

Park Lane Press

Park Lane Family,

December has truly arrived which marks the end of a uniquely challenging yet extremely successful year at Park Lane. Our Griffins have responded to the year with utter perseverance and they are a true credit to themselves. Each day is a challenge and they respond to this challenge with maturity, courage and are a true inspiration to all.

Park Lane welcomed a special visitor this week: Father Christmas made a special pitstop to visit our Griffins and what a wonderful event this turned out to be. The sheer delight on the faces of our children filled our hearts with warmth as we looked on at them sharing their wishes and hopes for Christmas. Our EYFS enjoyed a visit from the Vicar which they thoroughly enjoyed. Our annual Proud Tradition of 'A Walk to Church' was enjoyed by our Year 1 and Year 2 Griffins where they displayed respect to all. Christmas Workshops meant lots of creative Christmas craft and of course Christmas Dinner Day allowed for laughter, great food and good company - what more could we ask for?! Finally, our social platforms have been filled with our wonderful Park Lane Advent Calendar... Awaiting the entries is by far an enjoyable 6 o'clock activity for all.

Whilst December has ensured for lots of festive fun, it has faced us with difficult decisions and pressures that we thought were far behind us. Rest assured that none of the decisions made have been easy and we thank our community for their understanding; kindness is and will remain to be key as we continue work together as one.

As 2021 draws to a close, we look forward to a new year with hope, clarity and more so, prosperity. We wish our Park Lane Family the most wonderful Christmas sharing cherished time with their loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you through our gates on 5th January 2022.

Warmest of Wishes,
Alex Ladbury
Head of School



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Key Dates:

Monday 4th January

Teacher Training Day: school closed to all Griffins

Tuesday 5th January

All Griffins return to school

Thursday 13th January

Pantastic Performance (PM)

Monday 17th January

Co-curricular clubs programme begins for all Griffins

Friday 18th February

Last day of half-term

KS1 Church Visit

On Tuesday 14th December, we re-established our much loved Proud Tradition of our annual, festive walk to church. Our Year 1 and Year 2 Griffins walked beautifully to and from the church and, whilst there, enjoyed an interactive retelling of the story of Christmas. Our Griffins thoroughly enjoyed participating with the story and were very proud to show their friends the different figures throughout.

It was a great experience for them to visit a place of worship and they will use this knowledge to make comparisons when studying other places of worship in the future.

What a lovely way to get into the Christmas spirit for us all. Thank you so much to St Pauls Church for the wonderful hospitality!



Early Years Vicar Visit

On Monday 13th December, our Early Year Griffins were treated to a visit from Reverent Kate, the Vicar for St. Paul's Church. Reverend Kate came to tell us a very special story for Christians at this time of year: 'The Story of the Very First Christmas.'

Using beautiful handmade knitted props, Kate retold the journey of Mary and Joseph after being visited by the angel Gabriel, to Bethlehem where a kind innkeeper allowed them to use his stable since the town was full and there... Baby Jesus was born. The children sang Silent Night, a Christmas hymn about the night in which Jesus was born, which they had been practicing to wow Rev. Kate, and they certainly impressed. We concluded with a round of Jingle Bells and thanked Kate for sharing such an important story to remember about Christmas.

Our EYFS Griffins were wonderful throughout - well done!



A Special Visitor...

Father Christmas comes to Park Lane!

Our last week of school before Christmas has been so exciting and has been filled with lots of festive fun... Which was kicked off with a visit from a very special person himself: Father Christmas came to visit our Griffins and lots of excitement was shared!

All the way from the North Pole to visit our Park Lane Griffins, Father Christmas arrived with a sack full of goodies attached to his sleigh. He spent time with each and every Griffin asking the most important question of their wishes for Christmas Day as he had to inform his busy elves back in the North Pole.

As he was leaving, he ensured that our Griffins knew his requests of mince pies and carrots for his big journey.. And of course each of our Griffins received a special gift.

Thank you Father Christmas: we have all been working incredibly hard and hope that we are firmly placed on the Nice List.. Even Mr Skilling!



Early Years Christmas

Workshop

This year for their Christmas workshops, EYFS have been getting into the Christmas spirit through a range of exciting crafts and activities. Nursery started off their day sprinkling reindeer food outside their doors to ensure for a visit from Father Christmas himself over the holidays. The children created Christmas decorations with pinecones, and natural materials to hang on the Christmas tree. Together Nursery and Mini Griffins created melting snowmen through icing biscuits and creating a marshmallow snowman on top, and enjoying these while watching a Christmas movie. Our Mini Griffins created Christmas cards, and Santa faces by lacing string around paper plates.

Reception spent their Christmas workshop making Christmas cards independently, creating trees from triangles, and using finger-paints to create a wintery backdrop and writing their own messages inside. Our Reception Griffins also looked at the changing seasons we have experienced and painted a changing seasons calendar for their grown ups, which they loved. Together we measured, weighed and mixed ingredients to bake festive biscuits for the first time, and iced these ourselves. Reception also took this time to demonstrate their independence and access their own Christmas learning choices, making Christmas lists, completing holiday puzzles, crafting decorations, and watching Father Christmas prepare for his journey from the North Pole.



KS1 Christmas Workshop

Our Year 1 Griffins had lots of fun making wreath Christmas cards for their families. They also enjoyed using finger painting to create seasonal calendars. They also worked hard to create beautiful glittery baubles to decorate their Christmas trees and make snowflakes out of wooden lollipop sticks.

Our Year 2 children made dream catcher calendars: they wove a ring using different coloured wool and hung feathers from it to create a beautiful effect. It was quite tricky to weave their wool but the children showed excellent teamwork and their kindness value to help their friends! They also had lots of fun making their reindeer family Christmas cards using their fingerprints and adding pompoms and goggle eyes.

Well done to both Year 1 and Year 2 Griffins: sounds like you had a fabulous Christmas Workshop!



KS2 Christmas Workshop

In Year 3 we have been getting creative designing our own Christmas cards and have also made a calendar based on the four seasons, decorated a wooden star and made a Christmas wreath. Our Year 4 Griffins used patterned paper to make an abstract Christmas tree card and also celebrated the beauty of the changing seasons in our calendar. Finally, we made stained glass style decorations.

In Year 5 and 6, we designed Grinch cards and candy cane tree decorations. Some of us made calendars using a piece of William Morris art, and some of us designed our very own calendars.

We have each had a lovely day exploring our creativity and getting in the festive spirit.



Christmas Jumper Day



Christmas Dinner Day



Sporting Success

Elf Run

The 1st December marked the very beginning of our Christmas Celebrations: The Elf Run! This was a day where we invited our Griffins into school dressed as elves to participate in a run in an attempt to 'Stay fit and Get 'Elfie!'

What a day it was and as always, our Griffins amazed us with their dedication to not only their fitness but also their costumes!



House Points!

Our Griffins have been working exceptionally hard throughout the Autumn Term to contribute points towards their house.

Our Autumn winners are our Griffins: they each received an 'out of class pass' and enjoyed a Christmas movie and popcorn to commend their hard work!



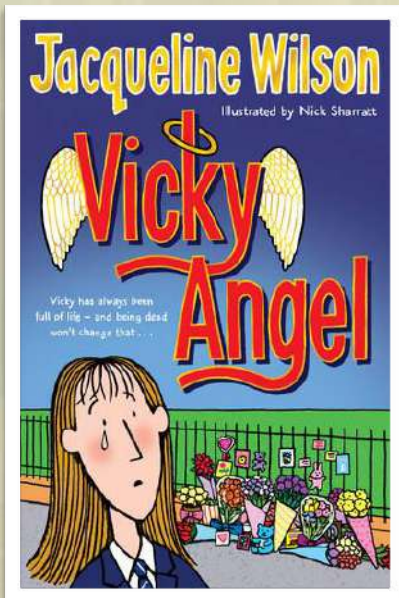
Bravo Basketball-ers!



A huge congratulations to our Boys' Basketball Team for winning 1st and 2nd place at the Nuneaton and Bedworth School Games competition last week. Our boys will now go through to the country finals to represent Nuneaton and Bedworth: a huge well done to you all - you should be incredibly proud of your efforts and success!

Recommended Reads..

By Harvey (4GL)



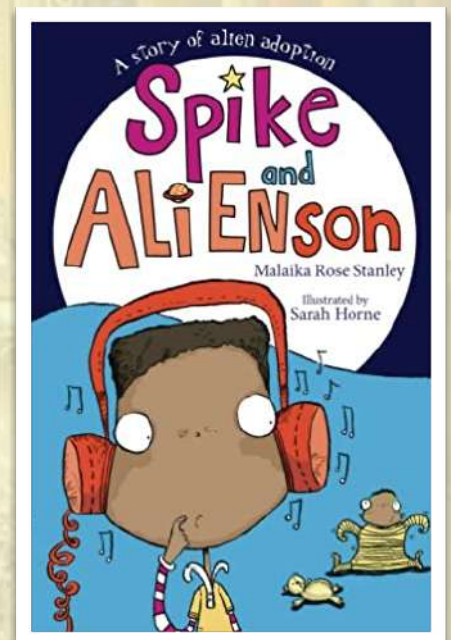
I liked the way that emotions were used in the book and how much speech there was. I loved how long the book was too - it was a really interesting read. The characters were interesting, especially the teachers because they tried to help Jade cope with the friend's death. I did not really like the way Jade did not eat a lot during the book: she said she couldn't swallow and I think she may have needed a bit of help with this.

I would recommend this book to my friends and would score it 7.5 out of a 10 - a definite interesting read for the Christmas holidays.

By Sapphire (6SM)

I like that the book is all about adventure and allows me to use my imagination. My favourite part is when Spike thought the baby (Ali) was gone: it turned out that the twins actually had him all along!

I would recommend this book to someone who likes aliens and adventures.



If anyone from our Community would like to feature in our 'Recommended Reads' section of our Newsletter, please do get in touch via our admin2636@welearn365.com email - we would love to feature your favourite read and why!



Attendance



The winners of the prize for the class with the highest attendance this half term is RJE: they will be awarded their class prize in early January - we will keep details of what they will receive under wraps as a close post-Christmas surprise.

Covid-19 continues to affect our children due to many having to self-isolate this term. Let's hope life will get back to some form of normality soon; but in the meantime, please understand that we must balance the need to keep our school community safe, children's access to learning and compliance with Government guidance when we implement rules around attendance in school. It is not an easy task but we always have the safety, well-being and welfare of our Park Lane Family at the forefront of our minds.

Who will be the winner of our February attendance award?!

Reading Celebration

It's been another busy term of Reading for Pleasure at Park Lane and we have had some fabulous outcomes:

- Mrs Quick's class need a very special mention as they have collaboratively successfully completed 722 100% quizzes this term: what a phenomenal achievement!
- We have had two more children join our 'Word Millionaire's Club': Sandra & Lacey-Jo, both Griffins are in Year 5, amazing!



Poppies

Poppies Café & Meeting Rooms

Park Lane Primary School and Nursery has opened a café designed specifically for the local community... And what a wonderful cafe it is!

Poppies Café & Meeting Rooms, situated in the community hub next to the school, offers a wide selection of hot and cold drinks, delicious, heart-warming food (sweet & savoury) and all in very comfortable, homely surroundings.

As a not-for-profit community project, the prices are very low, and while we may not offer as many flavours as Starbucks, we make a fantastic cappuccino. If you are peckish, you can pick up a bacon roll or a bowl of belly warming soup and a roll for just £1.

Meeting rooms are also available to hire meaning local businesses and community groups have a new place to meet whilst experiencing the magic of Poppies!

We are in the process of organising parent coffee mornings: a place for parents to meet and socialise. If you are interested please send an email to hello@poppiescafe.co.uk for more information.

We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful Community Cafe!

