

Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,

Firstly, a huge Happy New Year to all! As we look forward to 2022, I would like to welcome some new members of staff to the Park Lane Family: Sue Williams has joined the Inclusions Team and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience: 23 years to be exact. We are also thrilled to welcome Kelly Warwick who will be joining our Nursery Team. We know that both new members will be warmly welcomed by all within our Family. We would also like to share the exciting news that Miss Ensor is expecting a new arrival in the Summer months.

As we welcome new members, we sadly do have some farewells to announce: 2 members of our Teaching Team, Amanda Boyd and Caroline White, have decided to spread their wings and move on to pastures new. Andrea Burrell, who has been a member of our Family for 20 years, will sadly be relocating. We wish them the very best of luck in all future endeavours and know that they shall both be greatly missed by all.

It's been wonderful to see so many familiar faces enjoying our Community Cafe, Poppies: the hub of our community, please do venture to the cafe and experience the welcoming environment for yourself. There are lots of upcoming offers, including this month's special of a bacon roll and a hot drink for only £2. Please do keep your eyes peeled for future events.

We would like to thank all that completed the Parent Survey that was issued onto our communication platforms. Feedback is vital to us and although we may not always get everything right, we endeavour to continue to grow and build as one family.

There are lots of exciting events coming in the months to follow: our Griffin Science Symposium and it is our 10th year of one of our proudest traditions, Founders Day. We wish you a wonderful half-term with your Families.

Warmest of Wishes,
Alex Ladbury
Head of School



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Key Dates:

Monday 28th February

School reopens for Spring 2.

Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day: Griffins to come into school dressed as their favourite book character

Friday 4th March

Founders Day: 10th Anniversary!

Monday 7th March

School sibling photographs: Griffins to wear full school uniform
Griffin Science Symposium

Tuesday 8th March

Seesaw Drop In Afternoon for Families

Friday 18th March

Red Nose Day



Mini Griffins

Throughout this half term, despite the cold temperatures, our Mini Griffins have been enjoying exploring their outdoor area so so much! We have enjoyed climbing, jumping, skipping, running and sliding, as well as engaging with the many marvellous activities that have been available to us.

In addition to this, we have been practising our fine motor skills: painting sticks with ice cubes and pasta and used rice to fill up lots of little pots. We have enjoyed getting messy with our messy trays and have enjoyed getting involved with the Chinese New Year celebrations.

A great start to 2022 Mini Griffins - keep up the hard work and learning.



Pre-School Griffins

Pre-School have had an exciting start to 2022, learning all about our topic: 'Where Does Snow Go?' This exciting topic has seen us create beautiful art work that is now proudly hanging from the ceiling to showcase to our visitors. We created furry polar bears by using forks to paint and mimic the texture of the hairs of the polar bear: the tiny strokes of the fork worked well to capture the polar bear image. We have spent time discussing emotions and how to recognise facial expressions to know how others are feeling. Using this knowledge, we drew different emotions onto snowmen (they look fantastic) if we do say so ourselves!

Unfortunately, it has not snowed during our topic, but we have had the opportunity to explore ice and frost, developing scientific vocabulary and concepts.

What a fabulous start to the new year Pre-School Griffins.



Reception

This half term Reception have been exploring the continent of Africa through many different forms. We have explored Kenyan villages in our PSED lessons to discover the similarities and differences between ourselves, and others. We also compared different countries throughout Africa to gain a wider perspective of what it means to be African in many different ways.

Through our Art lessons, we have created traditional African tribal masks out of cardboard, paints, and twine. We also created African style villages of our own in the classroom made from lollypop sticks, wool and feathers. We modelled these on the homes we have explored throughout our Geography lessons. Also, in Geography, Reception have successfully managed to follow directions on a map to see the key areas of their school, which lead them to secret treasure... Exciting!

Reception have been very excited this month to be learning of the celebrations of Kwanzaa, a festival celebrated by African-Americans, and have participated in some of the festivities; understanding how other cultures celebrate special events throughout our RE sessions. Together we made kinara candles out of playdough. We even made plantain in the kitchen ourselves which we really enjoyed at snack time.

A busy start of the year for our Reception Griffins!



Year 1

This term in Year 1, we have started our new topic, “Moon Zoom.” In this topic the children have been learning all about space and have been looking at the inspirational figure Neil Armstrong and finding out about his life and all the amazing things that he has achieved. The children have also been looking at the stories: *Beegu* and *Aliens love Underpants*. We have been learning to make predictions in our writing and how to use adjectives and nouns to improve it. We have also been learning all about materials and their properties, and have been making predictions about objects and conducting experiments to find out if our predictions were correct. Also, we have had lots of fun designing and making our own rockets and planets in art.

A busy start to your new topic Year 1: it's been lovely to observe how inspired you have been through your learning about astronauts.



Year 2

This half-term, our topic is Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. We have thoroughly enjoyed the topic and have been engaged in all of the activities that we have taken part in. As a way to excite the children initially, we took them to the outdoor learning space, where they used the giant construction materials to construct their own Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. We had to work well in a team to create their structures and showed resilience and determination throughout. We think that they would make pretty good structural engineers!!

In English, as one of the priorities for our Griffins is to develop pleasure in reading, we have spent time focusing on just that! To link to our topic, we have read a version of Rapunzel, who is famous for being locked away in a tall tower. The children enjoyed planning their own version of the story, where they replaced the witch for dragons, aliens and ogres! They will have a go at writing a section of their plan before the end of the half-term and we can't wait to see how they elaborate on these.

This is a small snippet of all of the exciting things that the children have been up to during this topic. It is certainly one that has been enjoyed and embraced by all.

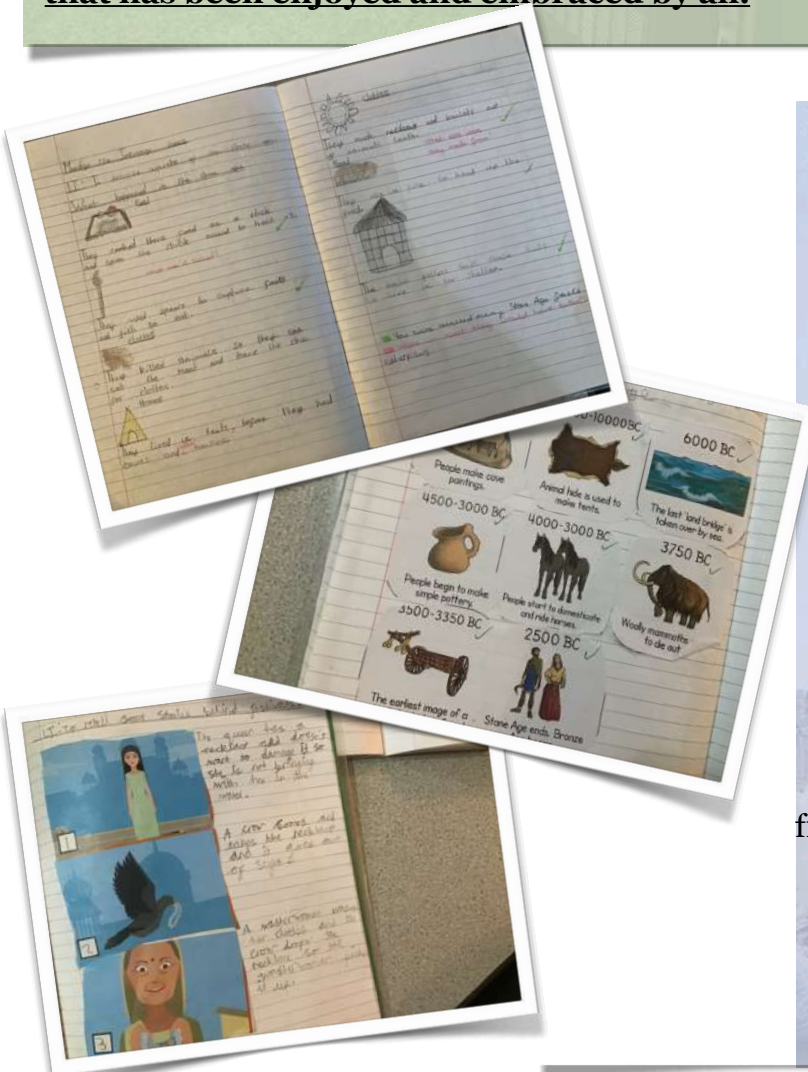


Year 3

In Year 3, we have been learning lots of really interesting facts about Stone Age life. *Did you know that people actually ate caterpillars?* Ugh! They also spread manure over the walls of their buildings to keep the wind and rain out. *How smelly would that have been?* We have also been learning and discovering many more facts about Stonehenge and The Bronze Age!

In Science, we have begun to learn about forces and how they act upon objects. We have investigated the effects of friction on different surfaces and had a great time predicting the surface which would create the most friction, measuring the results and explaining the force of friction by using many different surfaces, a toy car and a ruler.

It's been a promising start to the year and we are excited for what is to come.



Year 4

In Year 4, we have been continuing our journey through time, as we have moved onto studying the Saxons and Vikings. Our *Traders and Raiders* topic looks at how life in Britain changed with the arrival of settlers from different countries. We are learning about some of the myths and legends of the Saxon and Viking people and taking inspiration for our art work from Anglo-Saxon carving and tapestries.

We have also welcomed some special visitors to Park Lane, a couple of Vikings, who immersed us in Viking culture for the day.

In teams, we have created our very own timeline of the key events that took place. We used our knowledge of the dates, important figures and events to accurately place the events on the timeline. We then decorated them with battle scenes between the British and Saxon fighters.

Sounds as if you have had a great start to your new Topic and have learnt lots of interesting facts.

Year 5

This term in topic, Year 5 have been focusing on the topic of *Maaafa*, which is all about Africa's past and present and teaches the children about the development of the slave trade. It also explores Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora. We began this topic by focusing on the Geography of both ancient and modern Africa and exploring how the continent and its' countries have changed over the last few centuries. Then, we looked deeper in the history of the Kingdom of Benin, where we learnt all about the rulers and cultures of the Kingdom before it was annexed by the British empire in 1897.

In Art, we have also been exploring influential African-American artist Kara Walker, focusing on her unique style of using black paper silhouettes against white backgrounds. We learnt about how her striking artwork is inspired by the historical consequences of slavery throughout the world. Year 5 are going to be creating some of their own artwork in the style of Kara Walker, which will be displayed outside of our classrooms. We have also been learning all about the Windrush generation, given that this is such an important conversation for everyone to be engaging with.

Fabulous Year 5 - you should be very proud of the work you have produced!

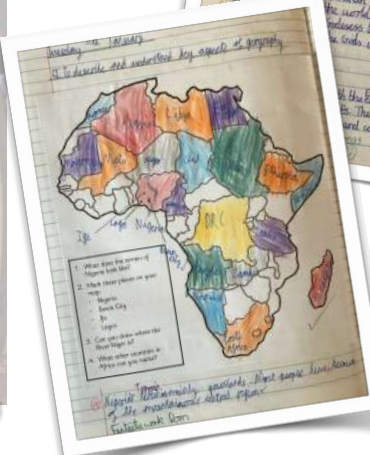
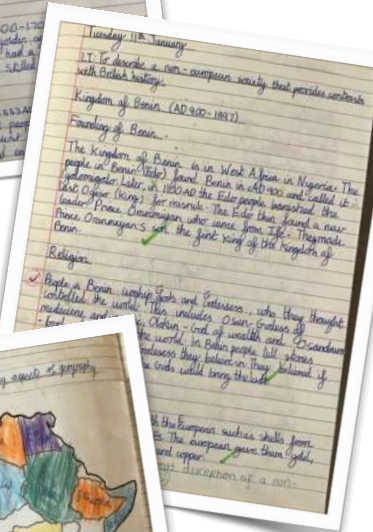
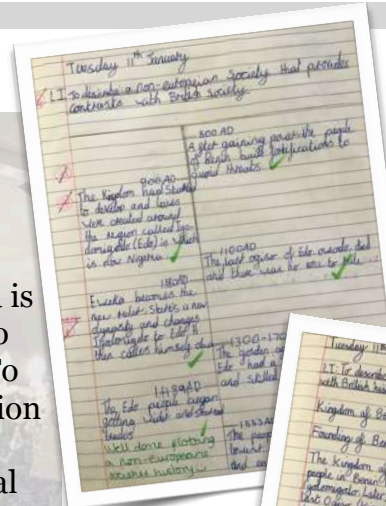


Year 6

In Year 6, we have started our new topic: *Maafa*. This topic encompasses a wide range of areas related to the Maafa. Maafa is a Swahili term which means 'great disaster' and is often used to refer to the atrocities suffered by Africans under colonialism. To begin with, we looked at the Kingdom of Benin a great civilisation located in modern-day Nigeria. We explored its location, alongside other African countries by using various maps (digital and atlases). We also learnt about some of the major events through creating a timeline of the kingdom's history. This has helped us to understand what life was like for some people in Africa before colonialism.

Towards the end of the half term, we have been learning about the trans-Atlantic slave trade and its devastating impact on the people involved. We also studied migration and the push and pull factors involved through the case study of the Windrush migration of people migrating from the Caribbean to the UK.

Sounds very interesting Year 6 - lots of interesting facts to add to your schemas.



The Nurture Team

This half term, staff members from the Nurture team have been running a series of Interventions which support the children's additional needs. Miss Edwards has been focusing on exploring sensory play and how to recognise emotions and feelings.

The children have responded well and are using the skills learnt in their everyday school life. Next month Miss Edwards is focusing on perseverance and persistence - look out for this in next month's newsletter issue.

Ruby, Ralph and Mylo have been very busy during their training sessions with Brett: they have been learning how to interact with one another and how to follow simple commands. The Nurture Team have also been learning how to understand the dog's behaviours so that when the children are working closely with then, they are able to communicate effectively. Each of the dog's personalities are so very different and all are very loved by the Park Lane Family very much.





PE Team



We have had a busy start with Sports for our Griffins.. And Miss Davies and Miss Everitt! Competitions and the start of our Spring Co-Curricula Programme has meant for a exciting, thriving time at Park Lane. Check out how our Griffins have been performing at their clubs - we are very proud of each of them:

Girls Basketball Team

We are thrilled to announce that our Girls' Basketball Team played exceptionally at a recent tournament again various schools within Warwickshire. Coming 3rd place was a huge success for all and they should each be very proud of this.

Determination and the PE values that were presented throughout - Park Lane is very proud of you and you should each be proud of yourselves.



Boccia, Kurling and Archery Team

We are pleased to share further sporting success at Park Lane as we have further congratulations to our Boccia, Kurling and Archery team who came 2nd place in their recent competition.

They did an amazing job representing Park Lane with all Griffins showing great sportsmanship - they also all had lots of fun: fantastic work everyone!

Co- Curricular Clubs

With our Co-Curricula Clubs programme now fully in operation for the Spring Term, we would just like to take this opportunity to thank our community for the amazing uptake that we have had for each and every club. Our Griffins showing this kind of interest makes us incredibly proud of them all and we are eager for this offer to enhance further as we progress throughout the year. Following feedback on our family survey, we have recently reviewed our programme to ensure we are offering further opportunities for younger Griffins and different genders.

Year 4 Residential

On the 3rd of February our Year 4's set off on their very first overnight residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes. This was a new experience for many of our children, who had not spent a night away from home before. Despite this, the children showed a fantastic attitude and were complimented on their listening skills and manners throughout their time at Whitemoor Lakes.

During the trip, the children were given the opportunity to build their independence and courage, as they tackled some challenging activities, such as rock climbing and abseiling. It was wonderful to see so many children face their fears and give these activities a try! Alongside this, the children improved their team working skills, as they raced to build the best buggy and win the race. The children also, used their map reading skills, as they trekked around the site, searching for the clues during orienteering.

In the evening, the children's teamwork was challenged again, as they competed in extreme team sports. At the end of a busy first day, the children were treated to some hot chocolate and we were lucky enough to celebrate Miruna's 9th birthday all together.

Day two, started with a hearty breakfast and then another day of exciting activities until it was time to go home.

Year 4, had a fantastic time away, they themselves and each other and demonstrated our school values of teamwork and friendship. We are

challenged



Year 5 Residential

On Wednesday 2nd February some of our year 5 Griffins set off on their Residential to Whitemoore Lakes, a proud tradition for our year 5 Griffins. For most of our Griffins it was their first time away from their parents.

When we arrived at Whitemoor lakes the children had a tour of the site and then they headed straight to their rooms where they had to make their beds and unpack ready for a busy fun packed three days!

Over the three days, all the children had the opportunity to take part in many different activities which included Abseiling, Rock Climbing, Nightline, High Ropes, Archery, Circus skills and Canoeing. During these activities, the Griffins faced many challenges and over came fears. They demonstrated the school values throughout such as resilience, perseverance, trust, courage, responsibility and determination. An example of this was the rock climbing where they had to work as a team and trust in each other to keep the rope tight and secure for the person climbing the wall.

Other highlights of our trip included wrapping up and heading outside for a campfire. All the griffins enjoyed singing camp songs around the campfire and took part in a banana eating race where you could only use one hand and your mouth. Which is trickier than it sounds! Another highlight of the trip was the disco! This gave the children time to be with their friends and show off their best dance moves! Throughout the trip the Griffins used every break they had to play pool, table tennis, foosball and card games. All the Griffins enjoyed competing against each other and also working as a team.

We are so proud of our Year 5 Griffins: they represented the school like true Griffins and were constantly complimented on their good manners and friendly behaviour.



RE at Park Lane

At Park Lane our Religious and Worldviews Education curriculum gives our Griffins opportunities to learn about the diversity of beliefs of different people, as well as the space to ask questions and reflect on their own views and beliefs. During the year, each year group looks at three different strands of learning: Believing, Expressing and Living. Children learn the key stories and beliefs from the range of faith groups studied, as well as finding out how they express their faith in their daily lives and how they impact their community. As Covid restrictions are gradually being lifted, our Griffins will be having the privilege of visiting places of worship.

In the Early Years phase, RE is incorporated into Understanding the World. Our Nursery Griffins have been having fun learning about Chinese New Year. They learned the story behind the festival and made Chinese lanterns.

EYFS/Key Stage 1

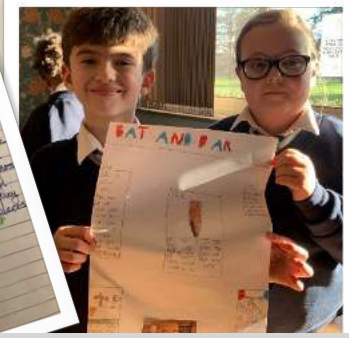
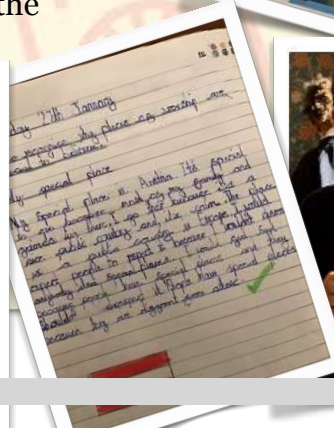
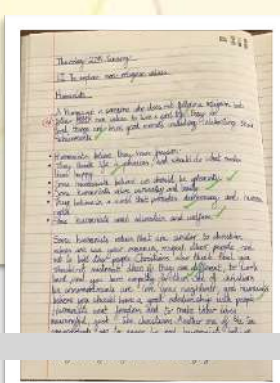
In Reception, the children learned about Kwanzaa, a celebration of African-American culture. They learned about the symbols of the celebration and thought about what they wanted to do when they grow up. In Year 1 our Griffins have been learning about special people and acting out some stories from the Bible about Jesus.

Key Stage 2

Our Year 2 Griffins have been learning about the teachings of Jesus from the Bible. In Year 3 the children have been learning about different festivals. They have looked at the Hindu celebration of Diwali and how Muslims celebrate Ramadan and Eid. Year 4 have been learning about why some people think that life is like a journey. We thought about the significant events in our own lives and looked at Christian baptism, Bat and Bar Mitzvah ceremonies in Judaism and the Hindu sacred thread ceremony.

In Year 5 our Griffins have been learning about sacred places. We thought about why some places are special and reflected on places that are significant to us. Year 6 have been learning about what is important to Christians and Humanists. We discussed the values that some Humanists think are important.

It's been a busy half-term and our Griffins should be proud of their hard work!



Science at Park Lane

Early Years

Our reception children had the opportunity to explore what materials could be used to prevent an egg from breaking. The children experimented how we could stop an egg from breaking when dropped from shoulder height. IN order to do this, the children placed an egg into a sandwich bag and filled it with different materials, such as card, foam, shaving cream, paper in order to stop the impact of the egg hitting the floor and causing it to break. The children had lots of fun experimenting with different materials and trying not to make to much of an 'eggy mess'!



KS1

Our KS1 children have been looking at materials and their various properties this half term. The Year 1 children took part in a blind bag experiment, where they had to identify the object in the bag by only using their sense of touch. When identifying the object, they would explain what properties they could identify, such as 'this is cold' or 'this is hard'. The Year 2s have been sorting and organising different materials based on their properties. They took part in an outdoor investigation where they hunted for different materials, such as metal and wood and organised them based on their uses. Some wonderful work from our KS1 Griffins.



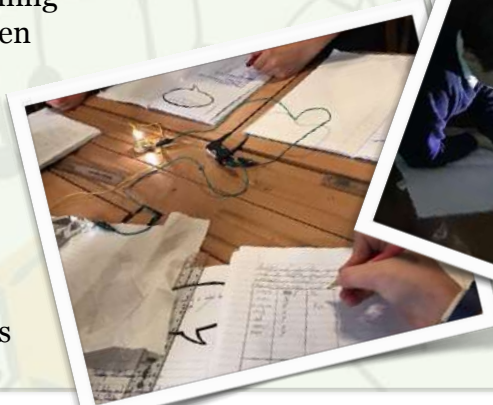
LKS2

Our LKS2 children have been looking at both forces and electricity this term. The Year 3s have been testing the strengths of magnets, by taking it in turns to add a paper clip to different magnets to see how many they could attract after making a collection of predictions. From this they drew their own bar charts in order to explain their findings. Our Year 4 children have been exploring electricity and had a go at creating their own circuits. They explored the different parts of an electrical circuit and discovered the difference between a complete and incomplete circuit. The children also made predictions based on what materials would be the best at conducting electricity. Well done to all of our Year 3 and 4 Griffins for their hard work this term in Science.



UKS2

This term, our Year 5 and 6s have been exploring all about light sources and shadows. Over the course of a week of learning, the children learned how shadows are created and why shadows change size and shape throughout the day. This learning culminated in an experiment that the children led, in which they used a torch to represent the sun and used equipment that represented different times of day. This enabled them to create a shadow which they then measured. The children worked brilliantly well in teams and had a lot of fun in the process. Well done to our Year 5 and 6 Griffins for their brilliant efforts this term.





Attendance

Attendance

December's winning class was Mr Eccles' Reception class, as announced in the last newsletter. Their prize is a trip for the whole class to Hoar Park Children's Farm to meet the animals and have the opportunity to feed them too. We hope RJE have a lovely time and enjoy their reward.



Lateness

Previous newsletters have highlighted the importance of high levels of attendance for children for their educational attainment; lateness also has an impact on children's ability to learn for a number of reasons: the beginning of the school day is used to ease the transition from the morning rush and journey to learning and paying attention, often with quiet reading.

Children are often embarrassed to arrive late into class in front of other children, which you can imagine does not make them feel ready to learn or help their self esteem. Punctuality is an important life skill to develop for adulthood and employment. It becomes a habit and second nature if started at an early stage. If a child is just 5 minutes late every day, that adds up to 3 days over a year of lost learning. If a child is 15 minutes late every day, that adds up to 10 days over the year. It may not seem to matter if a child is a few minutes late, but it has a huge impact on them and the experience of the other children in their class: please ensure that you arrive at school from 8:45 - 9:00am.

Winning Class for Spring Half-Term is.... 3JG!

Pupil Leadership Team

Some of our older KS2 children have been working on a display for the Year 6 Common Room which highlights the importance of tolerance and understanding to those working out their gender and sexual identity. They chose this topic themselves and worked hard and were supported to understand the issues surrounding identity and difference and promote a message of inclusivity.

"This world would be a whole lot better if we just made an effort to be less horrible to one another..."

Elliot Page

(Actor and Producer)

We know that our Griffins go further than trying to 'being less horrible' as Elliot suggests, and are aiming to be actively kind to others at all times.



Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders



Your Feedback Counts...

There truly is no better form of incentive or reward for our staff than receiving feedback like the one stated below. Not only does it confirm just how special Park Lane is, it fills us with a great sense of pride and satisfaction and shows us the value of what we do. If you would ever like to share any feedback that you have, do not hesitate to contact the school via our email account (admin2636@welearn365.com) - we would love to hear from you!



Your Feedback Counts!

*"I have supported children in a lot of educational settings:
Infant, Primary and Secondary, and I have never seen a
school as environmentally therapeutic as Park Lane Primary
School..."*

Absolutely outstanding!

*I honestly do not feel as though I was in a school, it was more
of a community of children in a multi dynamic environment.
From a Harry Potter styled dining hall to Narnia and Peter
Pan, you have it all! The classrooms are exquisite: if I was a
child, I would be excited every day to come to school and as a
teacher to come to work!"*



Proud Traditions | Wide Horizons | High Achievement

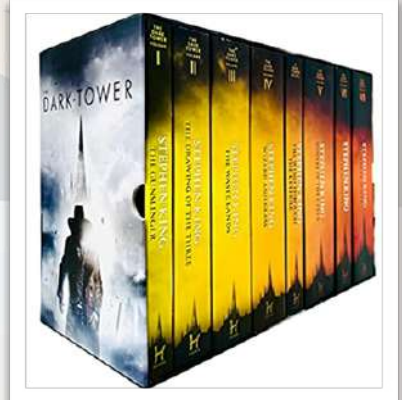
**"Feedback is the breakfast
of champions!"**

Book Talk (Grown Ups)

Mrs Glover says...

The Dark Tower Series *Stephen King*

My book choice is actually a set comprising of 8 books and is written by the famous author Stephen King. The books are called The Dark Tower series. It is about a character called Roland who is a hanging figure (a longer) on a spellbinding journey toward the mysterious Dark Towers, in a desolate world. Roland of Gilead, the Last Gunslinger, encounters three mysterious doors which open - for Roland, and Roland alone - to different times in our world. He must draw the three who should accompany him on the road. It is a fantasy quest that will leave you hungry to read more.



I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a great fantasy novel, you won't want to put it down!

Miss Finney says...

Anything
Patricia Cornwell



I don't particularly have a favourite book: I have a favourite author! Her name is Patricia Cornwell and she writes books about a forensic scientist called Kay Scarpetta. There are 24 books written so far by this author and they all solve a crime. They do follow on from each other but can be read as stand alone books.

My favourite book is called Blow Fly. In this book Kay's partner Benton Wesley, who has been killed by some nasty gangsters, is found alive. Benton feared for his life and went into hiding until the gangsters were brought to justice.

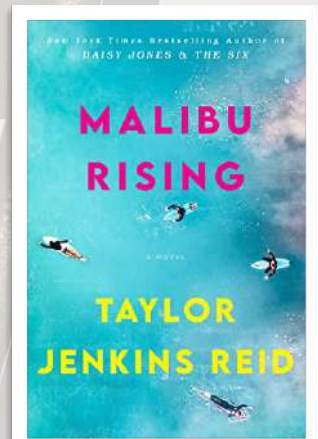
I would recommend this book to any adults who enjoy police thrillers.

Miss Archer says...

Malibu Rising
Taylor Jenkins Reid

I have chosen this book as I was given it as a gift in the summer. I started reading it on the beach shortly after receiving it. I was eager to read the book as many people had recommended it to me before. It was about a famous family who go to the party of the year to celebrate the end of the summer. But over the course of twenty-four hours, their lives change forever. There were so many twists and turns in the book, it kept me hooked all summer.

I recommend this book to anyone who loves beach days, parties and summer!



... And some to share with your Families!

Miss McDonnell says...

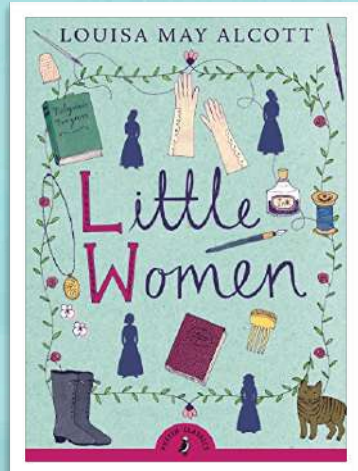
Little Women

Louisa May Alcott

I first read this book after I watched the 2019 film: the clear key themes of sisterhood, love, sibling rivalry and forgiveness all enable you to immerse yourself into the coming-of-age story loosely based on the lives of Alcott and her sisters. It delves deeply into their struggle of coming to terms with the idea that getting older might mean not living so closely together.

The story begins with the March sisters: Margaret, Jo, Beth and Amy, trying to adjust to life now their father is absent due to work commitments.

Margaret and Jo (the oldest two) are forced into work to help support their family, while Beth and Amy try to tackle the challenges that come with growing up and living in the shadows of their older sisters. Despite all four sisters' being close in age, they are all very different. You see them try to find their feet in love, friendship and a world that is not welcoming to the idea of female workers.



I would recommend this story to anyone who has a love for romantic fiction!

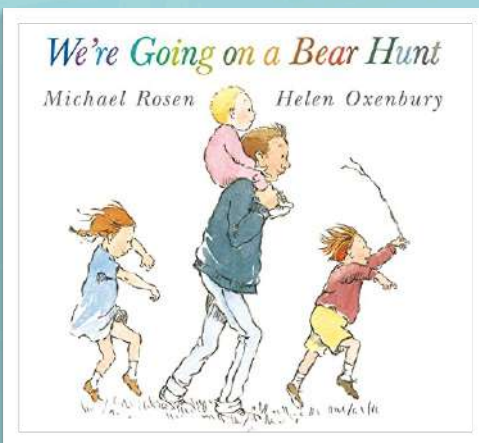
Miss Marshall says...

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Micheal Rosen

I don't read that many books myself but I love reading to my nieces and nephews when they were much younger and my favourite book to read with them was: We're Going on a Bear Hunt. This book has many twists and turns and children can join along with the rhyming too as it is very repetitive.. So repetitive that you find that children read the book to you after a few times!

I would recommend this book to all children as it's one that you can really get involved in, making up actions, involving instruments and even adding a little drama to it! I hope that you enjoy it as much as I have done throughout the years!



If you would like to make a book recommendation, please send it to
admin2636@welearn365.com

What's Coming Up?

