

Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,

The leaves are turning all shades of brown and the mornings are certainly crisper - this can only mean one thing, the first half-term of the new academic year is complete and December is fast approaching. It's been a fantastic start to the year: our Reception and Nursery Griffins have settled wonderfully - so much so, that various external visitors of the school have commented on how they are amazed that they have only been in school for less than 8 weeks. We look forward to our youngest Griffins flourishing as they continue on their Griffin journey and working in partnership with our new Family members.

The start of the new academic year has brought a lot of buzz, fun and excitement to the halls of Park Lane: our Griffins settling into new classes with their teachers, the launch of our fantastic new lunch provider, Appetito and none other than, our annual Griffin Sports Festival, to name but a few. We had an exciting visitor return to school in September, James Campbell, a children's author and comedian. The response to this visit from our Community was fantastic and we loved to see so many of our Families visiting his book stall after school to encourage reading for pleasure among our children, and adults too!

We have some exciting baby announcements to share: Miss Wormleighton is soon to be venturing off on maternity leave to welcome her new little one. Additionally, Miss Ryan and Mr Grocock are also expecting their first child: a little baby Boy - our very first Griffin baby! We are thrilled for all three of our staff members and know you will join us wishing them well as they venture into parenthood!

Half-term is upon us and we wish a wonderful week off for all of our Families: take advantage of the wonderful weather and enjoy some time away from school with your little ones. We welcome you back through the gates on Monday 31st October for the busiest, yet easily the most anticipated term of the year: Christmas!

Warmest of Wishes,
Alexandra Ladbury



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Key Dates:

Monday 31st October
Griffins return for Autumn 2

Friday 11th November
Remembrance Day

Monday 14th November
Individual children's photos

Friday 18th November
Children in Need

Further correspondence about Christmas dates will be released after half term

Friday 16th December
School closes at 2pm

Mini Griffins

This term Mini Griffins have been learning all about their new friends during our first half-term of school. We have been exploring how creative we can be by painting our faces using mirrors, drawing pictures of our families and using play dough to add features to our faces. We have also enjoyed exploring our senses in Forest School lessons: exploring our environment using our eyes, ears and hands to learn and talk about the nature around us.

The lovely Autumnal weather is upon us and we have been enjoying being outdoors exploring the natural resources such as leaves and conkers. The children have loved having access to these resources across the classroom and using them in our Continuous Provision: communicating about them and applying their senses.

We're really looking forward to continuing with our learning after half-term as we approach our favourite time of the year, Christmas!

What a fantastic start to the year our Mini Griffins have had: we are excited to observe them flourish throughout their time with us.



Pre-School Griffins

Pre-School have had a busy first term indeed, settling into new routines and exploring all areas of the environment.

We have explored the wider areas of school and searched for autumn treasures and turned these into wonderful natural self portraits. We have explored paint and colours to paint ourselves, carefully matching our features, such as skin tone, hair and eye colour. Our Pre-School Griffins have used our topic of '*Can We Be Friends*' to learn about ourselves, others and our differences as well as showing our positive attitudes and school values of kindness, tolerance and respect to one other.

We have had lots of fun learning in messy and creative ways such as in 'gloop', building houses using various natural materials and designing cards for our friends, to name but a few.

What a fantastic start to your Griffin Journey: we are excited to see what next term brings!

Reception

The first term in Reception, our children showed us just how unique and hardworking they are. They have settled into Park Lane so beautifully and we could not be more proud!

We have been looking at Autumn during our first half-term: we have discussed the changes we see outside and what happens to trees. The children have created beautiful artwork to go with all that they have learnt, such as hedgehogs, leaves, and the colours we see all around us during this season. They have also been on many walks around the woods to collect leaves, sticks and conkers, which they have thoroughly enjoyed!

We also had our Griffins Sport Festival, which all of the children absolutely loved: they took part in trampolining, cycling and many other sports activities. Reception have also been learning some new songs in class called My Lighthouse, Rise Up and the Wellerman song which we will continue to look at in the new term.

What an amazing start to the year, Reception! You have each shown determination, courage and resilience: each of these being core Griffin qualities.



Year 1

In Year 1 this half term, we have been exploring the topic 'Dinosaur Planet'. We have really enjoyed discovering the Science and History of dinosaurs and life on planet Earth millions of years ago.

Through this topic we have learnt about a significant individual, Mary Anning, and the role she played in the discovery of fossils and what these taught us about dinosaurs.

We have learnt about the diets of different dinosaurs and classified dinosaurs by these diets as well as other key features and characteristics. The children have enjoyed carrying out lots of independent learning choices about dinosaurs including a fossil dig, building skeletons and sorting dinosaurs in different ways. What a fantastic start to year 1 we have had!

A great start to the year Year 1: your independence within your learning is serving you well!

Year 2

This half-term our topic was 'Land Ahoy' through which we have explored a pirates way of life within our Creative Curriculum. In our History lessons we have investigated the lives of famous pirates, creating individual projects to present our knowledge. Year 2 have created fact files around their favourite historic figure, acted out life on board a ship, and created pastel self-portraits turning themselves into pirates which hang proudly outside of our classrooms.

During our Geography lessons we have explored our senses, and began categorising structures into human or environmental, which we were fantastic at. In Science we worked together to hypothesise and test the best materials to make a pirate ship, and although different groups decided on different materials we were all able to make our boats float! We have really enjoyed learning in a variety of ways, and cannot wait to explore our next topic.

A fantastic start to the year Year 2 - be very proud!



Year 3

In Year 3 we have very much enjoyed our Scrumdiddlyumptious topic within our creative Curriculum. We have been investigating a range of exotic fruits and learning about where they come from. We got very messy in the forest area when we followed the instructions for a recipe to make mud pies. We did get to follow a real recipe and made yummy pancakes topped with fruit and chocolate spread.

Our favourite lesson was when we got to taste different chocolate bars and voted on which we thought was best. We also looked at the design of different chocolate packaging and designed our own chocolate bar wrapper.

It has been a delicious topic!

A fantastic start to the year Year 3: your very first half-term in Key Stage 2 and you have completed it showing determination to succeed and passion towards your learning. Well done!

Year 4

This half-term, Year 4 have had a fantastic time learning all about the digestive system! We learnt all about the scientific names of the body parts - oesophagus was a particular favourite.

To begin with, we identified the different types of teeth and their functions. Then, we followed the food's journey through the body, learning all about each part's function and how it helps our body to digest the food we eat! We definitely feel more confident in our scientific knowledge of the body.

A fabulous start to the year Year 4 - be very proud and continue to show this same attitude towards your studies as you progress through the year!

Year 5

Our creative curriculum topic for this half term is called 'Stargazers.' As the title suggests, it is all about Space and Year 5 have been studying how the Russians and Americans battled to launch someone into space and onto the moon.

The children have created and researched a timeline of events leading up to Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon in 1969.

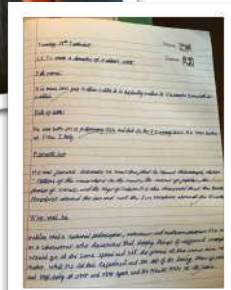
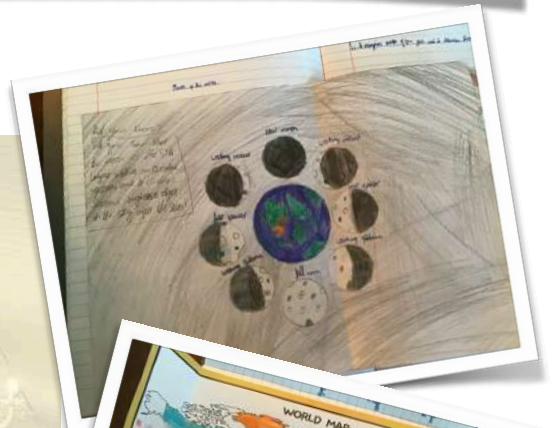
Year 5 have also been researching Galileo, who was a famous scientist from the 16th century. He was instrumental in discovering that the Earth orbits the Sun (it had been thought that the Sun orbited the moon till then).

Finally, the children have been exploring the different phases of the moon and have learned that the moon takes 28 days to orbit the Earth: they have each created work to show the phases.

In Geography, Year 5 have been recognising different countries from their shape from photographs from space. Some countries are easier to identify from others and the children could also identify densely populated areas, such as cities, from the lights that glow at night-time.

You have certainly shown many Griffin qualities, such as curiosity, independence and resourcefulness.

Well done for working so hard Year 5!



Year 6

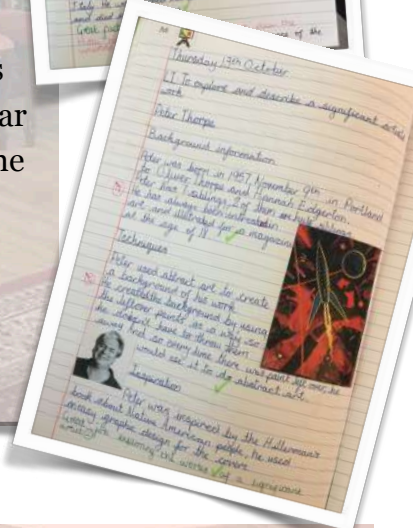
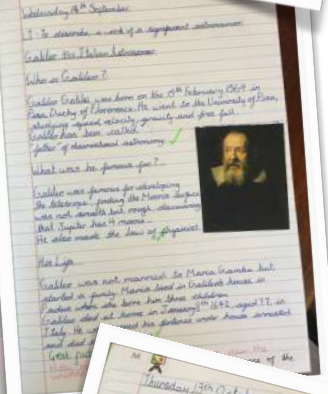
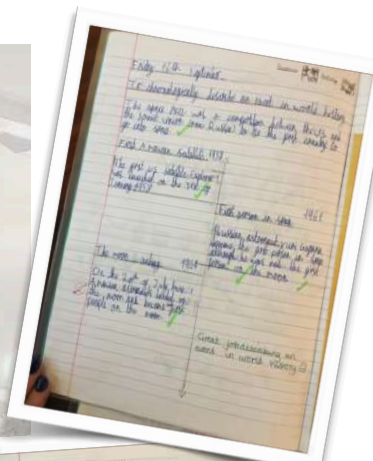
In Year 6 this half-term, our topic focus has been 'Stargazers'. From this, the children have taken the opportunity to explore the significant astronomer 'Galileo' where they each created a fact file all about him. The children not only investigated his early life but also his significant findings and discussed the impact Galileo had made on how we now view the universe.

Ranveer in 6SM has reported, *'Galileo has inspired us to learn more about space and when we are completing our own work to never give up. Try, try and try again until we accomplish our dreams.'*

Furthering their learning into our topic, the children spent time understanding the key events of the space race between USSR and USA. They enjoyed discovering all about Laika (the first dog that went into space) and the steps that came before the famous moon landing in 1969 by Neil Armstrong.

Through our learning, we regularly came back to the significant question of 'Is the Earth flat or round?' To target the learning at the children's curiosities, Year 6 completed a 'For and Against' argument using evidence to debate whether the Earth was actually flat or round.

We are so proud of all the effort the children have been putting in every day and this has been reflected in the progress they have already began to make. Keep it up, Year 6!



The Nurture Team

This half term Nurture groups have been focusing on our social understanding using different role play scenarios. Our Griffins have also enjoyed some Halloween craft, including pumpkin cube making and decorating boiled eggs with spooky Halloween faces. As we've moved into the Autumn months, our Nurture groups have been exploring the outdoors, going on nature walks and have sought things such as conkers and acorns. We have described them during our metaphor check ins.

We have been enjoying the story of the BFG in the Nurture room. Speaking in Giant language was challenging but our Griffins and staff have used perseverance to keep going and we are halfway through the story.





PE Updates



We have had a busy half term already in PE this year: a snippet of some of our Sporting Events can be seen below:

Griffin Sports Festival

Our Griffins had the most wonderful week dedicated to various activities for the Griffin Sports Festival. These included trampolining, boxing, fencing, archery and target games, table tennis, nature trails and even giving children the opportunity to bring their bikes and scooters to school!



As well as this, our Griffin Sports Festival Team got to visit Nicholas Chamberlaine for a 2-day residential. They took part in various activities and really enjoyed their time representing Park Lane against the other trust schools. After a lot of hard work and dedication, it became apparent that their hard work had definitely paid off. Overall, Park Lane came 2nd place in the primary competition (against 10 primaries) and 2nd place overall (against 4 secondary teams).

Well done to all Griffins for their enthusiasm throughout the festival!

Football Team

Our football team had the opportunity to play in the first round of the Nuneaton cup and successfully won both of their first two games. Congratulations to you all!

Change for Life Festival

Earlier in the month, 14 of our Year 3 Griffins took part in a Change for Life Festival. They had a fantastic morning with their friends and enjoyed all the different activities on offer. Well done to all those who attended!

All of our Griffins approach Sports with such perseverance, passion and pride: we truly could not be more proud of each and every one of them. Keep your eyes peeled for future Sporting Events!



Houses of Parliament Trip

On the 27th September, some of our Pupil Leadership Team in Year 6 had the most amazing opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in London. They started the day with a tour of the Palace of Westminster - there were gasps from the children as they walked into the Palace at all the splendour. As well as this, they visited both the Commons and the Lords and heard how people campaign to get laws changed.

Following this, they were joined by Marcus Jones, MP via Zoom from his constituency office. The PLT asked him some great questions including asking him what he is focusing on at the moment (helping people with the cost of living crisis). He told the Year 6 Griffins how they can get his help and reminded them of his visit to the school last year.

All of our Griffins had a fantastic day out including an exciting journey on the underground. Thank you to you all for representing Park Lane so beautifully!



Year 3 Ballet Demonstration

This half term the children in Year 3 had the opportunity to go and see a ballet demonstration with the company 'Chance For Dance' at the Elmhurst Ballet School. Year 3 were able to witness different warm up techniques and ballet movements from dancers in the royal ballet and were able to interact and ask their own questions about the art form. While there, the children were transported in time and had the chance to see how ballet has been performed throughout the years as well as the different costumes that performers would have worn. Children were also invited to the stage to have a go at various ballet positions and movements!

Following on from this experience, next half term the children in Year 3 are going to continue their ballet journey and take part in the scheme, 'Chance For Dance!' The pupils will be learning all about, 'The Nutcracker' and will be making up their own dances throughout the scheme. We cannot wait to develop our skills in dance and learn more about this fantastic art form!

Year 5 Rosliston Science Festival

Year 5 were lucky enough to attend a Science fair that was organised by Rolls Royce. They learned all about the history of aviation and also learned about engineering and what it takes to be an engineer.

They discovered that the Wright brothers were the first men to fly and their plane design was based on how birds take flight. We then had a wonderful surprise. Each child had the chance to have a kestrel land on their gloved hands. It was absolutely breath-taking. Each child showed courage, which is a true Griffin quality, as this was a bird of prey but they all rose to the challenge.

The Rolls Royce team all stated that our Year 5 children were a credit to Park Lane Primary School and we left with the staff feeling immensely proud!

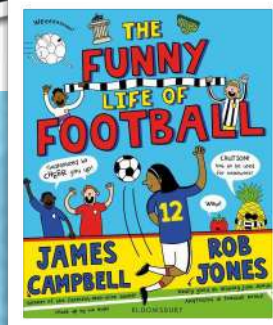


James Campbell Visit

Earlier in the month, we were fortunate to have James Campbell - a children's author - join us for a second time at Park Lane. His visit was just as funny as the first and our Griffins across the school loved the assembly where he talked about his journey to become an author and shared some extracts from a selection of his books including one of his newest books *'The Funny Life of Football'*.

Following this, the Year 4 children were treated to a creative writing workshop where they had a session with the author who explained how to turn their ideas into stories!

Keep your eyes peeled for further exciting visits to Park Lane!



Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders



Term Dates for 22-23'

Academic School Calendar 2022/23



School Open

School Closed – School Holiday, INSET Days and Bank Holidays

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
Sept 2022	29	30	31	1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	Trust INSET (5 th , 6 th)
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
Oct	26	27	28	29	30	
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
Nov	24	25	26	27	28	
	31	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
Dec	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
Jan 2023	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	Bank Holiday in lieu (2 nd), INSET (3 rd)
	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
Feb	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30	31	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
March	13	14	15	16	17	INSET (17 th)
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
April	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	31	
	3	4	5	6	7	
May	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	Bank Holiday (1 st)
	1	2	3	4	5	
June	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	INSET (26 th)
	29	30	31	1	2	
July	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	

Total 193 days. INSET days may be subject to change.

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Today's Learners | Tomorrow's Leaders

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AND NURSERY



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GRIFFIN
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Park Lane Primary School

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