

# Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,

Summer has arrived at Park Lane and although the weather does not appear to know exactly what it is doing, it has not stopped our jam-packed term of experiences, Proud Traditions and most important, memories! It has been most wonderful to observe so many of our families join us for our celebrations throughout this half-term with our Big Sing and our Shared Queens Jubilee Family Picnic: long may it continue.

The way that our Year 6 Griffins responded to their SATs week during May was incredible: they should each be very proud of the determination that they have displayed throughout the year and know that their Park Lane Family is very proud of them. Their post SATs trip to Thorpe Park was well deserved and received by both children and staff and we wish them a wonderful time on their residential to PGL in June. In addition, our Year 2 Griffins have too been working exceptionally hard towards completing their End of Key Stage 1 assessments and they too should be incredibly proud of the resilience that they have shown at such a young age.

As we edge closer to the end of the year, we wish Miss Ensor a peaceful rest as she goes off to prepare for her new arrival in June: we cannot wait to have another young Griffin join our family. We also would like to wish the warmest of congratulations to Miss Bennet (former Miss Farmer) and of course Mr Bennet as they finally were able to enjoy their wedding day: we wish you a lifetime of happiness and health as you begin this new chapter together.

Our final half-term is fast approaching and it promises lots of cherished memories for our Family: Sports Day, Year 6 Celebrations, Reception Intake Evening, just to name but a few. We hope your half-term holiday has been filled with lots of fun and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 6th June.

Warmest of Wishes,  
**Alexandra Ladbury**  
Head of School



## Contents:

<u>Content</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
<i>Mini Griffins &amp; Pre-School</i>	2
<i>Reception &amp; Year 1</i>	3
<i>Year 2 &amp; Year 3</i>	4
<i>Year 4 &amp; Year 5</i>	5
<i>Year 6 &amp; Nurture Team</i>	6
<i>PE Updates</i>	7-8
<i>Arts Updates</i>	9
<i>Y6 Thorpe Park Trip</i>	10
<i>Y5 Mary Arden Farm Trip</i>	10
<i>Y2 Botanical Gardens Trip</i>	11
<i>Marcus Jones Visit</i>	11
<i>Y3 Camping Experience</i>	12
<i>Queen's Jubilee</i>	13

## Key Dates:

### **Monday 6th June**

*Griffins return to school*

### **Friday 10th - 12th June**

*Y6 PGL Residential Weekend*

### **Friday 8th July**

*Teacher Training Day*

### **Tuesday 12th July**

*EYFS Sports Day - PM @ Park Lane*

### **Wednesday 13th July**

*Y1 and 2 Sports Day - PM @ Pingles*

### **Thursday 14th July**

*Y3 and 4 Sports Day - AM @ Pingles  
Y5 and 6 Sports Day - PM @ Pingles*

### **Thursday 21st July**

*Griffins finish school for Summer holidays @ 2PM: no wraparound care*





# Mini Griffins

Throughout this half-term, our youngest Griffins have been learning all about water. We have looked at various different water-based themes and enjoyed lots of activities too. The children made their very own Rainbow Fish with Miss B - they used a variety of materials and absolutely loved it! We also read the story of Rainbow Fish during group time, and learned that it makes us happier when we share with our friends. This has been lovely to see among the provision and witnessing our Griffins sharing, turn taking and being kind to one another makes us incredibly proud.

We have also played Maths games using different 'Under the Sea' creatures, explored texture trays with coloured rice and walks across the school fields.

The final week of term involved lots of celebrations for the Queens Jubilee. Our Griffins created their own crowns, learned about the United Kingdom and made decorations in preparation for our school picnic.

**We had so much fun and wish the Queen a very happy Jubilee!**



# Pre-School Griffins

This half term, we have used the topic 'Big Wide World' to develop our knowledge and understanding of the world and to recognise and discuss the similarities and differences between ourselves and others whilst developing our sense of community.

We have taken a literacy walk around the world, crossing continent to continent using stories such as 'Handa's Surprise', 'Rumble in the Jungle' and 'Remena's Ramadan' to spark conversation and discussion. We've ended our journey back in the UK to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by creating art portraits, designing new residences for Her Royal Highness and role playing our own street parties in the nursery garden.

**Pre-School have demonstrated a high level of learning and we are all really proud of how hard they have worked this half term: we wish them a wonderful half-term holiday with their families and cannot wait for them to return for their final Summer half-term.**





# Reception

This half term Reception have been focusing on the changes of the season through their topic 'What Can You See In Summer?' Throughout their school year, Reception have been keeping a keen eye on their outdoor areas and explored how their surroundings change throughout the seasons. With our new topic we have been looking forward to see what signs of Summer look like and what we have to look forward to. The children have used all of their senses to immerse themselves into their topic, and learn all about Summer.

Throughout Reception have made mosaic lollipops, experimented with water and sand, and learned how to stay safe in the sun. Fitting for Summer, we have spent lots of our time in our beautiful outdoor environment where the children have learned to build structures with tools, plant flowers and vegetables, and worked together to create and manoeuvre obstacle courses throughout our learning areas. Our Reception Griffins have been learning how to be valuable members of our school: we chose to litter pick around our school grounds to ensure the environment is clean for all. Reception have loved learning all about Summer and are excited to expand their knowledge even further with our next topic 'Who Lives In A Rockpool' where we will be investigating beaches and sea life.



# Year 1

This half term our topic in Year 1 has been 'The Enchanted Woodland:' we have been looking at fairy tales including, 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Hansel and Gretel.' Within this, the children have been making their own maps, developing their own keys, and they have also been beginning to write their own short narratives. In Art lessons the children have been designing their own enchanted woodland puppets and they have been exploring how to join materials together ready to make their chosen animal puppets. As part of an International school link, we have been looking at the Elephant Parade. The children had lots of fun researching Asian Elephants: they created fact files, their own stories about elephants and save the elephant posters. Furthermore, they designed their own elephants and decorated them.

In Science lessons, we have been learning about different common plants and trees. The children have been exploring the outdoors and had a hunt for the different plants that they could find and identify. Alongside this, the children planted seed bombs as part of our outdoor learning day following our study of global warming within PSHE!



## Year 2

During Summer 1, Year 2 have been learning all about the '*Scented Garden*'. We kick started the half-term by visiting the Botanical Gardens in Leicester. This was a great way to initially engage the children in the topic and they were thrilled to take part in the various activities organised for them. Whilst at the Botanical Gardens, the children: looked at plants and their everyday uses; created sculptures identifying the main parts of a plant; and planted cress seeds. This is certainly an outing that the children will remember!

Back in the classroom, we have been learning about plants in more detail. We have identified parts of plants (including ones we eat), studied the life cycle of a plant, and investigated the best conditions for growing plants. The children have demonstrated a real passion for understanding how plants grow and why they are important.

As part of our Topic, we have also studied the Artist Van Gogh, who is famous for his 'Sunflower' painting, amongst other things. We have been developing our skills in using various art mediums and applied our learning to a recreating of the 'Sunflower' painting.

**Lots of wonderful learning Year 2 - be very proud of yourself!**



## Year 3

This half term, Year 3 have been studying four figure grid references on maps and finding locations. They have also learnt about different predators including bird predators. From this, the children went out to observe what the grounds of the school might look like from a bird's eye view and then mapped out the locations of different things such as the trim trail and the forest school on a grid map.

During Art lessons the children have linked their predator topic to produce different animal skin designs drawn from what they could see through a view finder, to really focus on a small section. First the children sketched the section they chose into their sketch books using their sketching and shading skills, before enlarging the small view onto a larger piece of art paper. During Science lessons the children have looked at the life cycles of flowering plants and what the function of each part plays in the life cycle. They were able to explain their findings and understand that all science experiments do not work and need to be repeated to test out their predictions.

**The children have had a lot of fun experimenting this half term and have learned many scientific facts.**





## Year 4

Our topic this half term has been '1066.' We have been learning about the transfer of power in England from the Saxons to the Normans. Our work has included making a timeline of the events of 1066. This included looking at historical sources about the Battle of Hastings, and considering whether they could be relied upon to be true.

We also designed and made a book cover in the style of the Domesday Book, using cold water paste and etching a pattern onto it to create a 3d effect. Continuing with the theme of the Domesday Book, we created our own survey for what could be included in a modern version. We have also learnt about Norman Motte and Bailey castles and what life was like for those who lived there. We wrote a diary extract to show how we think a serf would have felt, working for a Norman baron.

**Another fabulous half-term Year 4!**

## Year 5

In Year 5, our topic for this half term is 'Hola Mexico!' We began by identifying where Mexico is in North America, along with other countries in this vast continent and showed this on a map. We also investigated and identified famous landmarks too, such as the Rocky mountains, Mount Rushmore and The Whitehouse to name a few.

During Design Technology learning, we designed and created our own marble runs using recyclable materials. It was trickier than it looked as we had to make them sturdy enough to stand freely, and we had to design a run that would enable a marble to begin at the top and get all the way to the bottom. Our challenge was to then get the marble to the top again without touching it. We all worked together and showed exemplary teamwork skills!

Our Year 5 Griffins have also been eagerly preparing for their transition to Year 6 which has involved considering any future Pupil Leadership Roles within the school. The children have been asked to provide a rationale as to why they should be accepted into the role by the start of Summer 2: we cannot wait to see what they come up with!

**Keep up the hard work Year 5!**





## Year 6

In Year 6, most of the half term has focussed on completing the SATs: we are incredibly proud of all of the children for their focused, mature and determined attitude to complete each test to the very best of their ability. Despite having two years of interrupted education and not having covered as much of the curriculum as previous cohorts, our Year 6 Griffins approached every test with the self-belief and a determination to achieve highly. The tests have all now been packaged up and sent away for marking, however regardless of the results and the outcome, we are truly proud of our Year 6 children for the effort that they have shown.

Tests only ever measure a tiny proportion of the curriculum and of what we value and endeavour to teach our children. Other things, such as some of our school values of kindness, honesty, respect, empathy and just being an all-round good person are not measured by SATs but are equally as important.

**Well done Year 6! Now to enjoy the rest of your time with us at Park Lane: leavers' events, the residential and lots more wonderful learning opportunities!**



## The Nurture Team

This half-term Forest School have been focusing on creating a blackberry fence: this will help to make it safer for children to harvest the fruit in the future. Our Griffins have also been helping take down the low-over hanging branches to enable a safer environment for children to learn and explore new skills. Such kindness and generosity shown!

Our Nurture group have been working our way through the book "*Blob School*" by Pip Wilson focusing on expressing ourselves through different scenarios. We have also been out adventuring on the minibus to the local park - we even were able to take our school dogs. Speaking of which, Mylo, Ruby & Ralph are still very much enjoying their dog training and the children are loving engaging with the dogs whilst learning lots about their characters and how to reward them.

Our half-term was finished with a week packed full of Queen's Jubilee celebrations involving portraits of the lady herself, learning about various Commonwealth countries, alongside a Commonwealth Sports Day and finished with a wonderful family picnic.







## PE Team



### **Challenge 26**

Throughout the month of May, all of our Griffins have taken part in many sporting challenges. Last week, all of our Griffins took part in the Challenge 26 'Moveathon' during their PE lessons, bringing in a variety of apparatus to get moving: we had bikes, scooters, hula hoops and footballs galore! It was great fun so once again thank you to our families for your support with our event. Thank you, in advance, for your support in raising money for an amazing charity: GetKidsGoing!



What is Challenge 26? Every year, we ask all students to set themselves a sporting challenge involving the number 26 and to collect sponsorship to go towards our collective fundraising effort. This year we will be raising money for Get Kids Going. Get Kids Going is a national charity which gives disabled children and young people, up to the age of 26 years, the wonderful opportunity of participating in sport. They provide them with specifically designed sports wheelchairs so that they can partake in: athletics, marathons, tennis, skiing, curling, rugby, sailing, boccia, basketball, snowboarding, table tennis, fencing, shooting, archery, powerlifting and many more sports. Get Kids Going inspires disabled youngsters to compete in sporting events, from start to paralympic level, by also giving them sports grants to help with their training, physiotherapy, sports psychology, travel, competition fees and the design and development of sports' equipment. With your help, many can become world record holders and paralympic champions.

### **Commonwealth Games Day and Obstacle Course**

On Thursday 26th May, all of our Griffins took part in the Commonwealth Games Day, where they learnt about the Commonwealth Games and all the different sports that will be taking place this Summer in Birmingham. We had lots of our Griffins designing their own mascots and even their very own Commonwealth medals.

Also, they took part in many PB challenges of different sport that will be taking place at the commonwealth games this year. It was great to see our sports leader leading on all the events. All Griffins took part in the 26 obstacle, obstacle course and what fun they had!

**The day was finished with a House Staff Relay race of which our very own Griffins voted for which staff members they wanted to see participate.. It is safe to say that this event definitely surfaced various competitive spirits from staff members and the proud winners of the events were.... Unicus!**

**A very much deserved well done!**

### **Football Team Success**

Our Football Team played their very last league match of the season. All Griffins played incredibly well, and we finished the match winning an astonishing 11-0. The teamwork and passion was evident from start to finish, and it was great to see some brilliant goals: even the keeper got one today (Connor). Congratulations to you all on your win!

Finally, a big thank you to Mr Cove for refereeing the match and to our families for the support and action shots of the match!



### **Gymnastics County Finals Champions**

We are incredibly proud to announce that this afternoon our gymnastics team took part in the county finals in Solihull and achieved first place!

All of our gymnasts performed a floor and vault routine to a very high standard. After such a spectacular showcase of skills, they were then crowned county champions.

What an amazing achievement for you all. Thank you for all your hard work training before school over several weeks. Miss Davies and Miss Everitt are incredibly proud of you all!

### **Sports Day 22'**

We are hoping our families will be able to join us: a Google form for you to request tickets (a maximum of 4 per child) will come out at the beginning of June and then tickets will be distributed accordingly.

### **Nursery and Reception - Tuesday 12th July**

*1:00PM - 3:00PM at Park Lane Primary School*

### **Years 1 and 2 (KS1) - Wednesday 13th July**

*12:00PM - 3:00PM at Pingles Athletics Stadium*

### **Years 3 and 4 (LKS2) - Thursday 14th July**

*9:00AM - 12:30PM at Pingles Athletics Stadium*

### **Years 5 and 6 (UKS2) - Thursday 14th July**

*12:30PM - 3:15PM at Pingles Athletics Stadium*

Thank you for your ongoing support!

### **Athletics County Final**

Congratulations to our Athletics Team for competing at the School Games county athletics finals.

All Griffins showed passion, perseverance and pride and we are extremely pleased to announce that we placed 4th overall. Of course, we would have loved to have been 1st, but the achievement of being the 4th best team in the county is a remarkable achievement - fantastic job all!





# Arts Showcase

## International Dance Day

A relatively new proud tradition for all schools within the Griffin Schools Trust, is the celebration of International Dance Day.

International Dance Day is a global celebration of dance and its aim is to encourage people of all ages to engage in the art form by participating in events and festivals across the world.

This year our dance is to the piece S.I.N.G. by My Chemical Romance, chosen as the lyrics are relevant to our Change Makers theme.

The choreography was created by dance students from Nicholas Chamberlaine School. The choreography itself is in three levels which made the dance accessible to all.



The children and staff did an amazing job and we had great fun recording this as a whole school on the playground. You can find a collation of the clips on our School YouTube channel.



## The Big Sing

As part of the Griffin Schools Trust, one of our most Proud Traditions is The Big Sing. Each year, all of the schools from across the Trust learn a number of songs, which they then perform at the same time. This year, our overall theme is 'Change Makers' and each song selected reflects our theme.

The children performed beautifully and The Big Sing 2022 was a huge success. As well as this, it was so wonderful to be able to invite our Park Lane Family to the event this year - thank you to all those that attended!

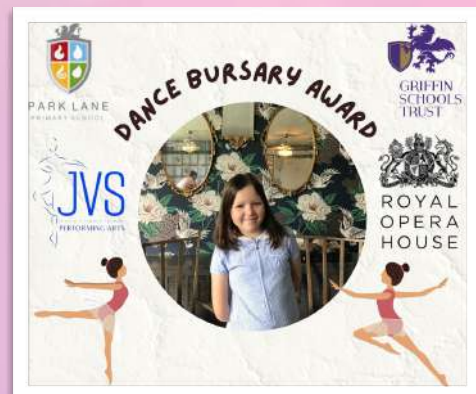
## Chance to Dance Bursary

Our Year 3 children have been extremely busy involved in the

Chance to Dance project working alongside The Royal Opera House. Throughout the process, Judith - from Judith Vardy's Studio of Performing Arts - had been looking for someone talented to offer a dance bursary to continue their ballet lessons following the opportunity at school.

We are therefore pleased to announce that Ruby G in 3JG was recently awarded the dance bursary and is incredibly excited to continue this passion/talent further: we too are excited to observe.

**We wish you the best of luck, Ruby, and would like to thank all involved for such a wonderful opportunity for our Griffins!**





# Thorpe Park - Y6 Treat

After an incredibly busy week for our Year 6's completing their SATs this week, they had a well-deserved treat at Thorpe Park for the day.

We would like to share how proud we all are of all of our Year 6 Griffins as they have put in an immense amount of hard work since September to complete their assessments to a high standard.

**Well done Year 6 - we hope you had an amazing day!**



# Y5 Mary Arden Farm Trip

During Summer 1, some of our Year 5 Griffins visited Mary Arden Farm, the home of Shakespeare's Mother. Upon arrival, the children were split into two groups where they completed various activities.

One of the groups, started the day by telling the story of Macbeth through a piece of drama. They then moved on to learning some interesting facts about William Shakespeare before visiting the animals on the farm. After lunch, they were able to perform their completed drama piece - with the use of some props - to the remainder of the group.

The second group took part in some alternative activities. They first went on a tour of Mary Arden's house and had the opportunity to create their own lavender perfume. Following this, they learnt more about the Tudor life and how houses were created by weaving sticks and using mud to stick it in place. Finally, they learnt how to make sugar sweets and had great fun moulding them into any shape they wished!

**We hope you enjoyed your trip Year 5!**



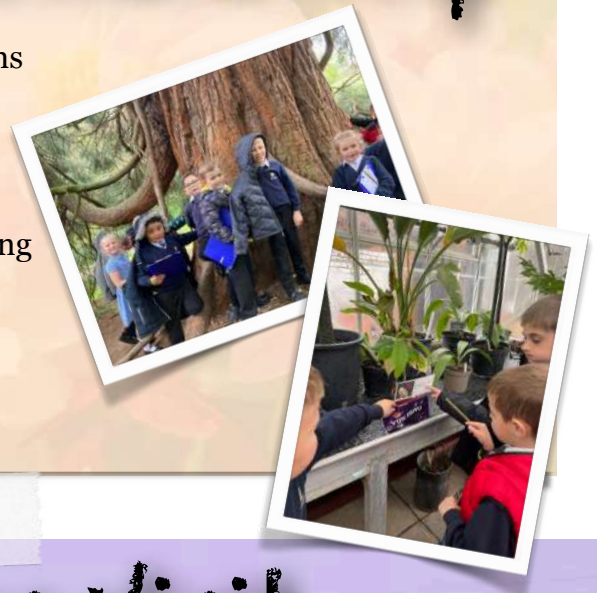


# Y2 Botanical Gardens Trip

Year 2 have had a fabulous day at Leicester Botanical Gardens linked with their Summer 1 topic '*Scented Garden*'.

The children took part in a number of activities whilst there. They matched herbs to their everyday uses, planted cress, sketched cacti, created bark rubbings, created sculptures using natural resources and much more. They were thoroughly engaged in all of the activities and a credit to Park Lane!

**Well done Year 2 Griffins - we are glad you had a wonderful time!**



## Marcus Jones Visit

During this half term, some of our Pupil Leadership Team, Prefects and Support Griffins were lucky enough to meet Marcus Jones MP when he came to visit Park Lane. Mr Jones must have thought that he was on BBC Question Time, as our Griffins grilled him about his job with some probing questions! He was asked what he both liked and disliked about being an MP; what they are mostly talking about in the House of Commons at the moment; what the most important thing that he had been involved with was; and what had he disagreed with in the House of Commons. All great questions that he had to think about carefully before answering.



Mr Jones explained how the House of Commons and the House of Lords came to agreement about new laws (he told us that it is called "ping-pong") as that was what had been happening in Parliament this week. This was great for the Year 6 Griffins as they have a virtual interview session with a member of the House of Lords scheduled for later this term - another very exciting opportunity. Mr Jones also told us that the most important thing that he had been involved with was something that wasn't necessarily of world importance, but something that made a huge difference to an individual family who had been struggling to get their child into a school that could meet their needs. The children were enthused to listen to his stories about his role.

In addition to this, he asked the Griffins for their opinion on the school and what they would change if they could, and we hope they answered honestly! We are so proud of our children - they came up with some excellent questions and although some were a little nervous about talking to an MP, they spoke up and got their points across well. They (and we) have learned something about Parliament and MPs that we hope inspires the children to take part in the upcoming elections for next year's Pupil Leadership Team.

**Thank you, once again, to Marcus Jones for visiting us at Park Lane and to all of our children who were involved for representing our school beautifully!**



Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders





# Y3 Camping Experience

Our Year 3 children were given the most amazing camping experience by 'Adventures Into' through camping on the school field overnight.

After pitching up their own tents, the Year 3's engaged in lots of exciting activities around camp. They had the opportunity to play archery and even had a water fight. It would have been rude for the teachers not to have the first round with the water guns but the children eventually got their own back!

Once they had enjoyed some delicious dinner in the evening, they continued their fun with some marshmallow roasting and even created their own talent show. This was an absolute joy to watch and the children thoroughly enjoyed showcasing their skills/secret talents to one another.

As the weather turned a little wet later in the evening, the children continued their fun indoors with a game of nurf wars where they had to dodge and shoot others ensuring they protected their VIP at all costs. After completing their game, they settled into their tents with their torches.

Despite a busy day and late evening, the children woke nice and early (some at 4:20AM) and enjoyed some breakfast after packing away their tents. Before returning to their families, they finished off with a bush tucker trial where some of our Griffins and teachers braved eating some bugs!







# Queen's Jubilee

Throughout the final week of term, our Griffins embarked on many challenges and activities linked with the Queen's Jubilee. They embarked on a STEM project to design a new home for the Queen, created a piece of Queen Elizabeth art in the style of a particular artist and learnt more about some of the Commonwealth countries.

To conclude such a memorable week, our families were invited to join us for a Jubilee Picnic on the final day of half term. We were thrilled with the turn out at our event as lots of our community joined us in celebration.

**Thank you to all those who attended and we hope you had an amazing Jubilee Weekend.**



# Outdoor Classroom Day

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Park Lane took part in our second Outdoor Classroom Day - with much better weather than our one in November! Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to inspire and celebrate outdoor play and learning, both at home and at school.

Mr Bell, our Outdoor Education Lead, organised the day and set each year group the task to complete one lesson outdoors to utilise the fabulous outdoor areas we are lucky to have at Park Lane! This led to a wonderful day of outdoor learning including: practising phonics by 'hunting' for sounds in the woods; planting wildflowers on the school site; revising grammar terms through a treasure hunt around the trees; litter picking - to care for our environment; identifying trees and creating information labels about them; and using chalk to show reflected shapes in maths! The nurture team also made good use of the outdoor environment to support the children they work with.

**It was fantastic to see all of our Griffins excited and enjoying their learning!**





# 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?

**RECEPTION  
NEW STARTERS**

WE ARE THRILLED TO INVITE OUR  
NEW RECEPTION GRIFFINS AND  
FAMILIES TO OUR OPEN  
EVENING.

**MONDAY 27TH JUNE 22'**

ARRIVAL FROM 5PM

**PARK LANE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**GRIFFIN  
SCHOOLS  
TRUST**

**PAMPER  
EVENING**

**TUESDAY 21ST JUNE  
3.15 - 4.30**

We would love to invite our Year 5 girls for a pamper evening and a chat about periods. We are aware that some of you may have recently started your periods (or potentially could do soon) so want to welcome you to have an open chat over some chocolate/ snacks and a pamper session with the girls!

Please let Mrs Quick/ Miss Gee/ Mrs Williams know if you would like to attend.



