

Dear Griffin Parents/ Carers

I hope you all received our 'pre-term' email last week confirming the start of term arrangements and sharing the joy that we're all back and the world is slowly (but surely, we hope) opening. It seems like ages since our doors, gates and classrooms were open and full of joy, laughter and learning but today we are back.....!

It was just wonderful to see everyone again and to start to think about all the great things we have in store this academic year and we hope it will be a year of 'on-site' learning for us all!

I am so glad that we have a great Team of Leaders at Griffin this year:

Louise Black - Deputy Head - has increased her working days and she will be working Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She will be leading our Arts, our Curriculum and developing our **Forest Learning** (hurray) and most importantly she will be working with and leading our Nursery & Reception and Key Stage 1 Team. Louise can be contacted by email on lblack@griffinprimary.org

Carly Doyle - Deputy Head - will also be with us for 4 days a week this year: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Carly will lead on everything to do with tests, assessment and progress as well as English and Maths. I know she is super excited about developing our new Library in the coming months too. Carly has the privilege of leading all of our Key Stage 2 classes (Y3 - Y6). Carly can be contacted by email on cdoyle@griffinprimary.org

We are delighted that the lovely Nicolle Atkin will continue full time as our SENDCo and as a key member of our Leadership Group. Nicolle will be onsite every day and ready and able to help with any questions you may have.

I will be at Griffin every Tuesday & Friday and hope to spend some additional time with everyone this year too.

As well as being the Y2 Class teacher, Jodie Wallbank will lead our Maths Teaching & Learning, working closely with Carly and supporting students and staff across the school.

We are also really pleased to introduce Angela Boyce. Angela will join our Support Team as an Outreach Services & Community Leader. This is a new role at Griffin, created to support our families. Angela will be working with LG to track and improve Attendance and she will be a DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead). I know she will create lots of opportunities to introduce herself but please remember she is here to work in partnership with our families, to support and ensure all of our students are safe, happy and learning as best they can. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Angela.

We are beginning our **Griffin Year of Change!**

Please check out our website for our Medium Term Curriculum overall plans to see what we have planned for the next half term. We have a focus of **Who We Are**. We will continue our **Inside Out Learning** and enjoy the learning challenges that our linked learning can offer. Of course, we'll be in our Forest in the City tracking the changes that the seasons will bring and look out for information about our official opening - we hope many of you will be able to share this special occasion with us!

We will also be working with Greenside to teach the world a new dance that will also be learnt by students across the world. We aim to come together on Friday 22nd October to perform, together, our very special **Dance to Welcome Little Amal** (see calendar).

The Arts and sports and high on our agenda this year. Our choir is set to continue with some wonderful songs and we will be inviting students across the year groups to gain an Arts Award - we are super excited to introduce our students to these opportunities. As for sports - well Ms Doyle is always challenging other schools in the Elliot Foundation saying Griffin has the 'best' sports people' so we are determined to show our talents this year and now that competitive sport is back we look forward to winning some new silverware. We will also bring back the Griffin Daily Mile - a great favourite with our students and staff - we'll be back in training from 3rd September and getting fitter than ever - go Griffin!

Our Teachers were so excited to meet their new classes and we were especially thrilled to welcome our new Nursery and Reception families as well as a couple of young people and their parents/ carers who have joined our Y1 - Y6 classes. Welcome to Griffin!

We really hope we can get our PTA up and running again this year and we look forward to involving our families in our learning asap.

1. Griffin Calendar

I have included an autumn term Family Calendar below - we are still in the process of confirming 'public' events - please assume they will take place but be ready for possible Covid-related changes/ postponement if things change locally or nationally.

Meet my Teacher: Our 1st back on track occasions are next week - Wednesday (8th Sept - Y1 & Y2 and Y3 & Y4) and Thursday (9th Sept - Y5 & Y6) when you are all invited to come along for around half an hour at 3.45pm to meet your daughter/ son's new Teacher and to hear about their planned year ahead. This is an informal occasion but an important starting point for the year and especially significant as our parents/ carers and Teachers have not had a chance to meet and talk in person for so long! Y1 & Y2 will meet in an outside space coming in through the main Stewarts Road entrance. Y3 & Y4, Y5 & Y6 will meet in the main KS2 playground.

A couple of early 'big events' to 'save the date' for:

a) **The Griffin Year Ahead - Workshop for all families (N-Y6) - Friday 10th September.**

Carly, Louise & I would like as many parents/ carers as possible to pop in and meet us for about 45 minutes at 9.00am. We will update you about the year ahead at Griffin and to have an opportunity to answer any questions you may have about our curriculum model and all the exciting things ahead this year.

b) Friday 17th September will be our official opening of our Forest School - more details to follow!

c) On Friday 22nd October when we will be working with Griffin to lead an International **Dance to Welcome Little Amal** to London - we can't wait to share this with you.

2. Attendance

Please ensure your daughter/ son attends Griffin everyday unless they are really too unwell to do so.

We are always pleased to see students a little later in the day if they feel better (we know how precarious little ones can be in the morning and then they are fine!)

We ask that you keep an eye on the Government's guidance re: Covid rules and follow this strictly.

Please see our term dates below - we ask that you don't book any holidays/ travel or other appointments during term time - we want our students with us every day!

3. Little Amal - 'Happy Birthday' Loose Change Box!

Over the last couple of years, some of our lovely Griffin students and families have been really kind; making a money box and collecting loose change over the autumn term 1.

This year the challenge to our students is to make a box/ container of any kind to celebrate her 10th birthday (at the end of October). We are asking them to make this at home and to be as creative as possible.

If you have more than one Griffin daughter/ son, it would, of course, be great to make it together.

We would then ask each family in Nursery to Y6 to collect any loose change they could donate to charity across September & October in this 'Happy Birthday' box and then bring it in at the end of the half term. We will be able to share pictures of the boxes with Little Amal when she arrives in London as a special treat.

If it is tricky to make a box at home please let me know and we will create time to help your daughter/ son make it during the school Day. Thank you in advance!

4. Getting back on Track! Key Spellings and Times Tables

After a long summer we know many of our students will be 'rusty' on some academic skills. We ask that especially over autumn term 1 you support them at home as follows:

- a) Reading - students should read to you each evening and as soon as they are independent spend a little time before bed reading independently. It is also great if you can read to them each week when you have a little more time - this can be a 'harder' book than they can manage alone (time to share some of those books you loved as a child!)
- b) Handwriting - this too is likely to need some early practice. We are supporting all students from Y1 to be forming their letters according to the Nelson patterns and helping them join their letters asap. Please check in with your daughter/ son's Teacher for guidance. Half an hour a week at home (in 10 minutes chunks) can make a huge difference - thank you!
- c) Please see our Spelling lists for Y1&Y2, Y3&Y4 and Y5&Y6 (on our website) - these are words that the DfE expects students to know during the named years. If you are able to work on these at odd moments at home too that will definitely help with their memory of these words.
- d) Let us not forget those times tables! There is an expectation that students have a fast recall of all tables up to 12 by the end of Y4. They are fun to rehearse and there are some fab songs to help too. Our students can be times table rockstars very quickly - they just need time to learn them - any help at home would be great!

5. Lunch Arrangements

"A reminder that universal free school meals are for our Reception, Y1 and Y2 students. All other students (including Nursery) will need to purchase a meal each day or bring a packed lunch. Meals must be purchased in advance and students need to remain on the same meal pattern for a whole half term. This means the kitchen is able to order and cook the right amount of food each week and day.

Most importantly, if you believe you may be entitled to FSM please contact Maggie or Alison in the office: admin@griffinprimary.org asap and they will help you with an application. This is important even if your daughter/ son is in Reception, Y1 and Y2 - it will ensure you receive holiday vouchers and other benefits linked to this status. If in doubt please check!"

6. Bikes & Scooters

Bikes and scooters may now be brought on site. They must be left in the designated areas. Please note e-scooters should not be brought into Griffin at any time by students or adults.

7. PE Days - Autumn Term 2021

Our Class Teachers will confirm the PE days next week.

8. Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

We are hoping that our breakfast club (Y1 to Y6) will begin on Monday 13th September. Please contact the school office if you are keen to sign your child up for this.

We are putting together a schedule for after school clubs so please look out for information next week.

9. Griffin Calendar - Autumn term '21

GRIFFIN Family Calendar 2021-2022		
Please note in the current Covid climate, all dates are subject to change at short notice		
Autumn Term 1		
Week 1		
Wed 1 st Sept & Thurs 2 nd Sept	All Day	Staff CPD Days – Griffin closed to students
Friday 3 rd September	8.55am	Y1 – Y6 students return to Griffin
Friday 3 rd September	PM	Letter Home from KBS & LG
Week 2		
Wednesday 8 th September	3.45pm	Meet my Teacher: Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y4
Thursday 9 th September	3.45pm	Meet my Teacher: Y5 and Y6
Friday 10 th September	9.00am	The Griffin Year Ahead – Workshop for all Families (N-Y6)
Friday 10 th September	3.30pm	Class Newsletters - emailed home
Week 3		
Friday 17 th September	All Day	Official opening of our Forest in the City
Week 4		
Tuesday 21 st September	All Day	Non-uniform Day – Donation for charity
Tuesday 21 st September	PM	International Peace Day – Family Workshop
Thursday 23 rd September	AM	Y6 – Wandsworth Tests
Friday 24 th September	9.00am	Parent/ Carer Workshop - EYFS - Nursery & Reception Families

Friday 24th September	3.30pm	LG Newsletter - emailed home
Week 5		
All Week	Various	Loose change collection for Good Chance
Tuesday 28 th September	AM	Y6 Greenside & Griffin Shared Writing session
Thursday 30th September	3.45pm	Y6 Secondary Transfer Briefing
Friday 1 st October	All Day	Student Trip to Houses of Parliament – Letters – Little Amal (TBC)
Week 6		
Monday 4th October	9.00am	Y1 Assembly for Families
Monday 4th October	3.00pm	Y2 Assembly for Families
Tuesday 5th October	9.00am	Y3 Assembly for Families
Tuesday 5th October	3.00pm	Y4 Assembly for Families
Wednesday 6th October	9.00am	Nursery & Reception Assembly for Families
Wednesday 6 th October	3.00pm	Y6 Assembly for Families
Thursday 7th October	9.00am	Y5 Assembly for Families (Polar Bears)
Thursday 7th October	3.00pm	Y5 Assembly for Families (Pandas)
Week 7		
All Week	Various	Data Capture 1 – Tests & Assessments
Friday 15 th October	9.00am	Parent/ Carer English & Maths Workshop
Friday 15th October	3.30pm	LG Newsletter - emailed home
Week 8		
Friday 22 nd October	All Day	Griffin - <i>Dance to Welcome Little Amal!</i>
Friday 22nd October	All Day	Students bring in Little Amal 'Happy Birthday' Loose Change Box
Friday 22nd October	3.30pm	Class Newsletters - emailed home
Friday 22 nd October	3.30pm	Half Term holiday begins!
Autumn Term 2		
Week 1		
Monday 1 st November	8.55am	Students return to Griffin

10. Term Dates - 2021-2022



Greenside & Griffin Term Dates 2021 - 2022

- Please note in the current Covid climate, all dates are subject to change at short notice

Autumn Term '21

(Wednesday 1st September and Thursday 2nd September 2021 x2 CPD Days)

Students return **Friday 3rd September 2021** (This may vary for New Nursery & Reception students)

Half term Monday 25th – Friday 29th October

Final day of term Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term '22

Students return Tuesday 4th January 2022

Half Term Monday 14th – Friday 18th Feb

Final day of term Friday 1st April 2022

Summer Term '22

Students return Tuesday 19th April 2022

Half term – Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June

Final Day of academic year Friday 22nd July 2022

Greenside & Griffin closed to students:

Public Holiday - Monday 2nd May - Early May bank holiday

CPD Days x2 - Wednesday 1st September '21, Thursday 2nd September '21

CPD Day x1 TEF - Friday 27th May '22

CPD Days x2 - Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th June '22

Have a lovely weekend, keep in touch and we will see you all, in person, next week!

Best wishes

Karen

Karen Bastick-Styles (Executive Head)