



Achieving together

Parent Newsletter

Friday 1st November

Dear Parents

I hope that you all had a lovely half term break. The children came back to school ready to share all the fun that they had had over the half term week. Everything from pumpkin picking, to a child in Class one finding a fossil on the beach. I cannot wait until he brings it in for show and tell.

On Wednesday, we had a visit from the Air Ambulance Team. What was wonderful about this assembly was when two of our pupils (from Class 1 and Class 3) stood up in front of the rest of the school and described when one of them had been kicked by a horse and the Air Ambulance Team had arrived to help. The children learnt so much about the role of the Air Ambulance Team and how they are there to support us if there is an emergency .

There is such a lot going on this half term that we want to make sure parents get lots of notice for so please check out the additional box below about the activities on the run up to Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the parents' survey. Of the many response we had I have produced a short summary below and an explanation of how we are addressing your comments.

Wow!!! Thank you so much for your generous donations for children in need. This amount has been raised in just 48 hours.

Kindest regards, Miss Wills

Dates for your diary

November

- 5th – Flu immunisations, special bonfire menu
- 15th – Children in Need, dress in yellow
- 29th – PTA Disco (after school, time TBC by the PTA)

December

- 5th – Whole school pantomime trip
- 11th – Class 1 and 2 nativity performance 5pm
- 12th – Christmas dinner/Christmas jumper day
- 12th - KS2 Carol Concert 6pm
- 16th – Class 1 & 2 Crafts 2pm
- 17th – Class 3 & 4 Crafts 2pm
- 19th – Celebration Assembly 9am
- 19th – Last day of term (school closed on Friday 20th December)

January

- 6th January – First day of term
- 20th-23rd – Bikeability for Class 4
- 29th – Young Voices



Forest School

This afternoon, Class 3 has been in the forest doing some weaving with sticks and wool.



Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who has registered their child/ren for runPudsey on 15th November.

We have already raised an amazing

£545.70



Griffydam Primary School November



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CAN YOU GET ANY CLOSER?

The closer you park, the more you risk.

No parking near school gates. No excuses.

LEICESTER • LEICESTERSHIRE • RUTLAND
ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Thank you to everyone who always parks well at Griffydam. Please could I politely remind parents that only authorised cars are allowed on site during the school day.

Skipping

The children in Key Stage 2 are really enjoying using the skipping ropes at break times following on from a recent PE lesson. One child in Year 3 can amazingly do 52 skips in a row and another child in Year 6 has managed a spectacular 100. It would be great to find out if any members of staff could beat that score.



Asda Cashpot

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

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Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the parents survey before half term. We read and took on board all of your comments. Here are a few of them and also what we are doing to try to improve our communication. You were asked

How would you like communication to improve ?

What would you like more communication about ?

How we could improve

I think that you have everything covered.

The office is brilliant at keeping on top of things.

Times for events put onto the newsletter. These have now been added where they are before or after school

More notice for assemblies for working parents. Celebration Assemblies are held on the last day of each half term. This has also been added to the Calander on the front page of the newsletter.

More information about the current topics that the children are learning about. We did put a little bit about this on the class letters and we are updating the website so that this information is easier to find

Updating the school website. We are working on this.

More information about what children are learning about during each term. We are in the process of updating our website to show this

My family have been made to feel extremely welcome at the school, by staff and parents.

More feedback about what children have forgotten. Rather than this being via the children. Eg PE kit. We will send home PE kit notes going forward

Everything is great

Being new to the school, I find the communication so far outstanding

Children changing their reading book. We have allocated staff meeting time to see how we can improve this across the school

Would like to know more before the children transition to their next class. We will aim to send the class letters out earlier with more information about the changes and the topics being taught.

Important dates like the Christmas Nativity shared earlier. This is on the diary section of the first page, but we will try to send these dates sooner.

More notice for trips that will cost so that I can budget for them. A really good point and we will try to let you know about these trips sooner.

Increase social media. We going back the old Twitter Feed X

Less messages. Some weeks we have too many.

I think that staff and saying goodbye to the children and parents at the end of the day is wonderful

More communication about homework. Please see the box below about homework expectations. Please let the class teacher know at the end of they day if there are specific issues.

Communication is already brilliant.

More reminders about homework and sporting competitions.

An online school diary. We do have a Calander online but are in the process of updating this to a diary style

It would be good to see more about what they have been doing in class. We have added to the newsletter a year group section with photos and information about what they are doing in class.

Class 1

It was lovely to celebrate the achievements of class 1 today in the Celebrations Assembly. All of the staff are extremely pleased with each and everyone of them.



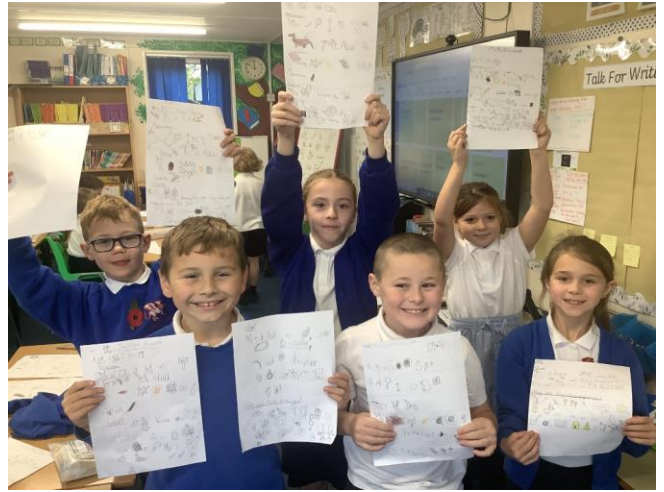
Class 2

Class 2 have had a fabulous first week back. Year 1 have learnt the new sounds 'ow' and 'ew' in phonics and year 2 have learnt the suffix 'ing'. In science we have started to learn about what a human needs to be healthy and in our topic we have completed timelines of the explorer Neil Armstrong. On Friday we celebrated Diwali by learning the story of Rama and Sita, we learnt about traditions and decorated our own Diya Lamps.

Class 3

This week we have started our new Talk for Writing Unit, based around 'The Storm Unicorn'.

We spent time in our Literacy lessons creating our own story maps to support with learning the text. The children shared some great ideas of how to record the key parts of the text in a memorable way!



The children are looking forward to bringing their story maps home to show you how brilliantly they know 'The Storm Unicorn'.

Class 4

Class 4 has been thinking about sensibly about how they can play together at break and lunchtimes. They have chosen equipment with their friends and really enjoyed taking part in a range of sports and activities.

In Art, we have been learning about Abstract Art. We have been looking at line, shape and colour that is part of Abstract Art.

We have been using viewfinders to recreate parts of Abstract pictures.



Celebration Assembly

This morning, we had our first half term Celebration Assembly. It was amazing to see the achievements of so many of our pupils. We celebrated swimming, martial arts, gymnastics, cross-country and tag rugby, as well as celebrating Griffydam School Visions through the actions of our fantastic pupils.



Staff in Forest School!

On the Inset day before half term, teachers had an exciting day in the forest learning all about Forest School. We made flowers out of branches using knives, we made faces out of clay that are still in the forest and some of us even had a rest in a hammock! We had lunch that was warmed up using the fire that was made, and ended the day making smores!

