

Park Lane Press

Happy Summer Holiday Park Lane Family!

Another academic year draws to a close and upon reflection of the past half-term in school, it has been an exceptionally busy yet exciting one for our Family. One of our proudest traditions across the Griffin Family is the Griffin Arts Festival: a two-week window celebrating all things, The Arts, circulating around this years' Trust-wide theme of 'Family.' It has certainly been a splendid time and the children (and staff) have thoroughly enjoyed expressing themselves through various art form, including some rather unique experiences of Beatboxing and Breakdancing. A special mention to those within our Family that attended our GAF showcase and workshop mornings: your support does not go unnoticed and such events would not be possible without such dedication.

Sadly, this time of year does naturally come with farewells as many within our Family move on to pastures new. As previously communicated, Chris Skilling and Sue Williams will be moving on within the Griffin Schools Trust. Emma Mehta, Hannah Kear, Aleah Pickering and Laura Stringer will also be moving on to future opportunities. We thank each member of staff for the dedication that they have shown whilst working at Park Lane and we wish them the very best in all future endeavours: they will be missed! Our final farewell goes to our Year 6 Griffins as they move on to the next stage of their academic chapter: secondary school. Throughout their time at Park Lane, our Year 6 children have matured wonderfully and it has been an honour observing them grow into the exceptional young adults that they are. We wish them the very best in all that awaits them and know that they will remain in our hearts for years to come.

On behalf of all at Park Lane, we want to wish our Family a wonderful holiday: enjoy this special time with your loved ones. We thank you for your continued support throughout this year and look forward to strengthening our partnership in the next. The gates of Park Lane will open on Wednesday 6th September where we not only welcome Kristie Green and Rebecca Patten to our Staff Family but, of course, our youngest Griffins - the Reception cohort of 2023-24!

Warmest of Wishes,
Carrie Clare
Executive Head



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Key Dates:

Tuesday 25th July

Final day of term

School finishes at 2pm

Monday 4th September

Teacher Training Day

School closed to all Griffins

Tuesday 5th September

Teacher Training Day

School closed to all Griffins

Wednesday 6th September

Year 1 - 6 all return to school from 8:30am
Please see email stating specific dates and times for our Reception staggered start dates.

Mini Griffins

This term our Mini Griffins have been taking part in our Proud Tradition, the Griffin Arts Festival (GAF): our theme this year was Family. We talked a lot about our families, what that means to us and who makes up our family at home. We also learned a song, which had some Makaton actions, which we performed as part of the celebration event.

We then illustrated pictures of our family and decorated fish as part of our art display. It represented to us that, although we are all different in Nursery, we all work together and treat each other like family: our chosen family. During the Celebration Event, we displayed all of Nursery's artwork together: the children had so much fun completing all the fun activities for GAF and everyone worked really hard.

We would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the year that we have had in Nursery: our Griffins have flourished wonderfully and should be so proud of how they have embraced their first steps of school life.

Have a wonderful Summer holiday Nursery Families and thank you for all of your continued support this year.



Pre-School Griffins

For GAF this year, our focus has been on Family, and we have really enjoyed talking about the people in our families and of course, our Griffin Family within Pre-School. The children have enjoyed drawing and talking about their family members and the time that they spend together. They have been very busy designing their own fish to contribute to our class family art piece, which our families then helped with during our workshop.

We have loved getting to know all of our children and feel very privileged to have been a part of their learning journey - we wish them every success as some of them move into Reception and we are excited to be able to welcome some of our Griffins back to Pre-School in September.

The Pre-School team would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a wonderful summer break: enjoy this time with your Families making wonderful memories. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you back next year for our new academic year!

Reception

Our Summer term has been filled with lots of creativity and of course, all things art. Reception participated fully in the GAF festival and thoroughly enjoyed it. The event takes place over two weeks where this year we focused on the topic of Family and created various pieces of artwork towards it. We discussed what the word 'Family' meant to us and how this was different for everyone. The word 'Home' came up a lot in our discussions, and this was how our very first GAF piece was created, utilising a range of materials to present.

To apply previous learning, we completed Acrostic Poems using the words 'love' and 'family.' We also created beautiful family trees for each class using photographs from home - we thank you for your support with this. To finish off our GAF artwork, we created our very own Reception Family where the children drew themselves with their family from school. What a fantastic fortnight to finish off a fabulous year!

Reception have been a phenomenal cohort throughout this year: from their very first few days in school, we knew that they were unique and they have flourished gracefully as each day has passed. We know that they will continue to impress next year in Year 1 and we wish them the very best. Thank you to our Reception Families for all of your support.



Year 1

This half term, Year 1 have created some lovely artwork for the Griffin Arts Festival. We began by creating finger family canvases: the children created their family using a finger-painting technique which they then drew on their facial features and named each member of their family. The children will then be able to take these beautiful canvases home to display in their homes.

We then created symmetry art, whereby the children sketched the other half of their family photos. The children then coloured their symmetry art, ensuring it was identical to the other half of their photograph.

Furthermore, the children chose to write a family acrostic poem as they really enjoy creating them. They created their poem by thinking of their favourite words to describe their family - it was wonderful to see how creative the children were and how they were able to apply their learning throughout the year to this activity.

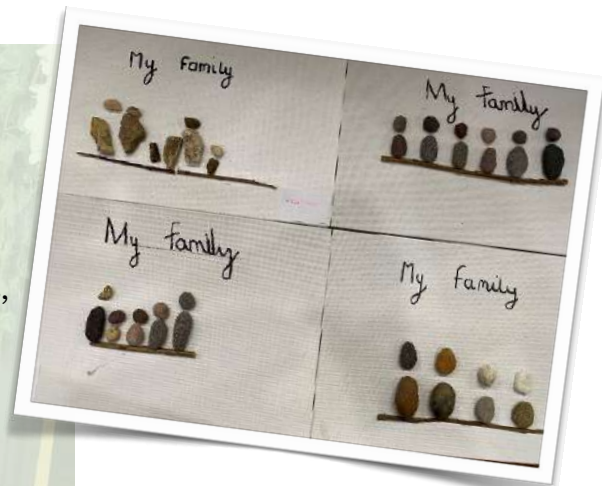
It's been an incredible year for our Year 1 children as they have matured from continuous provision to a more 'enhanced' formal provision, preparing them for their start in Year 2. They are going to be brilliant and we cannot wait to watch on as they continue to blossom - be very proud Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 started the Griffin Arts Festival by looking at the word 'Family'. We discussed what family meant to us and came up with a variety of answers which included family members, friends, love, safety, happiness, pets and many more. We decided that we would create performance poetry for our families. We watched Michael Rosen perform some of his poems and listened to him talk about what makes a good performance. We worked hard on trying to be really confident when we were performing. We hope you enjoyed our family poem performances on Seesaw.

For our 2 pieces of art work, we identified members of our family that lived in our house and created a plan for our pebble families in our sketch books. We used the glue gun to stick the pebbles to the canvas; we had to be really careful so we did not burn our fingers! For our second piece of art, we focused on skills that we had learnt in our art lessons inspired by *Romare Bearden* – creating collages of silhouette families in a sunset. We worked hard to try and ensure that we'd left no gaps in our collages, then we carefully cut them out and created our family silhouettes.

It's been such a rewarding year watching as our Griffins have embraced the formalities of life in a Year 2 classroom. We know that they are so ready for the challenges that await them as they approach Key Stage 2 - very well done Year 2!



Year 3

In Year 3 for GAF we have explored the art of graffiti and street art. We thought of various visual symbols to represent family and worked together to create large graffiti style pictures, using acrylic paint sticks. We also did some work on photography. In groups, we considered what family means to us, and took pictures to represent this: the black and white photos were then compiled into collages.

As part of our theme of Family, we looked at portraits painted by the Romanian artist *Ilan Korda*, and then painted our own family portraits in the same style. As part of our parent workshop, we each painted a brightly coloured feather, then assembled them into wings to represent our class family.

It's been a fantastic year for our Year 3 Griffins and we know that they will approach life in Year 4 with maturity, perseverance and confidence, as they have done throughout this year.



Year 4

The Griffin Arts Festival this year was especially exciting for Year 4: this was because, not only were they exposed to a wide variety of art forms, but they also worked towards gaining an Arts Award certificate at Discover Level too. The children documented all of their experiences in their Arts Award portfolios to use as evidence towards their awards. The portfolios will be assessed at the start of the next academic year and certificates will be issued to all who met the set criteria.

Across the fortnight, the children revisited some of the skills learnt throughout the year and applied these to new pieces of work. They created still life sketches, using tone and shade to make their paintings more realistic. They developed their techniques in sculpting, creating wire models of their family members. They also explored various forms of poetry and had a go at creating their own poems.

Most notably, the children improved their ability to speak aloud. During our Y4 assembly and the Griffin Arts Festival showcase, we were so proud of how the children delivered their lines with such confidence, projecting their voices and truly putting on a show.

It's been quite an unsettled time for our Year 4 children as they have had to embrace the changes that were before them. We hope that they enjoyed their trip to Drayton Manor and know that they will approach life in Year 5 with the same level of determination and courage.



Year 5

Year 5 had an extremely busy GAF this year. Some of our pupils were fortunate enough to be a part of the Birmingham GAF, while the remainder of the children engaged in activities relating to the Arts in school. Our first activity was portrait sketching. Some children had brought in photos of their families that they sketched, while the rest created sketches of our Year 5 Griffin family. We had printed half of each child's face and they sketched the other half using techniques that we had learned in our art lessons, such as stippling, shading and blending. The results were simply stunning. Our second activity involved clay sculptures. The children rolled out clay that was the same thickness as their hand. They cut around their hand and then after adding detail, bent the fingers to give the appearance of a hand that was holding something. Then, they created little sculptures of their families which they placed on their hand.

The children had all been given the same instructions, but each of their sculptures were very different. The sculptures represent how different families are in reality. The children worked extremely hard and the results were very effective. Thank you to the parents who joined their children to help with these creations as part of our GAF workshop. Finally, two of our Year 5 Griffins, Kaitlyn and Daniel, choreographed a dance for all of year 5 to learn as their performance piece to the song 'Family.' It was fabulous and our children really enjoyed dancing to it. Well done Kaitlyn and Daniel.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable GAF and the work produced was outstanding. Well done Year 5: we are excited for you to embrace the challenges that await as you approach the final year of your Park Lane journey.



Year 6

For the Griffin Arts Festival this year, Year 6 decided to create a dress made entirely from their family pictures. During their art lessons this term, the children were exploring photography including how to capture engaging images as well as how to edit them, so this project progressed their previous learning from their photography module. Further to this, children also experimented with origami by creating roses (to decorate the dress) and T-shirts to create their own sporting family.

Additionally, the children created palindrome poems based on their home families. The children enjoyed creating these poems as they initially began by writing controversial things to then reveal their true meaning/message once they are read from the bottom to the top. Their performance this year was a fantastic rendition of 'Hey Brother – Avicii'. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing this song and they did a great job on the day to showcase their skills.

What a year it has been Year 6 - you should be so incredibly proud of all that you have achieved not only throughout this year, but during your time at Park Lane. Your Family wish you the very best as you embrace the next chapter and always do remember:

The Nurture Team

This half term, Nurture have been focusing on supporting the transition of children into their new classes. They have immersed themselves in collaborative games and learnt how to manage their emotions effectively. They have enjoyed playing Monopoly and the older children showed great perseverance and maturity when explaining the game to the younger children. Alongside this, they have also taken part in cooking activities; learning how to be safe within the kitchen and cooking using ingredients through weighing and measuring. The pancakes went down a treat!

The year ended with a treat for some of our nurture children to Drayton Manor: we are so proud of the resilience that you show on a daily basis!





PE Updates



Griffin National Finals

Our Agility Athletics Team and Girls and Boys Basketball Team took part in the Griffin National Finals at Oxford University.

Our Year 5 and 6 Griffins completed at a very high standard in the basketball tournament showing great teamwork throughout. We are thrilled to share that following their hard work, our boys and girls teams both secured 2nd place - our boys lost out at the last hurdle, after being level with points at the top, the judges went to goal difference. We are extremely proud of both teams and the way they presented themselves.

As well as this, our youngest Griffins also competed in athletics events showing grit and determination to achieve perfect scores. We are ecstatic that after all of their training, they were crowned National Champions after being awarded 1st place: we are so proud of you all!



Sports Days

Our Sports Days were a roaring success for all year groups with children showcasing their skills in various fields including running, throwing, jumping and even tug of war (KS2.) At the end of all sports days, Griffins from Ducis were crowned house champions.

A huge thank you to our Nicholas Chamberlaine and Park Lane Sports Leaders who supported throughout the event - they really encouraged and cheered their fellow Griffins on! Also, a final thank you to Miss Davies and Mr Such for organising such amazing events.



GB Athlete Visit

Our Griffins had the experience of meeting Joe Roebuck, a ten-time British Champion swimmer this half term. All Griffins took part in a fun fitness circuit and then they listened to Joe's inspiring story about never giving up on your dreams. The best part was seeing two of Joe's olympic medals that he showed to the school. What an amazing experience and role model to all - thank you for visiting Joe.



Disney Football Festival

Our Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 girls Football Team took part in a Disney Football Festival on Wednesday. Our girls got to practise various football skills including passing, dribbling and their favourite: shooting.



Griffin Science Symposium

Ten of our Year 5 Griffins had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Science Museum in London after securing second place in this years' Griffin Science Symposium. They had the opportunity to explore exhibits about space travel, medicine, technology and much more.

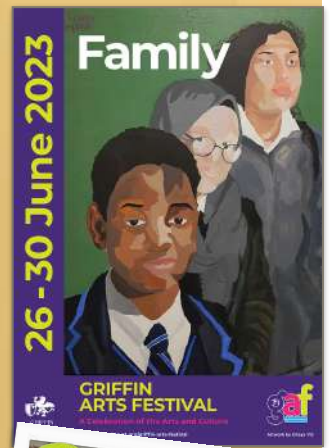
Well done to all our Griffins who took part in such a fantastic, Science-related day.



Griffin Arts Festival

Some of our Year 5 Griffins were involved in the Birmingham GAF experience. They enjoyed many experiences including an architecture walk, a visit to the Symphony Hall, a live performance of the Demon Dentist and even a ballet workshop with the Royal Ballet in Birmingham. Great fun was had by all Griffins and they were thoroughly immersed in the Arts from start to finish.

As well as this, we have had a wonderful 2 weeks celebrating the Griffin Arts Festival as a school. This concluded with inviting our families in to celebrate and share our achievements throughout this time. Thank you to all of our families in attendance.



Farewell to Year 6



GRIFFIN
SCHOOLS
TRUST

PARK LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

class of 2023




Once a Griffin. Always a Griffin

PROUD TRADITIONS | WIDE HORIZONS | HIGH ACHIEVEMENT



PARK LANE
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TRUST


Farewell Year 6!

This year has passed so quickly,
The time has come to leave,
You must now join your new school,
To see how high you can achieve!


Each day we have shared with you,
From Nursery up to Six,
Has been filled with memorable moments,
It really has gone so quick!

We've had so many lovely times,
With fun along the way,
Your smile has always cheered us up,
Each and every day!

This year has been so special,
To watch you learn and grow,
You've battled SATs and more,
You always gave it a go!



Class of 2023



PARK LANE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Year 6 team are all so proud,
Of all the things you've done,
Mrs Boyes, Mr Skilling, Miss McDonnell and
Miss Roper,
All delighted with everyone!

Park Lane is always here for you,
So spread your horizons wide,
We hope you venture back to visit,
And bring stories of success by your side
!

Park Lane won't be the same without you,
As you move on to pastures new,
We hope you keep us in your memories,
As we shall never forget you!

All of the staff at Park Lane Primary School
wish you the very best in your future
successes!



02476382924



@plprimaryschool



admin2636@
welearn365.com