



# PARK LANE PRESS

Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders  
Spring 2



## Dear Park Lane Family,

It is hard to believe that we are almost approaching the final term of another academic year at Park Lane. This half-term has brought various celebrations, alongside some slightly warmer (yet wet!) days, and of course, the Proud Tradition celebrated across the Griffin Family: Founders Day. In true Griffin style, our children spent the day contributing to the Community that we serve through various means: bag packing at Aldi; a recital of Young Voices from our Choir; and of course, various phenomenal contributions from individual Griffins across the school. Our chosen charity this year was the Nuneaton Wildlife Sanctuary and it was a pleasure to welcome them into school to showcase the care that their animals receive.

We wish our Family a wonderful Easter Holiday and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 8th April.

Warmest Wishes,  
Shelly Boyes  
Assistant Head



## Update From Governors:

We are delighted that Alex Ladbury has now completed a successful period of secondment, working with Park Lane, other trust schools and the School Improvement Team in North Warwickshire.

After the Easter break, Ms Ladbury will work closely with Laura Baker-Hill, Associate Headteacher, and the wider leadership team to ensure our vision of Proud Traditions, Wide Horizons and High Achievement continues to flourish. Thank you to all the parents who have attended the recent Parent Consultation Evening, various community events and have commented on the inclusive provision and welcoming environment.

We look forward to welcoming Ms Ladbury back and to gaining from her recent leadership experiences and expertise.

## Featuring:

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SCAN ME

Please visit our  
Curriculum Year  
Group Pages to keep  
on track with your  
child's learning.



What an exhilarating journey of all things Science it has been! The halls of our beloved Primary School have been abuzz with excitement and wonder as our Griffins delved into the realms of time and energy during the Griffin Science Symposium 2024. This year our theme led us on a voyage through the annals of human innovation, from the dawn of civilization to the digital age. Each year group embarked on a unique exploration, unraveling the mysteries of pivotal inventions that have shaped our world. Here's a glimpse into the captivating endeavours of our Griffins:

## Reception: Igniting the Flame of Discovery

*Exploring the significance of fire in the evolution of humankind.*

## Year 1: Rolling into History

*Investigating the invention of the wheel and its' transformative impact on society.*

## Year 2: Navigating New Horizons

*Unravelling the mysteries of the compass and its' role in shaping exploration.*

## Year 3: Printing the Path to Knowledge

*Delving into the revolutionary invention of the printing press and its' influence on spreading ideas.*

## Year 4: Connecting Voices

*Diving into the invention of the telephone and its' profound effect on communication.*

## Year 5: Illuminating Innovations

*Shedding light on the invention of the lightbulb and its' transformative power.*

## Year 6: Navigating the Digital Frontier

*Exploring the internet, a ground-breaking invention shaping the modern era.*



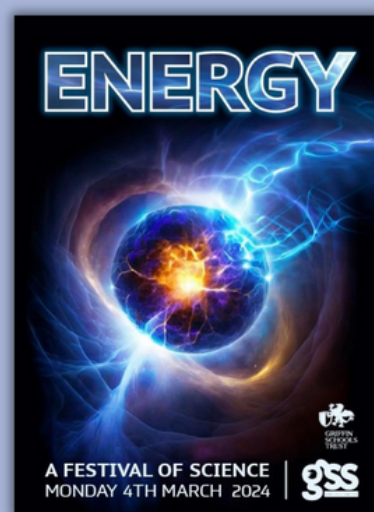
Furthermore, our Year 6 Griffins were treated to an awe-inspiring talk by Dr. Alice Dunford from the Open University. Dr. Dunford took them on a captivating journey 'Into the Depths of Space,' igniting their curiosity about the cosmos and beyond.

We are immensely proud of the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our Griffins throughout the Griffin Science Symposium. Their passion for learning and discovery truly knows no bounds. Let us extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our Griffins for their remarkable achievements during this extraordinary event.

As we conclude this year's symposium, let us carry forward the spirit of exploration and innovation that defines the essence of our Griffin community.

**Here's to a future filled with endless possibilities!**

Elliot Grocock  
STEM Lead





# Mini Griffins & Pre-School

This term the Mini Griffins Science based learning has been focused on growing and understanding how the world works, to support our topic: 'Sunshine and Sunflowers.' At the beginning of Spring 2, the Mini Griffins have enjoyed learning about the story, 'Shark in the Park', where we enjoyed looking for sharks outside through the telescope: we counted 1,2,3,4 and 5.

We have looked at planting to help us understand what a plant needs to survive. We discussed that plants need water and sunlight to grow, and we even planted our own cress seeds to support our story 'Planting a Rainbow.' Throughout the term, we observed our seeds to notice the changes and see how much they had grown, and whether we could notice any differences. We also conducted our own science experiment, creating paper towel caterpillars to support our story, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' First we used felt tip pens to colour stripes onto the paper towel, we then wrapped it around a pencil tightly and scrunched it up. We then removed it and used pipettes filled with water to squeeze the water onto the towels, causing them to expand and grow. They turned into a 'big fat caterpillars:' the children's faces lit up when they seen what was happening, and continually repeated the action over and over to see cause and effect.

Well done to our Mini Griffins for their enthusiasm and love of learning that flourishes daily!

"It's bigger!"  
**Frankie**



This term Pre-School have been exploring our topic, 'Creep, Crawl and Wriggle.' Within this topic, the children had a hands-on experience as Phil and his Cool Critters came into school to show the children lots of different animals, and told the children some fun facts! 'Did you know that spiders shed their skin in one whole piece?'

The children were amazed by this fact as this was something that they did not know. They have thoroughly enjoyed taking their learning to the outdoors by using the magnifying glasses and bug tubs to search around the Nursery Garden looking for lots of different insects.

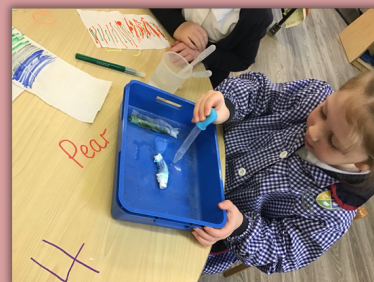
One of our key texts this term was 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar,' we created our own science experiment by creating different patterns onto kitchen roll and using a pencil to roll them up and squish them together to look like a caterpillar. Then we put them into a tray, and squeezed the pipettes into some water, which we then pressed over our caterpillars.

Pre-School had so much fun being scientists and joining different materials together to observe what may happen.

"LOOK! I found a worm!"  
**Nolan**



**Cool Critters**



"It got big!"  
**Amelia**



# Reception & Year 1

Reception have been working very hard this half term: they presented their Mother's Day assembly which involved singing, actions and lots of love for all of the wonderful women in their lives. They bravely performed in front of the whole school and lots of grown ups - phenomenal courage shown Reception!

We have been learning about all things science and have conducted 2 experiments as a whole class. We had a big focus on the element of 'fire' and had a class discussion about all things relating to fire. The children were very enthusiastic to share all that they knew about it and knew to be very sensible near fire and to always be with a grown up. Miss Green then did experiment 1 indoors with the children about lighting candles and seeing what we could use to extinguish them. We then went outside to do our second experiment, which involved lighter fluid, baking soda, sand and sugar. We had to see what would light a fire and how a corrosion happened and what would make our flames grow bigger. Reception discussed what senses they could use in this experiment which was their sight, smell and ears. We then came back in and used a worksheet to draw and describe our experiments.

"Wood makes it bigger and it's very dangerous."

David



This half term in science, Year 1 have been learning all about our bodies and the 5 senses. The children have taken part in lots of experiments focused on the senses including, taste testing different foods to see how they taste and if they like them, and following directions without using our sight to help us! We have also been learning about the names of our body parts and why it is important to look after our bodies. During British Science Week, Year 1 have been learning about the invention of the wheel and having a go at making our own wheel mechanisms! It has been a very busy half term for science and the children have really enjoyed lots of practical activities.



"In science we learnt about our 5 senses, my favourite lesson was the smelling lesson."

Nathaniel



"I learnt about my taste sense in science: we tried crisps, chocolate and lemons. My favourite was the chocolate!"

Cleo



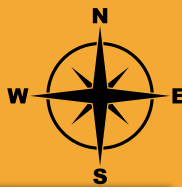


# Year 2 & Year 3

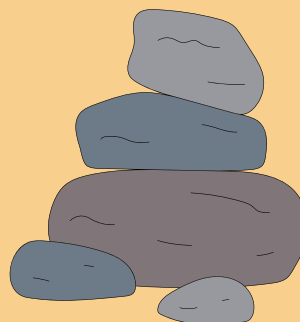
This half term year 2 have been learning all about animals, including Humans and living things in their environment. We started our topic with a visit from Cool Critters: Phils shared lots of amazing animals which ignited our curiosity about our topic 'Wriggle and Crawl.'

Our main focus of learning this half term has been science: we learnt about things that were dead, alive and even things that never been alive. We had some really good discussions about fruit that has been picked and flowers that have been cut and whether they were dead or alive! We then moved onto looking at habitats: we went to try and find some micro habitats around our school grounds to see if we could locate any mini beasts living in them. We also learnt about larger habitats like the desert and the jungle and the animals that might live there.

Our Griffin Science Symposium work was all about compasses. We learned that compasses were first invented in China, hundreds of years ago, and that European explorers used them to navigate around the world, as they sailed into unknown areas. We made factfiles to showcase our learning, and then made model compasses, out of paper plates, which show North, South, East and West. The children were amazed to learn that compasses are still really useful today. It's been a great term Year 2 and your attitude to learning is infectious!



In Science this half term Year 3 have been studying rocks. We have learned about the process of fossil formation, including the different types of fossils. We have carried out a classifying activity, where children tested the properties of some igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks such as density and hardness, and then grouped them based on these results. We moved from rocks to soil formation and the children had a fantastic practical lesson where we created the multiple different layers of soil with sweet treats that the children got to eat or take home! As our topic for this half term was Tremors, we were excited to link a hands on STEM activity, allowing the children the opportunity to practice their team work and collaboration, constructing their own volcanoes from paper mache, painting them and then, erupting them! Science Week this half term was filled with curiosity and a buzz of excitement, where the children learned about Johannes Gutenberg and the Moveable -Type Printing Press – they made their own letter stamps and printed their initials!

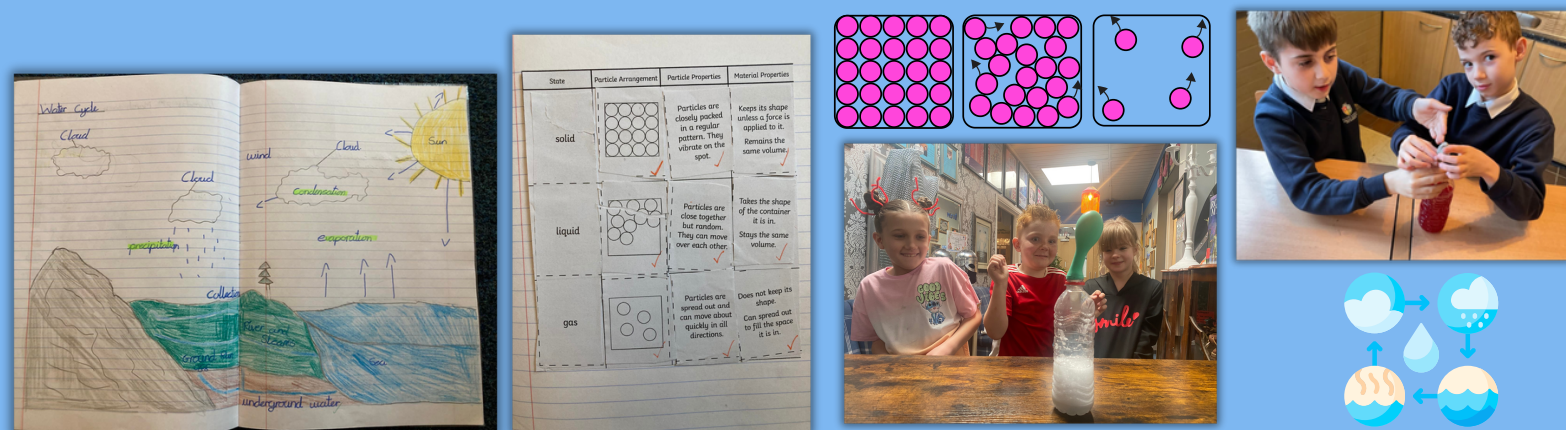




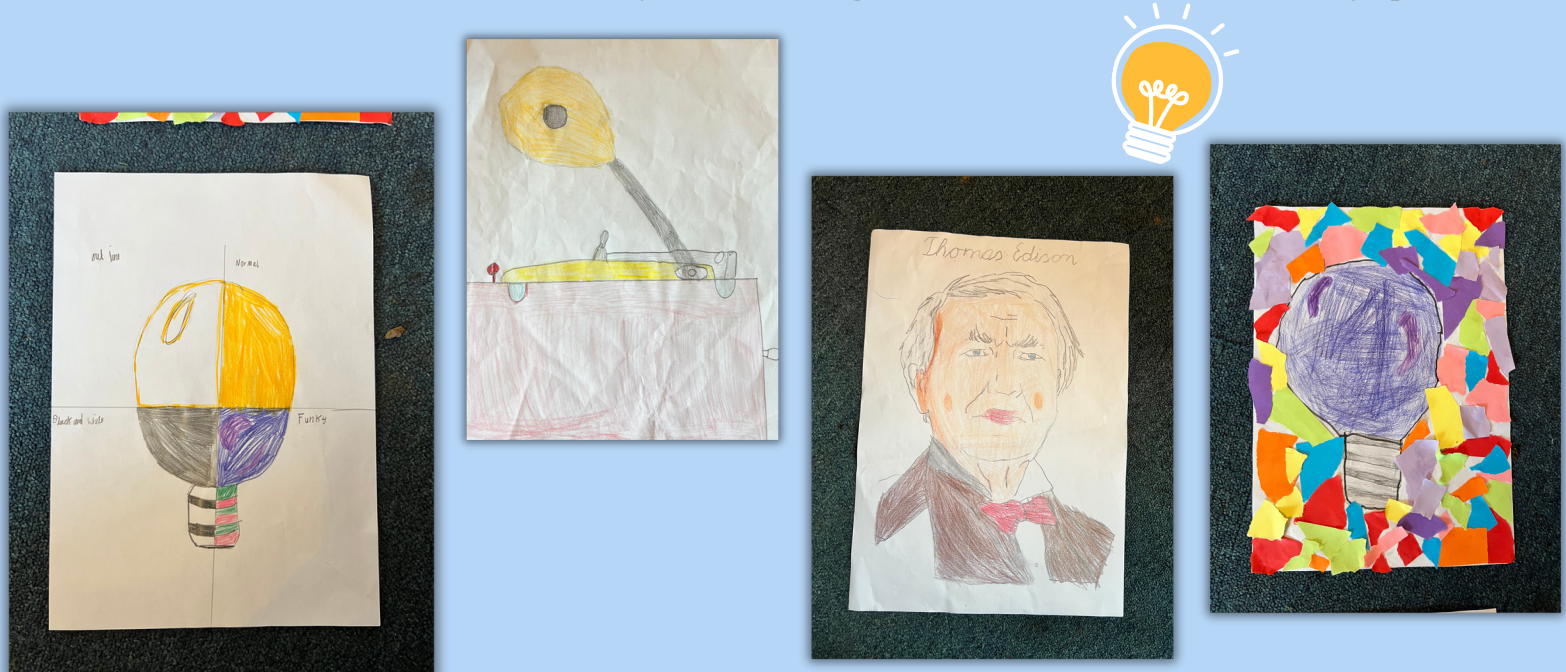
# Year 4 & Year 5

This half term, Year 4's Topic has been 'Potions', which has science at its forefront. Our main learning has been focused around states of matter. This is the first time that the children have been taught to understand the difference between a solid, liquid and a gas through the curriculum and we can honestly say that they have thoroughly enjoyed their learning throughout. This has been evident through: their engagement in the lessons, their ability to use the scientific vocabulary taught and the work that they have produced.

Our scientific enquiry has been to research information to answer specific questions. The children have carried out research to answer the big question 'Where does rain come from?' and, from this, they have created detailed representations of the water cycle. They also explored, practically, how a state can change depending on the temperature. To celebrate the Griffin Science Symposium, Year 4 learnt about the creation of the telephone. They created a dramatic piece to demonstrate their understanding of how electronic voice transmission first began and even created a replica based on the patent that was awarded to Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone.



Congratulations to our industrious Year 5 Griffins for their captivating exploration into the life and legacy of Thomas Edison and his ground-breaking invention, the lightbulb. Through meticulous research, they crafted insightful fact files and expressed their creativity through diverse art forms, from abstract to pop art, brilliantly depicting the essence of the lightbulb. In a heart-warming display of talent and teamwork, they charmed the audience with a mesmerizing class assembly, showcasing their exceptional work and culminating in a delightful performance of their original song, "My Lightbulb." Their dedication and enthusiasm shine brightly, illuminating the path of inspiration for us all. Well done, Year 5, for your illuminating contributions to the Griffin Science Symposium 2024!

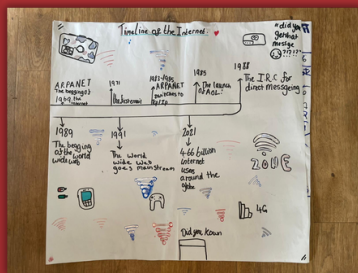
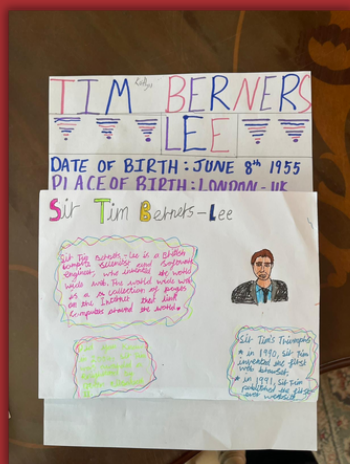




# Year 6 & Thrive

For the Griffin Science Symposium, Year 6 were given the 'The Internet' as our topic to explore. From hands-on creativity to delving into various forms of research, the children thoroughly enjoyed investigating the history of the internet and the connections it has opened for people world-wide. Year 6 particularly enjoyed exploring how energy powers the world around us, including the journey of the internet and how this connects us. In addition to this, their research allowed them to discuss the pioneering work of computer scientist – Tim Berners-Lee – who played a pivotal role in laying the foundations for the World Wide Web. Exploring the timeline towards the creation of the internet provided valuable insights into the evolution of technology and the impact it has had on society.

Additionally, for this half-term the children have been learning about electricity. They have studied the structure and symbols involved in an electrical circuit and immersed themselves in practical work where they have created their own circuits and discussed the different components and their functions.



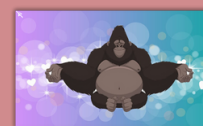
This term in Thrive, we have been focusing on a range of things to encourage us to be the best possible version of ourselves! Firstly, we have been exploring problem solving and have played a variety of games to support with this such as Jenga and various puzzles; also we have looked at social stories which have allowed children think about how they would solve problems day to day. Our Griffins have enjoyed this and successfully shown patience and determination.

With our sensory play being a big hit with the children, we have decided to keep a sensory activity running constantly in the Nurture Room for the children to access: this term children have enjoyed the water beads and sand play, with the many benefits that it brings!

Something new for Thrive this half-term has been Guided Meditation. We have introduced this into our Thrive sessions and it helps the children re-regulate and wind down. This has proven to support our children reset and transition to a ready to learn mindset. Guided meditation is something that you could do at home too!

*Search: Guided Meditation for children and look for the image of the gorilla or scan the QR code.*

**Miss Edwards and Miss Knights want to wish our Griffins a Happy Easter!**





# Founders Day

## £620 raised for the Nuneaton and Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary: thank you for your generosity!



On Friday 1st March, we celebrated Founders Day alongside all other schools in the Griffin Schools Trust. This year, our school raised money for a local charity: Nuneaton and Wildlife Sanctuary. We were thrilled to be joined by two of the volunteers - Linda and Emma - who came with two very special animals to introduce to the rest of the school. The children particularly loved when Rocky the owl waved goodbye. Thank you to our families for their support with fundraising for such a worthy cause.



As part of Founders Day, all Griffins had the opportunity to contribute to a commemorative display linked with our fundraising towards the Nuneaton and Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary. All classrooms displayed some beautiful origami and hand-crafted birds. We are hoping to display them later in the year so watch this space!

Some of our Griffins provided some community support at our local Aldi on Kingswood Road. They supported with greeting customers; handing out baskets and leaflets; bag packing; and even supporting with the day-to-day running of the store when tidying the shelves and supporting with tasks in the stock room. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed this and were thrilled to see so many familiar faces who came to do their shopping during the duration of their visit.

We would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to Lee (Gracie and Olivia's Dad), who is the manager of Aldi at Kingswood Road, for letting us have this opportunity and for enabling our Griffins to have such a wonderful experience!



Some of our Griffins also supported in the local area by completing some litter picking. Fortunately, they managed to miss the terrible weather and therefore collected a tremendous amount of rubbish/ litter both on school grounds and locally to take care and look after our environment. Thank you to those Griffins, Miss Marshall and Miss Knights for actively contributing and supporting our local community.





# Reading Celebration

## Reading Celebration Assembly

To celebrate the reading successes at Park Lane, we shared a whole school reading celebration assembly where awards such as most improved reader, top word count, most 100% quizzes or most myon minutes were announced. We also celebrated some new word millionaires that are adding to our ever-growing list of children on our leaderboard. A huge congratulations to you all for your fantastic reading throughout the Spring Term!

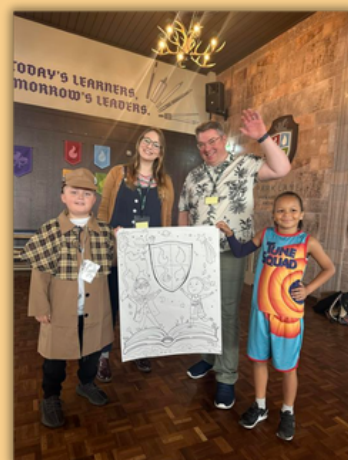


## World Book Day

This year, Park Lane celebrated a World Book Week where children were immersed in a love of reading and books. On World Book Day, so many of our Griffins made a fantastic effort with dressing up - thank you to our families for their support.

## Author Visit

We were thrilled to be joined during our World Book Week by Gareth and Vicky (author and illustrator) who have provided workshops around school for our Griffins. As well as this, they led an assembly this morning and Rex and Miguel were excited to have been drawn by the illustrator herself.



## Warwickshire Library Success

Over Spring term, Year 4 have explored reading for pleasure in association with Warwickshire Libraries. On 12th March, four children were selected to share their creative response to a chosen story among other schools at Nuneaton Library. The children enjoyed games and activities at their local library before winning the top prize for their creative response, earning a trophy and goodie bag. Congratulations to those involved!



# Wide Horizons



## Junior PCSO Programme

Our Junior PCSOs have thoroughly enjoyed the last few weeks as part of their Junior PCSO training before they venture out into the local community after Easter. They have been practising the PCSO oath, learning about phonetic radio communications (EG - Alpha, Brave, Charlie, Delta) and even experienced being in a police car first hand. They thoroughly enjoyed turning on the lights and sirens and talking about both Lewis and Carly's roles and some of the things they encounter as part of the job.

## Richmond Lodge Visit

Our Griffins have thoroughly enjoyed their second visit to Richmond Lodge with some further Easter related crafts painting eggs. It was great to see both our Griffins and the residents experimenting with their intricate designs. We hope they enjoyed their visit!



## Year 4 Stratford Trip

Year 4 have had the most amazing day celebrating Shakespeare Week in Stratford Upon Avon, where Shakespeare was born. The children were divided into groups and each had a different itinerary for the day: some children became tour guides across Shakespeare's house; some devised theatre using text from his plays; and others became tourists for the day and had the chance to visit many of the iconic Shakespearean places across the town. What a fantastic experience!



## House Points

Miss Davies has been busy totalling the house points to crown the house cup winners on Founders Day. Please see the totals below. Well done to all Griffins!

1st: Ducis 🟡 - 20,876

2nd: Unicus 🟢 - 20,762

3rd: Sapientiae ❤️ - 20,749

4th: Animo 🔵 - 20,739





# Sports Achievements



## Girls Football

To celebrate International Women's Day, some of our KS2 girls attending the biggest ever girls football session at Nicholas Chamberlaine School. The Disney football session was led by our fellow girl Griffin leaders from NCS and what a great afternoon all the girls had! Well done to you all!

## Boys Football

Our Year 5 and 6 boys football team played their first league match drawing 2-2 with Our Lady and Joseph. It was a fantastic collaborative team effort from all players. A huge well done to all involved in the match, particularly to Mason and Bentley who were our goal scorers. As well as this, a huge thank you to Mr Cove for volunteering to referee the match.



## Athletics

Our athletics team took part in the Nuneaton finals. Our team performed to the highest standard and beat their scores from the last round. It is therefore with great pleasure that we can announce that we came 1st place. What an incredible achievement!

## Netball Team

Our Year 5 Netball team had their first league tournament of the season. They played 4 matches in total, winning 3 and drawing the other. Well done team!!



## Gymnastics Team

Our gymnastics team took part in the Northern Warwickshire gymnastics competition where all children performed a floor routine and vault. The children have progressed onto the county final to represent Northern Warwickshire.

## Cross Country

We have had huge success for both our Year 3 and 4 and also Year 5 and 6 Cross Country races, some of which progressed to the Warwickshire Primary School Championship - a huge congratulations!



## Rowing Team

Our rowing teams competed at the county finals against 16 other teams from the county. Overall, our boys team came 8th and the girls came 4th missing out on third place by just 4m! Well done to you all on reaching the county finals and for showing great teamwork and self belief!



# What's New?!



**GRIFFIN SCHOOLS TRUST** **PARK LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## SLOW COOKER EVENT

Come and join us to learn how to make healthy, nutritious and simple dishes for your family, at low cost. If you would like to attend, please email [admin2636@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2636@welearn365.com) to register interest.

**A 4-WEEK COURSE: MUST COMPLETE ALL SESSIONS!**

**LAUNCHING ON WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL**  
Park Lane Primary School & Nursery  
3:30-5:00pm

In collaboration between:

**WRCC** **Cadent** **Warm Hub** **Warwickshire County Council**

Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders..

## Lunchtime Supervisor Role

Would you like to join our Park Lane Family?  
We are looking for a dedicated, passionate lunchtime supervisor to join our experienced family.

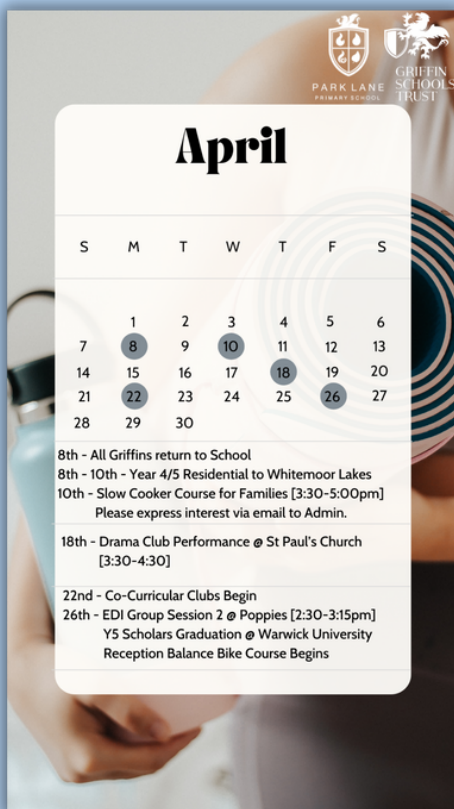
Hours: 11:30am-1:30pm (term-time only, plus staff training)  
Scale Point 02-£5,154.19 per annum

All CV's, detailing relevant experience and references, to Hannah Proctor by Friday 5th April 12pm: [proctor.h@welearn365.com](mailto:proctor.h@welearn365.com)  
Interviews scheduled for wb 8th April '24.

Proud Traditions | Wide Horizons | High Achievement

**GRIFFIN SCHOOLS TRUST**

Join our Family!



## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

8th - All Griffins return to School  
8th - 10th - Year 4/5 Residential to Whitemoor Lakes  
10th - Slow Cooker Course for Families [3:30-5:00pm]  
Please express interest via email to Admin.

18th - Drama Club Performance @ St Paul's Church [3:30-4:30]

22nd - Co-Curricular Clubs Begin  
26th - EDI Group Session 2 @ Poppies [2:30-3:15pm]  
Y5 Scholars Graduation @ Warwick University  
Reception Balance Bike Course Begins

Please Note: Subject to change: coming to platforms very soon!

HAPPY EASTER

Academic School Calendar 2024/25

School Open	School Holidays, INSET Days, Bank Holidays					
School Closed	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
Aug 2024	26	27	28	29	30	Summer Break
Sept	2	3	4	5	6	INSET (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30	1	2	3	4	
Oct	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	INSET (25 <sup>th</sup> )
	28	29	30	31	1	Half-term Break
Nov	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	
	2	3	4	5	6	
Dec	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	Winter Break, Bank Holiday (25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> )
	30	31	1	2	3	Winter Break, Bank Holiday (1 <sup>st</sup> )
Jan 2025	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	31	
Feb	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	Half-term Break
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
Mar	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31	1	2	3	4	
Apr	7	8	9	10	11	INSET (11 <sup>th</sup> )
	14	15	16	17	18	Spring Break, Bank Holiday (18 <sup>th</sup> )
	21	22	23	24	25	Spring Break, Bank Holiday (21 <sup>st</sup> )
	28	29	30	1	2	
May	5	6	7	8	9	Bank Holiday (5 <sup>th</sup> )
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	Half-term Break, Bank Holiday (26 <sup>th</sup> )
June	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30	1	2	3	4	
July	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	INSET (21 <sup>st</sup> )

Total 190 days. INSET days may be subject to change.

V1.0 LB/RJ Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders 1

