Key Stage 1 Griffins even enjoyed an Autumn walk, looking for seasonal changes and objects.

The last week of half term is going to be a *Spooktacular* one so please do look out for photos on our Seesaw platform.



Griffin Sports Festival

The second week of Griffin Sports Festival was a fantastic week: our Warwickshire Hub schools came together for a total of 4 separate festivals that ran throughout the week. Monday was a Basketball workshop held at Nicholas Chamberlaine, with our very own coach Bobby. 32 children from all 3 schools took part in a fun and exciting session learning new skills and making new friends across the Griffin Family. Tuesday was a Footgolf Festival held at Park Lane: a very rainy afternoon but that did not stop our Griffins from giving a 100%. Wednesday was our Inclusive Games with 12 Griffins taking part in Archery, Boccia and Curling. All of the Griffins involved worked exceptionally hard and teamwork teamwork from the very get go - a huge well done to all. Last but by no means least was a Rowing and Cross Country festival on Thursday: our Griffins were just incredible and worked incredibly hard for a wonderful outcome.

Thank you to all Griffins for their determination and passion that was displayed over the 4 days - true sportsmanship and remarkable skills. Our Griffin Sports Festival team were selected for the one day festival held at the Pingles, which unfortunately had to be postponed. However, Miss Davies and Miss Everitt are incredibly proud of the GSF team: they have worked undeniably hard, giving up so much of their own time to perfect their skills. Well done Griffins, a fantastic attitude to have.

Over the next weeks we have lots of sport competitions coming up: please keep your eyes peeled for all the scores and match reports that will be coming through our social media platforms!

Miss Davies & Miss Everitt would like to express their thanks to our Families for your continued support with our sporting competitions - our Griffins are truly grateful for all that you do!



Attendance



While we realise that it is October and therefore time for snuffles and Autumn illnesses, attendance within school remains concerning. It is good for our children's mental health to stick to their routines, be amongst their peers and be occupied with learning in school, even if they are anxious or reluctant. We can signpost you to support to help your children with anxiety, or help in other ways so please contact us if you are struggling to encourage them to attend school. Ultimately, you have a legal duty to ensure your child attends school regularly, and there is support in place to help you achieve this.

As promised, the winners of the prize for the best attendance this term are: Miss McDonnell's class. Well done 6SM!

To reward this wonderful achievement, the whole class will experience an afternoon tea at Poppies in the Community Hub when we get back to school after half-term... with entertainment! Another prize will be up for grabs next half term, so start encouraging your classmates to work towards it and you could be the lucky winners!!



Pupil Leadership Team

All the members of the Pupil Leadership Team have now been appointed and their first job is to be involved in analysing the answers of our recent questionnaire sent to students about life at school. We have asked every pupil about their experience of school, what they feel about relationships with adults and children, what makes them worry and what makes them feel safe to capture their voices.

Once the questionnaire results have been collated, our Pupil Leadership Team will meet to analyse them and help decide what action to take to make life at Park Lane as great as it can be. We want them to listen carefully to what their fellow pupils are saying, and be creative and imaginative with their solutions. Our aim is to develop the PLT members into excellent advocates for their colleagues!

Please keep any eye out on our social media platforms for a Parent Survey that will be issued during Autumn term as your feedback is vital in ensuring that we continue to evolve as one Family.



Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders



The Big Draw

October marked the beginning of the celebrations for one of our Proud Traditions across the Griffin Schools Trust: The Big Draw.

The Big Draw Festival is the world's biggest celebration of drawing and each year, as part of The Griffin Schools Trust, Park Lane are keen to get involved. This year, the theme for the festival was *'Make the Change'* and this provided the children with an opportunity to consider the world around them in a more thoughtful, appreciative way. They were encouraged to consider sustainable and successful living, utilising the materials available in their natural environment.

Mrs Glover, our Art Lead, set the children the task of designing a small symbol or image that reflected the aims of the project. The children made use of the outdoors to create their collaborative piece, a mural, boldly expressing the children's views on the important topics of the festival.

Aside from this, many of our Griffins took to their sketch books and created their image of an 'ideal world'. This was a chance for them to show what 'Make the Change' meant to them as individuals and express their inner thoughts and feelings.

As always, the festival was thoroughly enjoyed by all of our children. Their positive attitudes, inquisitive minds and love of the arts enabled their participation in The Big Draw 2021 to be a huge success.



TT Rockstars

On the week beginning 4th October, each class battled against their opposing year group class. After a gruelling battle - the first one for the new academic year - the winning classes were as follows:

2MW
3JG
4SN
5EG
6SM

The highest scoring class with a whopping 1140 points was...

Mr Grocock's class (5EG) - Congratulations!



World Space Week



This month, our Griffins have been venturing into the final frontier during World Space Week! We have been exploring all things space across all year groups, with our Griffins having the opportunity to learn more about space and taking part in a wide variety of different science based activities.

Our Mini-Griffins and Reception Griffins spent some time learning about the planets by organising spheres by size in an attempt to replicate the solar system as well as painting their own imaginary planets. They also have been designing their own aliens! Year 1 spent some time studying the possibility of life outside of our world, whilst Year 2 learnt all about the Apollo 11 moon landing, which led them to creating their own incredible interpretive dance, featuring their own moon walk dance moves!

Year 3 and 4 created their own models of the solar system and studied the artwork of the fabulous Peter Thorpe, an artist who specialises in colourful, abstract space pieces. This gave Years 3 and 4 the opportunity to really spread their creative wings! Whilst Years 5 and 6 created their own electronic circuits based upon the NASA-designed space suits. They also wrote some beautiful poetry based upon the stimuli '*Parallelostory*,' a short video about two star-crossed lovers.

We capped the week off with a gallery walk across the school, where all year groups presented their artwork outside of their classrooms, giving all of our Griffins the chance to experience the creative efforts of our Space Week.

A huge well done to all of our Griffins for their amazing scientific work throughout World Space Week, you have all been out of this world!



London Marathon

Miss Pearson

Miss Pearson - a member of our very own Admin team - was lucky enough to win a ballot place for the London Marathon after balloting for 6 years.

She trained hard, following a training plan for 4 months, and on the day stuck to the plan. By showing this commitment, it helped me to enjoy the sites on the London route, including Cutty's Sark, The London Bridge and The Millennium Building. She was very happy when she completed and even managed to beat her planned time!

Time: 5 hours 9 minutes

What an outstanding achievement!



Miss Davies

Miss Davies, our Head of Sports, ran on behalf of the Griffin Schools Trust and the SAF and truly amazed us with her journey. With only 8 weeks of training and a slight knee injury, Miss Davies wowed us with her outcome.

Miss Davies' very own words: Mile 23 was without a doubt the hardest point but I reminded myself why I was running: for an amazing fund that is very close to all of our hearts. When I'm teaching our Griffins, I encourage our PE Values, Our 3 P's: Pride, Perseverance and Passion. These 3 aspects kept me going when times got tough and I am so proud of what I have achieved.

Time: 4 hours 12 minutes

A total amount of £1,087.40 was raised throughout the Griffin Schools Trust; we thank each and every one of you for your kindness.



Your Park Lane Family are very proud!

Accelerated Reader

At Park Lane, reading is immersed into all that we do: an integral part of school life as a Griffin, from the very moment you enter the school building. Celebrating successes is another important part of being a Griffin and joining the two together for our most recent Reading Celebration Assembly was truly remarkable. A huge well done to all of our worthy winners!



Halloween Fancy Dress



Book Talk (Grown Ups)

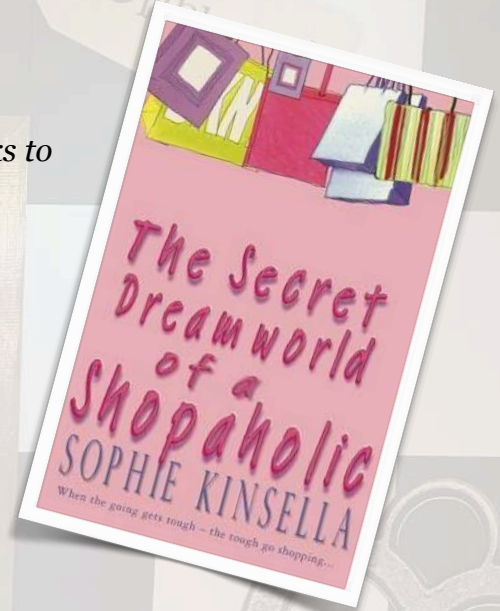
Miss Murphy says...

The Secret Dreamworld of a Shopaholic **Sophie Kinsella**

"I love reading and have many books I could recommend to our Family, however, one of my all-time favourites is *The Secret Dreamworld of a Shopaholic*! It's probably one of the only books to ever have really make me laugh out loud!

Becky Bloomwood is so relatable to me: she's funny, slightly clumsy but a little too carefree.. She should never have been allowed a credit card!! My favourite part is when she attempts to prevent herself from spending too much, so she decides to hide her card from herself and freezes it into a block of ice. There have been many sequels to this book; all equally as funny as the first.

I hope you enjoy this book as much I as I did!"



Mrs Neville says...

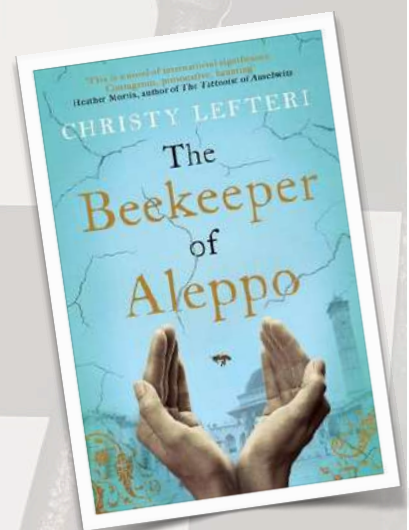
The Beekeeper of Aleppo **Christy Lefteri**

"It was during the Summer holidays that I discovered this book: it tells the story of Nuri and his wife Afra, a couple who are forced to leave their home in Syria and become refugees due to their lives being in danger as a result of war and violence. Their search for safety takes them to different places, with their eventual destination being the UK.

I found it to be a very thought-provoking and moving book, especially as during the time I reading it, it coincided with the crisis in Afghanistan. The book explores issues around the desperate measures people are forced to take when their lives are in danger, the psychological effects of trauma and how human relationships are built and tested in difficult circumstances.

Nuri is a beekeeper, and throughout the book, the bees are used as a symbol of hope and survival against the odds. The story unfolds simply, but as you read, you are drawn into the emotional highs and lows experienced by the characters.

A great book is one that continues to impact you, after you have finished reading it... This is one of those books. It raises uncomfortable issues about human values and how the fight for survival and safety affects morals and behaviour. A true tribute to the strength and resilience of the human spirit; love and hope can remain, even in the most dire of situations!"



.. And some to share with your Families!

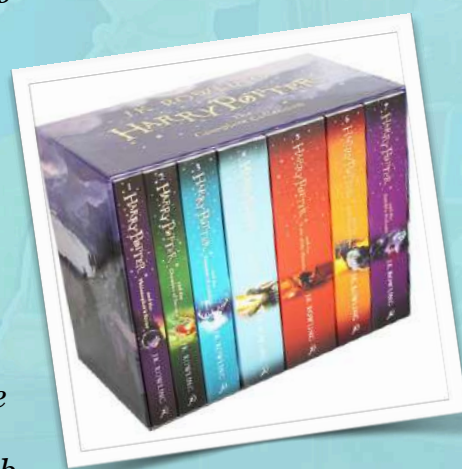
Miss Shelton...

Harry Potter Series
J K Rowling

"My love for the Harry Potter books blossomed during my own childhood as I sought out magic in the world. Rowlings writing captivated my youthful imagination and allowed me to escape to a world where anything was possible.

My absolute favourite from the series is Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban as I believe the storyline really develops the characters in this title. I particular enjoy it when Hermione stands up to Draco Malfoy! I would absolutely love to be able to use magic like they do at Hogwarts: the spell I would use the most would be the Accio spell, to magic things to me without moving.

If you haven't yet read the books, then you definitely should! There is so much to take from them in comparison to the films. The audiobooks are equally as good: Stephen Fry does a spectacular job at bringing the stories to life."



Mrs Quick says...

A Bear Called Paddington
Michael Bond

"I have chosen Paddington as my favourite children's book as it takes me back to my very own childhood. My Mum used to love to read this story to me.. And I would read it to my own four children.

The book describes how Paddington Bear, from Darkest Peru, comes to live with the Brown family of 32 Windsor Gardens, London. He befriends an antique dealer, Mr Gruber and how he makes an enemy in the form of the Browns' neighbour, Mr Curry. Although he is capable of making people feel uncomfortable, Paddington is a very friendly and extremely polite character, with a strong sense of right and wrong.

Life among humans in England is equally new and fascinating to him and he has slight difficulty adjusting. As a small bear, he also has some physical difficulty coping in a world which is not designed for him, which does make him appear to be somewhat clumsy and he does often find himself in trouble.

A fabulous book that teaches resilience at its very core and one to definitely read!"



Mrs Bent says...

Room on the Broom Julia Donaldson

"A story about friendship, kindness and bravery!"

A clumsy witch and her pet take to the skies but the witch keeps dropping things: when they fly down to the ground to find them, they meet new helpful friends along the way. The cat becomes worried that the broom is not big enough for everyone.

Little do they know, a fearsome dragon who likes to eat witches is quickly approaching them. The broom eventually snaps: the witch, the cat and all their new friends fall from the sky to the ground. The dragon finally catches up with the witch.. But her new friends display courage and bravery and scare the dragon away. They must then all work together to build a new boom so that they can continue on their adventures together.

A wonderful book that teaches about friendship, bravery and problem-solving!"



Who will be included in next month's edition?

What's On in November?!

