

Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,
Spring has arrived at Park Lane, the mornings are lighter and our Easter holiday is upon us. This term has seen a variety of exciting things occur at Park Lane. World Book Day is one of our favourite days of the year: a day dedicated solely to the love of book characters and observing our Griffins' excitement as they walk through our gates is truly wonderful. Various enriching experiences have taken place including our Reception Griffins venturing to the farm; our Year 4 Griffins to a Hindu place of worship; and an enthralling 'Cool Critters' experience for our Year 2 Griffins. All experiences were responded to with the upmost respect - our children are a true credit to our family!

Our Proud Traditions have been in full force throughout the past 6 weeks: our Griffin Science Symposium celebrated a love of Science throughout the community and of course, Founders Day. We were completely blown away by the dedication shown towards raising money for this event. Various values of courage, determination and humility were displayed, further cementing the true Griffin meaning. We must extend this appreciation to our Families, who without their devotion to such events, they simply would not be possible.

We were thrilled to welcome our families to our Parent/Teacher consultations to meet with class teachers to discuss their children's progress, attainment and general attitudes. Our sibling photos seemed to receive a great response for our families and are pleased to inform that we will be continuing to use this service for our class photos that are taking place in the Summer term. It was wonderful to see so many of our families attend our SEN Drop-In morning with Miss Callow and Mrs Williams: a service which we hope to duplicate throughout the year.

We wish you a peaceful break with your families as we edge closer to our final term of the academic year.

Warmest of Wishes,
Alexandra Ladbury
Head of School



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Key Dates:

Monday 25th April
Griffins return to school.

Monday 2nd May
Bank Holiday Monday: school closed.

Monday 9th May
Year 6 SATs Week

Friday 13th May
Year 6 experience to Thorpe Park

Tuesday 17th May
Year 5 experience to The Nuneaton Academy

Friday 20th May
Year 3 Camping Experience

Tuesday 24th May
It Takes a City Performance

Friday 27th May
Break up for half term @ 3.15pm

Mini Griffins

This half term, our Mini Griffins have been busy looking at stories about lifecycles and growing: we have loved learning all about the hungry caterpillar. We explored the story through lots of the areas of our curriculum; retold the story in messy play using props and spaghetti; focused on the vocabulary that's in the story, days of the week, names of food; and ordered the story with our peers. For our creative play, we used fruit to paint caterpillars and created the wings of the butterflies - it was great fun finding the different shapes that the fruit made! During our Maths learning, we used fingerprints to practise our counting to make the right amount of the caterpillar's body parts. We also compared the length of the caterpillars, comparing which was the longest and which was the shortest. We also loved Jasper's Beanstalk: Jasper planted seeds - so we learnt how to do this as well. We thought his beanstalk would grow very tall and we made our very own beanstalks using blocks. We also learnt about mixing colours when we created leaves on our own beanstalk using yellow and blue paint to make green leaves.

It's been a fabulous half-term Mini-Griffins.



Pre-School Griffins

This half term our Pre-School Griffins have been focusing on the question of "Are Eggs Alive?" To investigate this idea we have looked at stories that talk about different life cycles such as: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Tadpole's Promise* and *Brenda's Boring Egg*. Following this, we came to the conclusion that although Easter Eggs are very tasty, they definitely were not alive like the other eggs we investigated.

We have used our knowledge from these stories to help us expand our learning and development in lots of different areas, such as counting our 5 Little Speckled Frogs, ordering our Owl Babies by size and we even took part in a spot of bird watching from our nursery garden. We saw a large heron fly straight over us - it was quite spectacular. It's been a half-term filled with discovery, learning and of course, lots of fun and we are excited for what the summer term will bring.

Well done for your fantastic curiosity this half-term Pre-School Griffins!

Reception

This half term, Reception have been exploring farm life through our topic of 'Do Cows Drink Milk?' We looked at various different things to do with farms such as farming, animals, the sounds they make and what they eat. We watched various videos that showed us how farm life is including one from the children's favourite – Blippi! We were also very lucky to experience a visit to a real-life farm in our final week to see all of the different animals, go on a tour and even feed the animals too.

We also created our very own family tree display in the classroom of all of our favourite family pictures. Reception have thoroughly enjoyed coming to school every day and seeing their pictures on display. We then used these pictures as inspiration to draw them out in Art using different materials and resources.

During our Music lessons we have been learning various songs linked to that of life on a farm and the children have been expressing themselves wonderfully.

Another fantastic half-term Reception: your enthusiasm is infectious!



Year 1

This half term, our Year 1 Griffins topic has been surrounding superheroes! Through our Topic of *Superheroes*: we have been practising our English skills and writing about Florence Nightingale and Sir Tom Moore. We have been making our very own mind maps and fact files, learning how to use question marks and explanation marks and have begun to use the suffixes: *es* and *s*. We also learnt how to use adjectives in our writing whilst taking inspiration from our story *Supertato!*

During Shakespeare week, we looked at who Shakespeare was and where he was from, produced mind maps of his life and all of the great things that he accomplished. We also made our very own Shakespeare puppets applying our Art skills! As well as looking into Shakespeare's life the children also learnt about the play: '*Much Ado About Nothing*.'

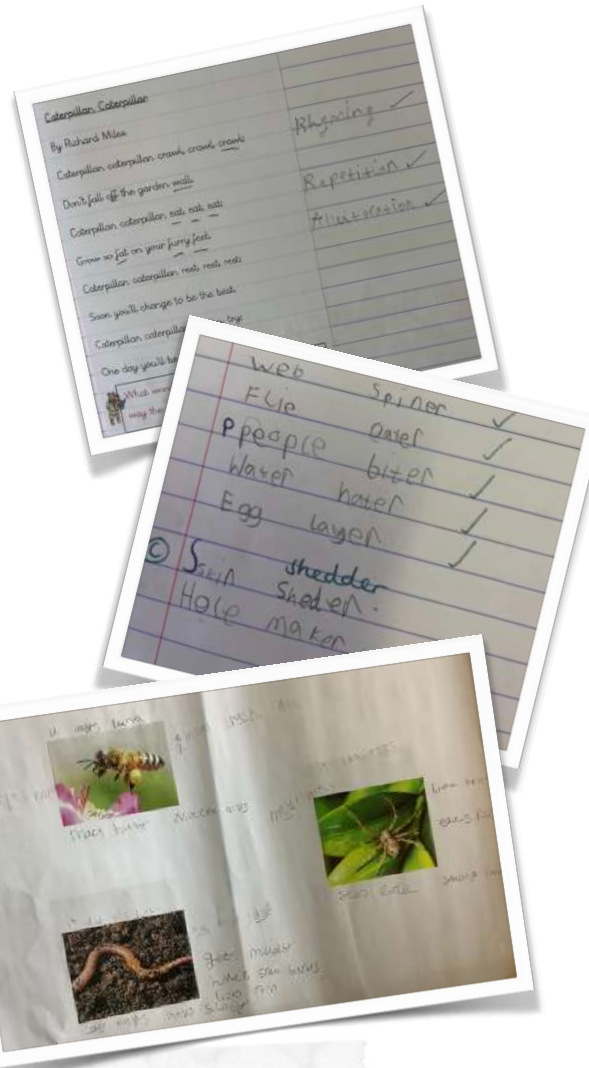
Another fantastic half-term Year 1 Griffins - be very proud!

Year 2

During English this half term, our Year 2 Griffins have been exploring poetry: we read a variety of poetry all about minibeasts and explored the different features that they had such as rhyming, alliteration and repetition. We used our new knowledge on poetry to create some of our very own minibeast inspired poetry.

Our favourite type of poem that we explored were Kennings poems, and we had lots of fun thinking about all of the different things minibeasts do to write a poem in this style. We explored beats and rhythm of poetry. We also had lots of fun practising reciting poetry and performing one in groups to our class: this meant bravery and courage were displayed by our Year 2 Griffins.

Well done Year 2 Griffins - a fantastic half-term!



Year 3

In English Year 3 have studied the book *Ug The Boy Genius* and the structure of comic strip writing. After learning about bubble writing, the children wrote a short scene in the structure of a comic.

Year 3 have also studied the book *Escape from Pompeii* and have written and performed their very own play script. In addition, as part of our Science topic, we have learned about fossils and looked at the famous Anthropologist, *Mary Anning*. After learning many facts, we then looked at and used the features needed to write a report about her.

The children have really enjoyed learning all of the interesting facts about volcanoes and the structure of the earth in order to be able to produce some wonderful pieces of writing this term: well done Year 2

[illegible]

Year 5

Our main focus, however, for this half-term has been an instructional piece of writing called '*How to Make an Immortality Potion*'. We have thought about sentence structure, imperative verbs, adverbials and other non-narrative devices. Of course, we did have to consider the prospect of immortality and the components of what this would look, feel and consist of.

Thursday 26th March.

I: To apply non-nominal devices

How to make the notion of Immortality

Would you want to be able to live forever? Well if it's possible, I think there you I would need the ingredients, make a list and list off on a farming plan. How much of you want to be able to live forever. © Introduction.

Various Ingredients to your success.

You will need the following ingredients:

- 1. 1 pound of Reposefuls hair.
- 1 bowl of apple juice then some whites, sweet apples.
- 1 bowl of chicken glass, 1 shot glass for the 1/2 shot of red wine.
- 1 bowl of a healthy aluminium, many red dragons about and not like the 1/2.
- 1 bowl of a named tear.
- 1 bowl of Bread, hard-stir for wisdom and stir it.
- 1/2 for call.
- 1/2 of lake gold Squid ink.

Method

1. Firstly some chicken glass stir into a million and use paper-maze sure to drink in 100% then keep painted.

2. Secondly add the delicious yet marvelous Squid ink into the container. You might want to purchase your calculator to do this.

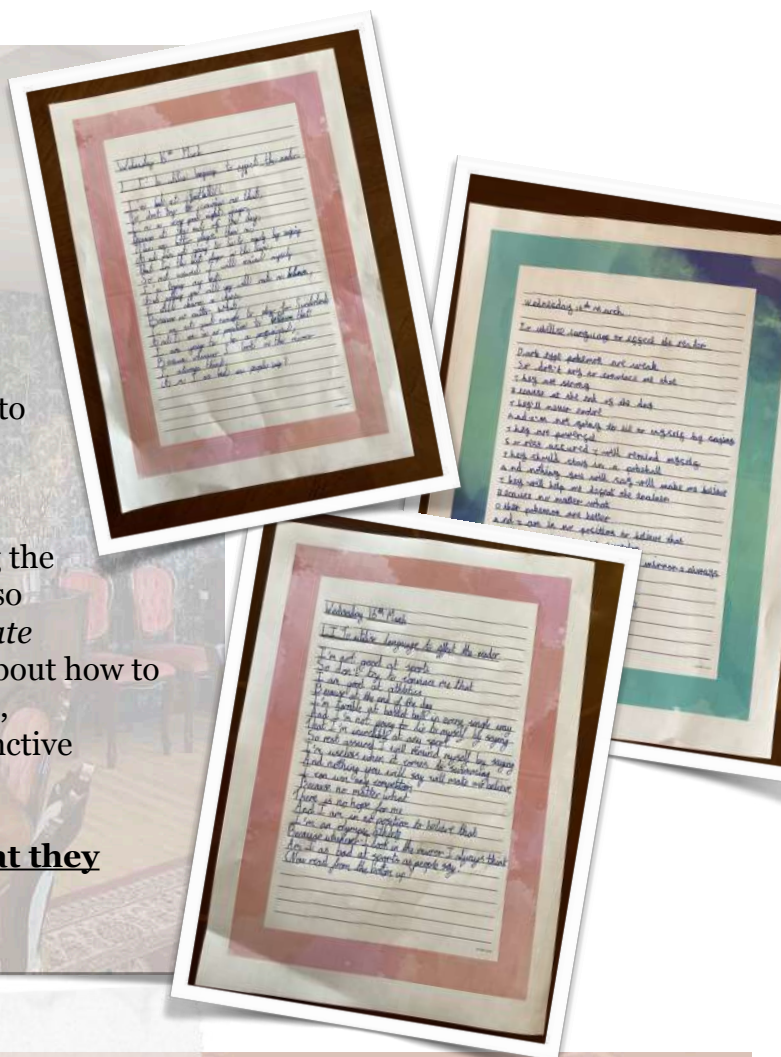
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Year 6

This half-term, our Year 6 Griffins have been incredibly busy with their preparations for their end of key stage 2 assessment week which is approaching during the Summer term. All pupils have worked extremely hard across Reading, Writing and Maths to ensure they achieve highly, to the very best of their potential!

Alongside this, we have explored how writing 'reverse poems' can affect the reader – try reading the examples pictured down and then up! We have also begun writing an instructional piece: *How to Create the Immortality Potion*. We have been thinking about how to structure our work and utilising: imperative verbs, adverbials, high-level punctuation, and the subjunctive form!

Year 6 should be incredibly proud of all that they have achieved this half-term!



The Nurture Team

With the warmer weather here, Mr Duffield and the children have been planting some seeds in our Nurture Garden. Our Griffins have displayed patience and perseverance when going through the process of planting the seeds: from preparing the ground to finally covering over the seeds. Do keep your eyes peeled in the next addition of the newsletter to see how the seeds are growing.

More exciting news that is happening within our school is that Brent, a dog trainer, has been working alongside the therapy dogs Ralph, Mylo and Ruby. They have been focusing on such things like their obedience, recall and how they interact with one another.

The Nurture groups have been working on improving their confidence and self esteem with paper scroll messages of positivity. During the warm weather we visited a local park with Ruby and Mylo: we fed the ducks and swans and then worked together to create a den in the wooded area. The children showed their values whilst out in the community.



PE Team



Sporting Successes

This month has been an amazing month for PE and Sport at Park Lane: we have had many successes across various sports. Miss Davies and Miss Everitt would like to thank you for your dedication and training leading up to all these events. We are very proud of you all!

Rowing

A huge congratulations to our rowing team who had the privilege of representing North Warwickshire at the county finals this week. Our teams both came 7th overall and our mixed team came 1st. This was a huge honour and an incredible achievement to not only represent Park Lane but the whole of North Warwickshire schools.



Gymnastic Team

Our Gymnastics Team won the first round of the gymnastics school games competition. Due to their incredible effort, they will now go through to the county finals in May to represent Northern Warwickshire. As always with sporting success, the children photographed have spent a considerable amount of time dedicated to perfecting their floor and vault routines. It has been amazing to see such a passion developing for gymnastics at school.



Orienteering Team

Our orienteering team took part in an orienteering competition, where they collaborated together to develop their navigational skills, and ended up securing 1st place!



What another remarkable achievement Griffins!

Basketball Team

Our basketball team attended the county finals. After their incredible effort, they managed to place 4th best team in the county, which is a phenomenal achievement.

Thank you to you all for your hard work - Miss Davies, Miss Everitt and Coach Bobby are all extremely proud of you!



Netball Team

Our netball team have taken part in the first 6 games in the Nuneaton netball league. We are thrilled to announce that they won 6 of 6 matches.

What a great start to the league - well done to you all for your hard work!



National Cross-Country Championships

On Saturday 26th March, three of our Griffins (Bentley, Sandra and Lacey-Jo) competed in the National Cross Country Championships representing Warwickshire. All three of our runners showed great perseverance to compete at such a high level.

Thank you, once again, to you all for your dedication to training ahead of this. A huge congratulations - we are incredibly proud of you!



Football Team

The Park Lane football team, consisting of some Year 4, 5 and 6 Griffins, played their first league match yesterday in a 10-a-side game against St Nicholas School, Nuneaton. We are pleased to confirm that the team secured their first win with a 4-1 victory. Congratulations!

Darren Harris - Paralympic Footballer

Park Lane were thrilled to have Darren Harris - a Paralympic footballer - visit our school and share his story about his life and success as a blind footballer. The children were amazed to hear how Darren overcame his challenges to accomplish such incredible achievements.

He shared motivating words about his positive mindset and never giving up when things get tough. After an inspiring assembly, our Griffins had great fun involving themselves in the fundraising fitness event.

Thank you to everyone who raised sponsorship ahead of the event.

We raised an amazing £865!



Humanities at Park Lane

Early Years – As part of our Founders day activities, our Nursery Griffins put on their wellies and went on a muddy litter pick around the school grounds. They had lots of fun exploring their school environment and navigating their way around the grounds. Our Reception Griffins have been learning about their own family history. The children have made their family trees to develop their understanding of chronological order. Our reception Griffins have also experienced a virtual trip to the farm using our 'Now Press Play' equipment before going on a real life trip to a local farm in explore their local environment. Through the use of the Beebots, the children in Reception have also developed their understanding of directional language.



KS1 – In year 1, the children are currently taking part in the topic 'Superheroes'. As part of this topic, they have been learning about real life superheroes as significant individuals throughout History. They have focussed on Sir Thomas Moore, a recent heroic figure, and Florence Nightingale, a significant heroine from the past. In geography, our year 1 griffins also had the exciting opportunity to look at their school environment and think about the changes they would like to make. In small groups, they pitched their idea before voting on the favourite choice to implement in their outdoor area. We cannot wait to see your design come to life Year 1! Our year 2 Griffins finished last half term with a virtual trip to a castle, using our now press play equipment!



LKS2 – In Year 3 our Griffins have been focusing on physical geography in the form of volcanoes. The children have learned how a volcano is formed and the different parts of the volcano. They have enjoyed labelling the parts of a volcano and explaining what happens which causes eruptions. Just before half term, our year 4 griffins were lucky enough to have a Viking visitor! They had the opportunity to try on Viking clothes, play Viking games and learn all about life as a Viking. Our Year 4s felt very lucky to have had such an exciting experience to develop their learning within History that term further. Our Year 4s are now exploring the topic "Road trip USA" where they have been learning all about geographical Landmarks across the USA and exploring the history of Native American tribes.



UKS2 - Year 5 and 6 have enjoyed exploring their new topic "Revolution". At the beginning of this half term, the children took part in a Curiosity afternoon. They were presented with a curiosity box filled with items related to their new topic. Our Griffins then independently carried out research exploring topics such as Queen Victoria and presented their new learning in different ways. It was wonderful to see our year 5s and year 6s expressing their new learning in different ways and they cannot wait to be able to explore their new topic even further!



Computing at Park Lane



Early Years - In Early Years, our Griffins have been developing their knowledge of using devices such as iPads. They have also started to develop their programming skills when following directions such as forwards, backwards etc. Some of the children then developed their understanding of the early stages of coding when giving instructions to others. They were beginning to debug their code when issues arose.

Year 1 - In Year 1, the children have been learning to use shapes on a computer to create some digital artwork. They have been creating it in the style of Henry Matisse and have learnt how to use different tools on paint such as shapes, fill, enlarging or making shapes smaller etc..



Year 2 - Our Year 2 Griffins have been developing their data collection skills and learning how to input this on a computer on a program called J2Data. They asked one another about their favourite mini beasts completing a tally chart and then presented this digitally.

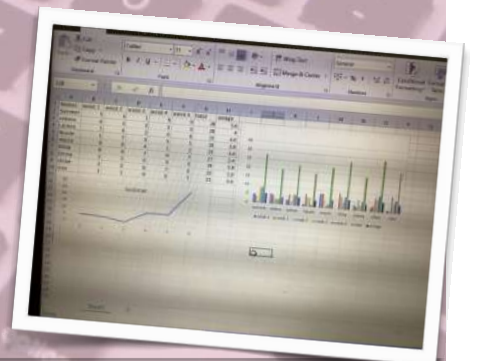
Year 3 - Throughout this half term, our Year 3 children have been looking at branching databases and have created their own on J2branch. They have been thinking about yes or no questions in order for this to work successfully.



Year 4 - In Year 4, the children have been collecting data using data loggers when collecting information about sunlight, pitch and sound. They really enjoyed analysing the data and discussing the use of data loggers to collect information over periods of time.



Year 5 and 6 - In Year 5 and 6, the children have been learning about Microsoft Excel and how to input and present data using this program. They learnt how to use formulae to total a number of cells and also create tables/ charts to display their information.



Griffin Science Symposium

For this year's Griffin Science Symposium, our Year 6 children have been designing and building their own models of a Mars rover! They began this by researching past rovers that had made the long journey to the red planet, including perseverance and curiosity, and created an informative poster about the purpose of their journeys. Following from this, the children began to design their very own rovers. They had to think of what would be essential on a real Mars rover and how they could recreate this in the classroom. Finally, they began to make their own models by carefully following their designs! This was a child-led activity that tested our pupils, as they had to test certain elements and, if failed, had to adapt their designs in order to make a functioning model.

MARS
PERSEVERANCE

The children also had the incredible opportunity to take part in two Trust-wide video lectures hosted by the Open University. The first lecture was all about the history of the moon and diversity in Science: something we believe is fundamental to teach our Griffins as we are consistently promoting equality and equal opportunity. Our second lecture related to the Space Race, and the possibility of living on the moon. These lectures were an amazing opportunity for our Griffins to learn from seasoned professionals within the scientific field.



British Science Week

For this year's British Science Week, the children were exploring topics relating to the theme of Growth. Children from our Mini-Griffins all the way up to our Year 5 took part in a collection of activities, including: growing slime; hunting for worms in the habitats; antibody origami; plant-based food; and making seen bombs (just to name a few!)

All of our Griffins really got stuck in to these fun and practical activities that gave them all the opportunity to gain an appreciation and love for science.

Well done to all of our children - you should each be



Shakespeare Week

This month, Park Lane celebrated 'A Day with Shakespeare' as part of the national annual Shakespeare Week celebrations.

Children from across the school had the opportunity to delve into a selection of Shakespeare's most well-loved plays: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest* and *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*.

The children explored the themes of the plays in a variety of ways: Reception and Year 4 showcased their artistic skills, creating magical flowers and masks. Year 1 and Year 3 developed their performance skills by acting out short scenes, and Year 2 used their senses to create a setting description based on the *Island of Illyria* from *Twelfth Night*. The children also spent some time finding out about William Shakespeare and understanding why his work is still so valued today.

Whilst Shakespeare Week provides our children with the opportunity to study the work of Shakespeare in more depth, Shakespeare is celebrated across the school: Year 5 and 6 will be continuing to appreciate his work as they look forward to unpicking the Shakespearean tragedy of *Macbeth* later on in the year. The children will be incorporating drama into their lessons and will create a soliloquy, looking at effect language has on the reader.

Park Lane is also a part of The Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Schools Programme and, due to this, a selection of our Year 1 children are thrilled to be performing in '*Much Ado About Nothing*' during our Summer Term.

It may have been 400+ years since the life of Shakespeare, but he is very much alive here



at Park Lane!

SEN Drop In

On Thursday 17th March, we held our SEN Morning Drop In with Miss Callow (SENDCo) and Mrs Williams (Inclusions Manager). This was a chance to share any concerns with school that parents had regarding their children, and we were able to direct families to additional support through outside agencies. Family Information Service also came along for the event, and they received lots of new requests from families for support.

We plan to offer this service again for our Families later in the year.



Scholars Graduation



Throughout the Autumn Term, some of our Year 6 children were enrolled onto the Scholars Programme. This has been a fantastic opportunity where our children completed a course called *'How to make a Museum'* and at the end of the 6-week course, wrote a 1000 word assignment.

In February, our Griffins graduated from the programme with all of our children achieving either a 2:1 or a 1st.

This is an amazing achievement that we are incredibly proud of on their behalf - congratulations to you all!



Founders Day

We had a wonderful day celebrating Founders Day, reflecting on what it means to be a Griffin and part of a Family of Griffins across the country: this year was our 10th Founders Day celebration!

Our Griffins have thoroughly enjoyed giving back to the community through various means: volunteering, fund-raising and recycling, to name but a few. If you would like to see further evidence of our Founders Day celebrations, please do look out on our seesaw platforms. There was a wonderful video including various Griffin Family members from the past.

We can proudly announce that a whopping total of £3,585 was raised throughout the community during our Founders Day celebration and will be donated to various chosen charities.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and efforts towards such events like this.



Nuneaton Festival of Arts

We are thrilled to announce that some of our Griffins have had their work proudly displayed at the Nuneaton Gallery and Museum as part of the Nuneaton Festival of Arts 2022. The exhibition is open until Sunday 17th April and is free to attend: please do go along and show your support to our young artists.

Within our work that is showcased at the gallery, we have some first place winners which is fantastic news:

- *The Cawthorne Cup*: a group award for Year 3 Griffins Jake, Erin, Angel and Gracie.
- *The Harry Branson Award*: making a change award by Year 6 Griffin, Emerson.

Congratulations to all of our budding artists who contributed!

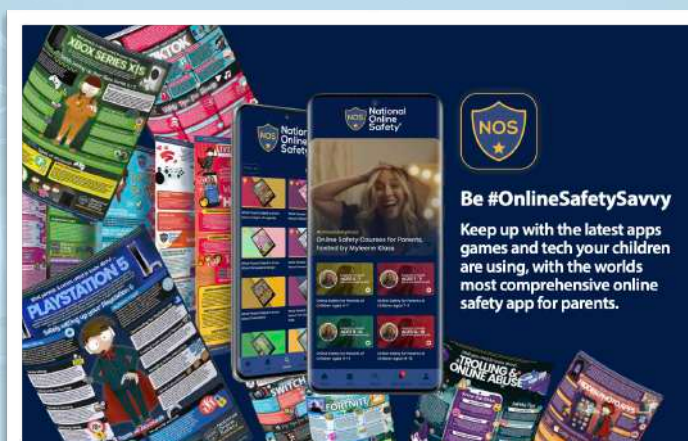


Online Safety



If any of our Families are interested in a free account as part of our school subscription to the National Online Safety, then please contact the school office on admin2636@welearn365.com for the sign up link.

You will then be able to access free guides, courses and videos to support with online safety at home.



Attendance

This half-term's attendance prize has been won by... **Miss McDonnell's class!**

A huge well done 6SM for being consistent and winning the prize for a second time this year: you will receive your prize during the Summer half-term. The other classes need to up their game if they are going to knock 6SM off the podium!

We appreciate that COVID isolations and waiting for PCR results makes coming to school a challenge, but COVID issues are taken into account when calculating attendance figures. Attendance levels are still not where they need to be to help children with their learning and make up for the time lost in the COVID lockdowns, so please speak to us if you are struggling to get your children into school. If we know the genuine reason for absence, then we can try to help you.



Pupil Leadership Team



Last week our Support Griffins completed their training delivered directly by the Diana Award via Zoom. They will be patrolling the playgrounds, helping all of our Griffins and being a listening ear to help make sure that our school is a positive and supportive community for all.

After the training, the Support Griffins talked about what they can do to spread the word about being kind to each other and set an inclusive tone for the school. They decided to support World Autism Day and raise awareness of the condition by encouraging Griffins to wear odd socks on Monday 4th April (World Autism Day is on Saturday 2nd April this year).

The children will be involved in more activities, so watch this space for more news as it comes in!



Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders



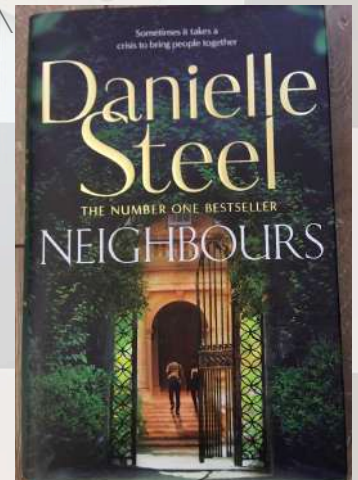
Book Talk (Grown Ups)

Mrs Williams says...

My favourite author is Danielle Steel and I could recommend any of her books as a number one best seller. I am recommending this month 'Neighbours' as the storyline is about a famous actress that opens her house to unknown families following an earthquake: a disaster.

"Sometimes it takes a crisis to bring people together!"

Following the disaster going on in Ukraine at present, this makes us all think and consider how we can support and care for our neighbours, however far away: a poignant read for sure.



Miss Lavender says...



JENNIFER WORTH
The No. 1 Sunday Times bestselling author

The Complete
Call the Midwife
Stories

True Stories of the East End in the 1950s
The books that inspired the hit TV series

the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?"

So she was considering in her own mind, (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid,) whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be

pink eyes ran close by her.

I have just finished reading *Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth. I have loved the series on BBC, and so I thought I would read the book too. I found the book to be far grittier than the series, but I enjoyed this. Being a memoir, the words were real, and it paints a very clear picture of life back then. Alongside this, I don't have much medical knowledge, but I did learn a lot. The book is easy to follow, Jennifer explains things simply and I never found myself confused. I couldn't put the book down!

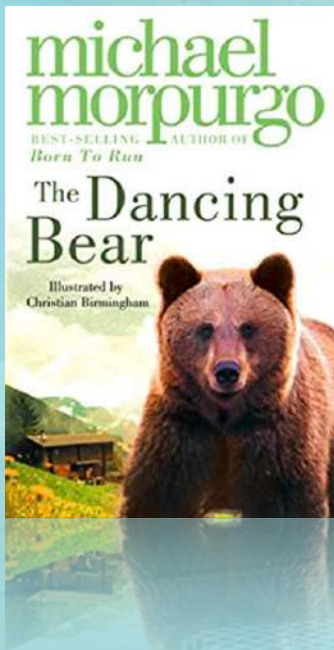
I would recommend this book to anyone who has watched Call the Midwife, it is fascinating to read the real words and stories without the dramatisation of the series.

In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again...

"A room without books is like a body without a soul."

... And some recommendations from our Griffins...

Nikki W (6AB) says...



The Dancing Bear – Michael Morpurgo

AR level: 4.4

The book was a great read: Morpurgo writes about the friendship between an orphan girl, called Roxanne, who discovers a bear cub (Bruno). She wants to take care of him but she has a really grumpy grandfather who only thinks about money. Despite complaining, eventually the village persuades him to take the bear cub in. The bear becomes very popular and after many years a film crew stops by who want to make a film involving a dancing bear.

The story is interesting but does have a slightly sad ending.

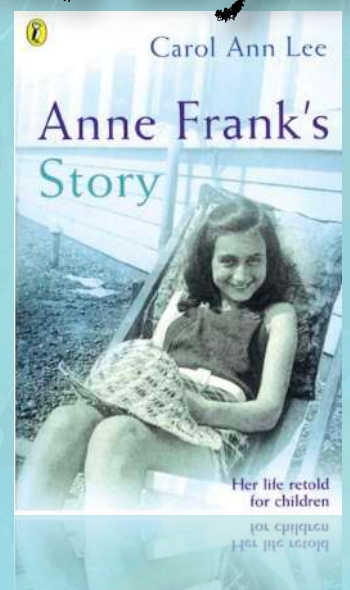
Jack T (6AB) says...

Anne Frank's Story – Carol Ann Lee

AR level: 6.9

Anne Frank's Story is an interesting, fascinating and brilliant book for a Year 5 or 6 child. The way it tells the story of her life is very informative and eye-opening to the horrible effects of The Holocaust.

Although the AR score is 6.9, I would encourage all children to read it to develop their interest in WW2 and see the effects of war through Anne Frank's eyes.



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

Apetito Tasting

We are thrilled to share the news with our Family that we are making some necessary changes to our school dinners by bringing them in house as of September 22'. We will be offering tasting to our community on Friday 24th June from 2:30 onwards: please do come and sample some of this scrumptious food as your feedback truly does matter to us!



What's Coming Up Next?

