



GRIFFIN NEWSLETTER



Friday 19th November 2021

Dear Griffin Parents/ Carers

Welcome to another of our Griffin Newsletters!

We have information to share today that we hope will update you on events happening at Griffin over the rest of this half term. We have had an exciting three weeks - with lots of new learning, new ideas and new concepts. It has been fun hearing so much music around Griffin too, from drumming sessions, our steel pan after school club and, of course, the lovely choir. I am delighted that so many of our students are so actively engaged with their learning at the moment and joining in lots of different things.

Do check out, below, the Nativity performance date & time (Tuesday 14th Dec - 9.15am) and our Family Sharing for Y1-Y6 - 9.15am on Friday 17th December - definitely dates for your December Calendar - see you there!

Congratulations to our Lemur class again this week who proudly enjoyed lunch at the 'top table' with juice and the knowledge that the whole class had achieved 100% attendance again - Go Griffin Lemurs!

- Do remember that at the start of each half term we publish our Medium Term Plans for each class on our website. This allows our parents/ carers to see the concepts being covered in class and helps you to talk about the learning at home.
- As I write, it is **Children in Need** day & our students are marking the day with PJs and bears - thank you for your support!

1. The Year of Change!

Our students have been exploring big questions in their ICB and Inside Out Fridays, always linking back to how we all manage change successfully and how society has changed over time. This has allowed rich learning about History from different periods as well as helping students to understand the big History Timeline.

2. Community Council

Thank you so much to all those parents/ carers who checked in with me about being a Community Council member - we had 3 people who were nominated by our deadline. Our members will be: Hibo Mohamud (Aisha - Reception, Iqra - Y4 & Ilyas - Y6), Claire Isaacs (Sophie - Y2) & Rihab Eldaw (Mohamed - Y2 & Salma - Y5). We are looking forward to our 1st meeting on Tuesday 30th November when our parents/ carers will work with Jodie Wallbank and Michael Downey, 2 student representatives, Jem Shuttleworth from the Elliot Foundation and our Leadership Group to start learning more about Griffin and being part of our ever improving journey.

3. Griffin Christmas Card 2021

We would love entries for our Griffin Christmas Card competition 2021. We need a front of card design only - A4 using any materials (with a recycling feel, if possible). Designs should be given to KBS by the end of Tuesday 30th November - these designs are exclusively for home learning so thank you for your help! Entries are welcome from Nursery to Y6 and students are very welcome to make a family card together too. If we have students who wish to write a poem/ message for inside our Griffin Christmas card 2021 that would be great.

4. Little Amal - the end of the journey

On Wednesday 3rd November, Little Amal arrived in Manchester - I had the pleasure of travelling to the city that evening for the final walk. As she approached the Castlefield Bowl her anticipation was mixed with the joy of the dance and singing along the walk from many local arts groups represented by huge paper birds. That week Griffin also celebrated and said 'thank you & goodbye' to Little Amal by creating their own birds - a beautiful array of colour! Sadly Little Amal did not meet her Mother and remains an unaccompanied young person in the UK. Her sadness is managed by the incredible welcome she received in most cities and countries en route from Turkey to England and her final message is one of hope for the future. If Europe has welcomed Little Amal as a symbol of refugees then there is, surely, hope for future generations.

After Manchester she travelled to COP26 and this week briefly visited the Hague - a place symbolic of political peace. Her next journey and future is yet to be created but so far our students have learnt lots and showed such kindness.



5. Parents Evenings

A reminder: please make sure you have booked a time to meet your daughter/ son's Class Teacher next week.

Monday 22nd November: 3.45pm + (Nursery to Y6)

Tuesday 23rd November: 3.45pm + (Nursery to Y6)

We do expect every family to meet next week - if you are unable to make one of our allocated evening slots please contact your Class Teacher(s) to schedule a mutually convenient time asap.

We hope you have productive sessions - please come with your questions!

6. Open Mornings

This year we are holding a couple of 'big' tours and visits to Griffin for prospective families. Primarily these will be aimed at parents/ carers with Nursery & Reception students ready to start in September 2022. However, we have space in some of our other year groups so we will be welcoming those looking for places in Griffin across the year groups.

Please.... help us to advertise, tell all your family, friends and share the dates with everyone in our local community. You and your daughters/ sons are our greatest selling point and our best adverts for Griffin so please spread the word.

Visits and tours will take place on Friday 26th November at 9.30am and Friday 3rd December at 9.30am.

Help us fill Griffin with new families!

7. Griffin Dates, Events & Class Trips

We are so happy we can get out and about in London on some fairly local trips now. We are being as Covid safe as possible but manabgung to enrich the lives of our students with some visits to exciting places!

- **Friday 3rd December:** Y2 Visit to the Museum of London
- **Friday 3rd December:** Y3 visit to Battersea Park
- **Wednesday 8th December:** Y1 & Y2 Shared Event with Greenside students
- **Thursday 9th December:** Y4 visit to the British Museum
- **Friday 10th December:** Winter Jumper Day
- **Tuesday 14th December - 9.15am** - Nativity - performed for our Nursery & Reception Families!
- **Tuesday 14th December:** Griffin Christmas Lunch
- **Friday 17th December:** 9.15am - Y1 - Y6 Family Sharing - parents/ carers invited!
- **Friday 17th December:** Class video Newsletters sent home
- **Friday 17th December:** 3.30pm - Christmas holidays begin

- **Wednesday 5th January:** 8.55am - Students & Staff return to Griffin for the new term.

8. Y4 Multiplication Check

Over the last couple of years, the Government & DfE have introduced a Y4 Multiplication Check for all students across the country to be taken in June of that academic year. It has been a pilot project so far because of Covid, but this year it will be part of our Y4 assessment schedule. Y4 parents/ carers, please check out the link below for information and do ask any questions you may have to Micahel Downey at Parents Evening meeting next week.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dAz2Z4VuaL9nHEbiUoh8trhD-6NNpRmK/view?usp=sharing>

9. Dreaming!

Finally from me today our lovely Luna proudly shared the message on her non-uniform top this morning - let's all keep dreaming with her!



Best wishes
Karen

Karen Bastick-Styles (Executive Head - Greenside & Griffin)
Griffin - a Federation with Greenside and part of TEFAT.

A Message from Ms. Black

4 things from me this time...

1. Power to Connect - Digital Skills Coffee Morning, Thursday 25th November at 9.00am

We are very lucky to host Power to Connect, who supported us with computers through lockdown. They are coming in to run a Digital Skills workshop for families. You are welcome to bring in your own device from home. We will also have some Chromebooks for you to use. Please sign up by emailing admin@griffinprimary.org or ringing the school office. Leaflet has been sent out.

2. Parent View

We absolutely love working with our school community and are really enjoying being able to invite you into the building again. Covid lockdowns meant we had to find new ways to connect with families (one positive!) and we hope it has supported you all to realise just how much we do in school - and how great a school Griffin is! As always, please come and see us with any questions or queries you may have. We are happy to help!

In the meantime, please do fill out Ofsted's Parent View here: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> and share your positive comments.

It really does help them to make their judgement and we really do want to showcase just how **Good** we are, when they next pay us a visit!

3. After School Clubs

We still have some spaces in some of our clubs for next half term. They are up and running and are really great! It's wonderful to have the sound of steel pans filling the corridors again. Ms Zaborska is well on her way to becoming a Level 3 Forest School teacher, and has loads of exciting things planned.

The clubs run from the end of the school day, until 4.30pm. The cost is £2 per session. This money covers the additional resources needed, and supports us to pay Dan Monte, our new music teacher.

Key Stage 2 Steel Pans - 4 spaces

Y5 & Y6 - Forest School - 3 spaces

Both clubs are brilliant - please email admin@griffinprimary.org if you would like a space!

4. Nine Elms Advent Window Trail

We have secured a high profile spot for our Advent Window this year - the new Nine Elms tube station! We are so excited to be

working with a landscape gardener, New Covent Garden Market and local artist, Luke Walker, to create this year's installation. Our spotlight day for our 'opening' is 7th December. Look out for more information on our Social Media pages. This year, there will be two walking routes to see all the 'windows'. It is a lovely, free community event and we are so pleased to be involved again this year.

Thank you, Louise

A Message from Ms. Doyle

Data Capture (Assessment)

In the week beginning Monday 29th November, students in Y2 - Year 6 will be given the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned this year when they complete tests in reading and maths. The results of these tests will support teachers to assess student knowledge but will also inform their planning for next half term. There will be no pressure; regular testing is part of the learning experience, supporting our students to become Test Ready. Your children just need to give their best, as they do in lessons each day. Our youngest students in EYFS and Y1 will be assessed by teachers based on observations and outcomes in lessons.

Fundraising for Griffin

Earn money for Griffin whenever you shop online by clicking on this link:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/griffinprimaryschool/

It doesn't cost you anything and could make a real difference to us. Thank you for your support.



A Message from Ms Atkin

With parents evening happening next week you will be finding out more about how your child or children are doing at school. If you have any follow up questions or want to discuss your daughter/ son's needs further I will be on site on both evenings or you can email me at natkin@griffinprimary.org to arrange a meeting.

Ms Nicolle Atkin (SENDCo)