

Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,

With February half-term upon us, this does mean that we are now officially half-way through this academic year, and what a year it is proving to be. This half-term has seen a variety of exciting accomplishments for our Family: we were proudly selected to be BBC CWR's 'Star School' with various children and staff presenting live from our very own school grounds. We know that it was well listened to among our Family and are sure that the feeling of pride was among us all!

Our children have been creating some unique art masterpieces throughout the past few weeks with so many of them now taking pride of place in our corridors acting as our very own Park Lane Art Gallery: our Arts Team are eager to expand this, and plans are in the pipeline for further pieces to be explored. Our Reception 'Valentines' themed Assembly was incredibly cute; watching children as young as five bravely positioned at the front, presenting to an audience was a definitive proud moment for all. NSPCC Number Day was another roaring success and a day filled with exploring all things number related was had across the school. Our Year 1 Family had a very exciting experience to the Space Centre where they presented their Griffin Learning Behaviours in an exemplary manner.

It was wonderful to see so many familiar Family faces at our Drop In Evening, experiencing the high-quality work that their children have produced so far this year. We also look forward to one of our proudest traditions across the Trust: Founders Day 2023, where we will be inviting our Families into school to join us with a cup of coffee and a slice of cake.

Finally, we wish Miss Ryan the warmest of wishes as she embraces an exciting stage of her journey into motherhood: we look forward to meeting the new addition to our ever-growing Family. We wish you a wonderful half-term and will be welcoming you all back on Monday 27th February for our second half of Spring term.

Warmest of Wishes,
Alex Ladbury
Head of School



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Key Dates:

Monday 27th February

School reopens for all Griffins
Macbeth Performance @ Belgrade
Theatre Coventry (selected Y5/6)

Thursday 2nd March

World Book Day - costumes & pyjamas

Friday 3rd March

Founders Day - Coffee Morning 9-11am

Monday 6th March

Griffin Science Symposium Begins

Tuesday 7th March

School photographs - siblings only

Friday 17th March

Red Nose Day

Year 1 Assembly

Wednesday 22nd March

Parent Teacher Consultation Eve

Friday 31st March

5MQ Class Assembly

Last day of term for all Griffins: school closes at 2pm. No wraparound care available.

Mini Griffins

To begin our Spring term in Mini Griffins, we have been looking at Fairytales: from learning about the adventures of the three little pigs, goldilocks and her encounters with the three little bears and of course, the gingerbread man. We went on a hunt in the woods for the Big Bad Wolf; we did not find him!

We applied our creative skills and explored colours when celebrating Chinese New Year and had lots of fun with all things number for NSPCC Number Day. We have created some wonderful pieces of Art and have investigated different textures and smells using play dough and moon dough. We also had a go at making some Bear Toast and applied our spreading skills to butter the toast, to then enjoy it during snack time.

The most exciting part of this half term has been making new friends: we have loved getting to know everyone and welcoming them to our growing Family.

What a start to 2023 Mini Griffins!



Pre-School Griffins

Our Pre School Griffins have been very busy this half-term learning lots about different animals and their habitats, focusing on jungle and rainforest animals, through our topic of *'Why Do Zebras Have Stripes?'* A key text we have explored throughout our learning is *'Monkey Puzzle:'* a tale about a young monkey that has sadly lost her Mum. We have been developing our fine motor and early writing skills by creating 'LOST' posters. Throughout this activity, the children were able to apply their skills in sequencing and retelling the story, talking about what animals the young monkey met along the way that helped find her way back to her mum. The children have created their own wonderful butterflies from the story, exploring colours and different materials.

Well done Pre-School Griffins: you have shown lots of maturity and resilience this half-term - well done!

Reception

Our Receptions focus this half term has been, 'Why do Zebras have stripes?' which focused on jungle and zoo animals. The children have explored three key texts this half term: 'Handa's Surprise', 'The Lion Who Wanted to Love' and 'Giraffes Can't Dance.' They have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and have explored different animals and created some prints to go onto our display board. They have been creating lots of sentences and have had a heavy focus on blending this half term too, with the help of our friend, the infamous Fred the Frog. They also experienced a fruit taste testing session to relate to the fruits in the story of Handa's Surprise. We have created some wonderfully creative pieces of art in the form of self-portraits and roses for Valentines Day.

The children have also learnt two new songs this half term for our assembly, which we hope our families enjoyed: *L.O.V.E* by Nat King Cole and *All About You* by McFly. The children spent many weeks rehearsing the songs during their learning choices and at the end of each day before they would go home. We have also introduced our class teddies, which go home with a different child each weekend for a new adventure. This has been a huge success so far and we are excited to continue this next half term too!

Another fabulous half-term Reception - you should be so proud!



Year 1

In Year 1 we have been exploring the texts 'On the Moon' and 'Beegu,' both of which books link to our topic *Space*. We began by looking at the book, *Beegu*: the children loved predicting what was going to happen to Beegu after he landed on Earth using our 'predicting pip' skills. We had lots of discussions around what Beegu looks like, and the children came up with some fantastic adjectives to describe her. Following on from this, the children drew their very own alien and described what they looked like using lots of adjectives!

We also looked at the story 'On the Moon,' this gave us lots of opportunities to learn about what it is like on the Moon and the children discovered who the first man to walk on the moon was: Mr Neil Armstrong! The children learnt lots of facts about him and the Apollo 11 mission and we wrote some fantastic reports. To expand on our knowledge further, we took a trip to the National Space Centre where the children got to see Neil Armstrong's actual space suit and a real-life rocket. When we got to school we wrote a recount all about what we had learnt.

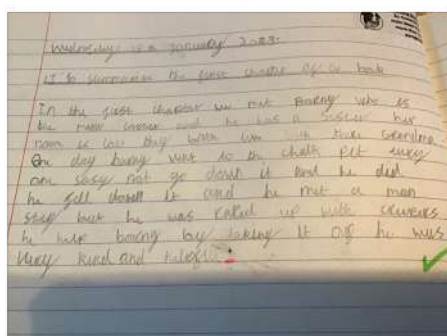
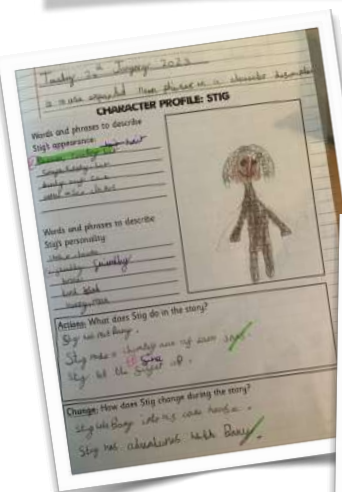
You have displayed your Griffin Learning Behaviours wonderfully Year 1 - well done!

Year 2

Our Year 2 Family have been further exploring their topic of *Towers, Tunnels and Turrets*. We have enjoyed reading the story of *Rapunzel* and using this as the focus for some of our English work. To begin, we focused on the traditional version of *Rapunzel*. We thought about the witch and her character, applied adjectives to write noun phrases to describe her. We then retold the story, remembering the sequence and writing it down in sections. We then read an alternative version of *Rapunzel*, where there is no prince and Rapunzel rescues herself - it was very interesting!

We then moved onto writing a newspaper report about *Rapunzel* marrying her Prince. We included the paper's name, the headline, a picture and a caption. We also tried to include speech in our writing using speech marks. Year 2 have loved reading the story of *Rapunzel* and have made some fabulous progress with their writing.

Well done and keep up the fantastic work Year 2!



Year 3

This half term in Year 3 we have been reading *Stig of the Dump*: it is an exciting story about a boy called Barney, who befriends a boy from the Stone Age called Stig.

We have performed some drama, based on one of the scenes where Barney is trying to explain how Stig behaves to his family. We have also written a character study to describe Stig's personality and written our own Stone Age adventure story.

Part of our English learning has also been about writing factfiles, and we have produced our own about the fascinating Stonehenge. We applied our Computing skills to this part of our learning as we had to collate all of the information about Stonehenge, including our newly sought information from the World Wide Web. We then had to choose how to best present our information!

Sounds like you have been working very hard
Year 3 - keep it up!



Year 4

In Year 4 during our English learning, we have been exploring 'The Saga of Erik the Viking' by Terry Jones. This tale links closely to our topic *Raiders and Traders* which explores the lives of Vikings and Anglo Saxons in Britain. We have read many chapters and are developing our reading skills: we frequently use commentary to discuss our opinions and thoughts on the chapter. We pick out unfamiliar vocabulary and use our dictionary skills to find the definition, we summarise and predict the future events. This has helped us grasp a deeper understanding of the character and the story.

We have used the book as a basis for many of our writing pieces this half-term: we have researched the Vikings and created fact files, written a recount of a Viking invasion from the perspective of the Monks and have written exciting and emotional poetry about a scared Viking in a rough storm. In doing so, we have embedded our knowledge of adjectives, expanded noun phrases, determiners, and prepositions.

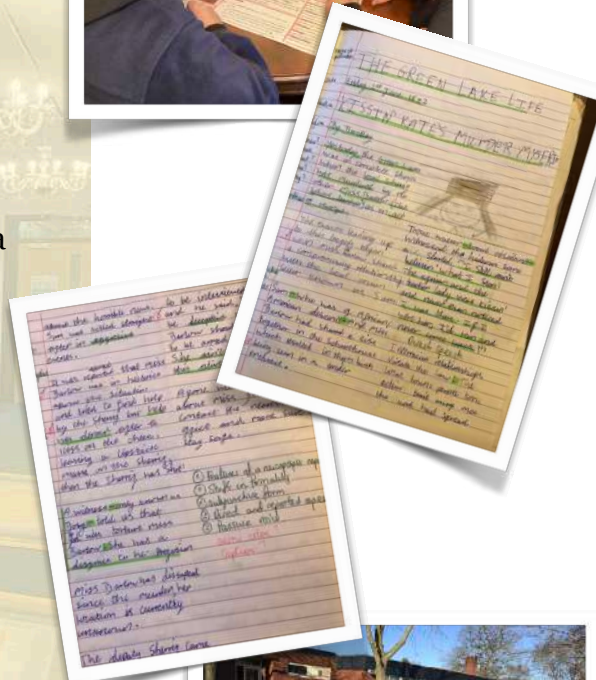
Well done to Year 4 for their fabulous writing this term!

Year 5

In Year 5, our class text in English has been *Holes* by Louis Sachar. It revolves around the protagonist – Stanley Yelnats – and his stay at *Camp Green Lake*. However, he soon finds that it is not a camp, there is not a lake and there is no green to be seen. It is, in fact, a correctional facility for juveniles and the penalty that the boys who are interred there have to pay, is to dig a large hole every day. In the book, we learn in a flashback all about the story of Kissin' Kate Barlow (a schoolteacher/outlaw).

Our English work has been very much centred around this sub plot. We have created freeze frames of the events as well as creating and acting out scenes from the drama. From this, Year 5 have been able to create a newspaper report retelling events leading up to how a humble schoolteacher became a feared outlaw. The children used a variety of devices in their writing such as reported and direct speech, colons and semi-colons and active and passive voice. Finally, they have been using the text to improve their reading skills. A recommended read for many other young children!

Year 5, you are progressing fantastically - well done!

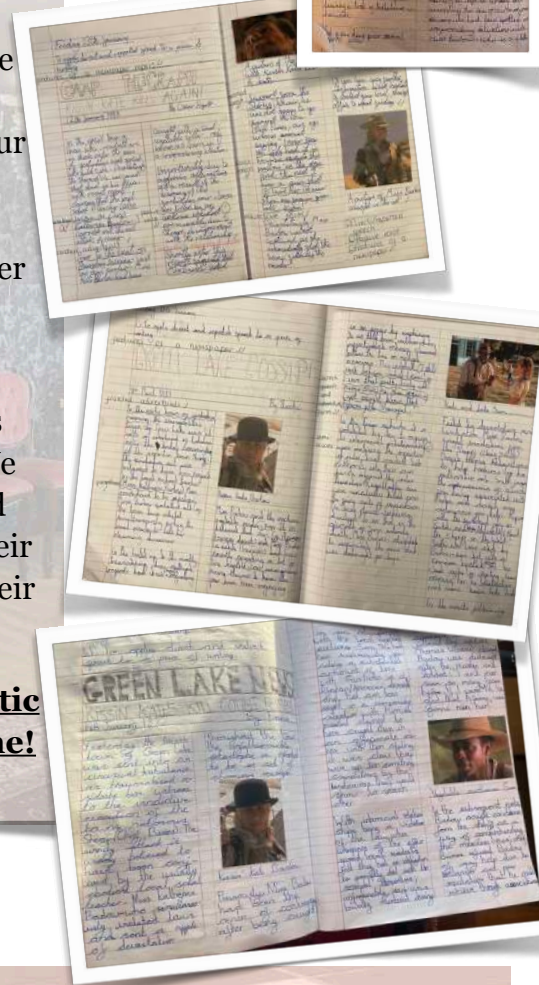


Year 6

In Year 6 this half-term, the class text we have explored in English is *Holes* by author Louis Sachar. During this time, we have been discussing themes such as inequality, friendship and racism and examining how these are addressed in the book. Following this, we have discussed this text further in our lessons by exploring comprehension and inference style questions in preparation for our SATs. After reading the text and identifying themes, the children created a newspaper report based on the character 'Katherine Barlow' (Kissin' Kate). Children enjoyed reporting about the former teacher turned outlaw using direct and reported speech and using shifts in formality to create fantastic pieces of work.

We have also had a particular focus on grammar this half-term as the children are beginning to prepare for their upcoming SATs. We have been exploring more grammatical devices, such as active and passive voice, and the children have been implementing this in their work wonderfully showing that they can apply their learning to their own work.

Perseverance has been key and Year 6 are doing a fantastic job at showcasing this to the rest of their peers - well done!



The Nurture Team

In our Nurture provision this half term, we have been exploring ways to relax including experiencing children's yoga and painting. The children all participated well perfecting their Yoga poses: so much so, they have requested for us to repeat the session next half term! We have encouraged the children to practise their poses in preparation - we hope to see them practising on our Seesaw platform.

We have also had fun developing our sportsmanship with an Archery tournament followed by our First News quiz. We have celebrated Valentines day by baking biscuits and making cards for our loved ones.

Another fantastic half-term with our Nurture team - well done!





PE

Updates



Gymnastics Champions

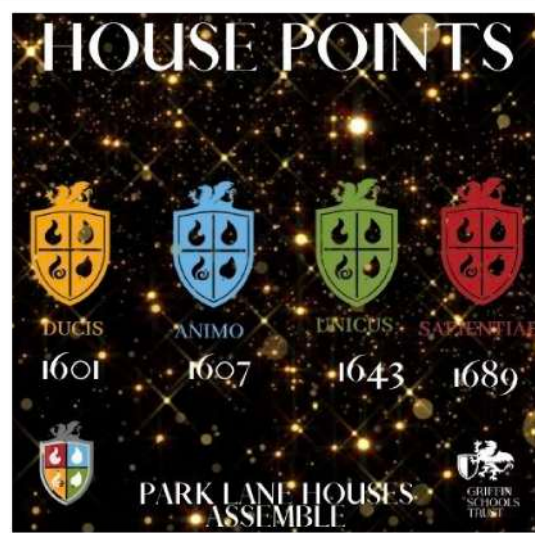
We are thrilled to announce that our Gymnastics team won 1st place at the Nuneaton School competition. All gymnasts involved worked extremely hard in the weeks leading up to the competition, practising early mornings and at home. We will now be going through to the Northern Warwickshire Finals in March - watch this space!



What a great start to the Spring term and to our sporting success in 2023!

Change for Life Festival

Our Year 5 and 6 children took part in a Change for Life Festival during this half-term. The activities that they participated in during the festival were: fitness dodgeball, boccia, speed stacking and they learnt about different food groups. A great time was had by all and our children enjoyed being active with their friends: a huge appreciation to the Nicholas Chamberlain Sports Leaders for running the event and for their support, guidance and great sportsman ship shown throughout!



Who will win the House Cup - announced on Founders Day?

Attendance

We are thrilled to share that the proud winners of the individual attendance prizes for this half-term are:

1st place - Jayden Gumpo [£50 voucher!]

2nd place - Ruby Carney [£20 voucher!]

3rd place - Evelyn Bingham [£10 voucher!]

Well done to all of the well-deserved winners for 100% attendance this half term: who will take home the vouchers next half term?!

Attendance at school continues to be a focus for Park Lane, as we encourage our children to present good habits. Teachers all believe in the value of regular attendance for children in school, of course; perhaps it is worth us all taking the time to think about why coming into school every possible day is so important for our children?

School is the first major step on a child's journey to progress in life. It is where they learn basic reading, writing and maths skills, obviously, but that is only part of the story. School provides them with so many more life skills that are needed, whatever your place in the world!

By getting our children up each and every morning, we are instilling in them good habits around being active, and participating in the world outside our front doors, the world that surrounds them. They are learning that life isn't always about doing what you want; it's sometimes about doing what is necessary, which includes dragging ourselves to school, when we, at times, would really rather be snuggled up under the duvet. Teachers support children to have positive learning experiences. This builds their confidence as they learn that they can get things right, which in turn develops their self-esteem, giving them the springboard to forming healthy relationships with adults and children alike.

It can be hard, as a parent, to battle with our children to go to school, but the long term benefits have been shown by endless studies, as well as giving us a bit of a break to get some of our own things done while their minds are growing elsewhere, under safe hands.

If you do, ever need any further support with getting your child/ children to school, we have a team of people who would love to help. Miss Murphy (our Family Liason Officer), Mrs Williams (our Inclusions Manager) and Mrs Thirde (Assistant Head) are all available to help: please do come to the main office and request to speak to one of them and a meeting can be arranged with strategies to support.



Pupil Leadership Team

Pupil Voice is an integral part of school life at Park Lane and our Pupil Leadership Team have voiced, in their meetings, that they would like to ask our Griffins about the sorts of art activities they would like to get involved in: whether in lesson time, or at an after-school club, they have written a questionnaire for the whole school to capture views and pupil voice further.

The PLT members will be helping children across the school complete the questionnaire, then will meet to analyse the results, so that they can feedback the outcomes to the Mrs Thirde. We hope that this will inform school about what materials the children want to work with in the art, and what styles and topics they want to get involved with, making their experience of art more engaging and fun.

Be sure to take a look at our Park Lane Art Gallery presenting so many of our children's masterpieces!

Coming Up...

