



Griffin Gazette

Friday 2nd May '25



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a busy and exciting time at Griffin Primary! Our pupils have enjoyed a wide variety of trips that have broadened their learning experiences, and they have proudly represented the school in several sports tournaments. A special highlight was our **VE Day celebrations**, where the whole school came together for a vibrant street party—thank you to everyone who made it such a memorable event. Attendance remains a key focus for us. Our current attendance rate is 91.2%, and we are aiming to reach 96%. At present, **we rank 59th out of 61** schools in Wandsworth for attendance. We need your continued support to help us improve—every day in school really does make a difference. To encourage better attendance, we've introduced a new incentive: each week, all pupils who achieve 100% attendance will be entered into a **prize draw for a £10 gift voucher!** We've also celebrated Year 4 managing 95% attendance this week! Please also look out for information on signing up for the Community Council below, and make a note of the key dates for the summer term. We have lots to look forward to over the coming months. Your involvement and support make a real difference to our school community. On that note, we are excited to **launch our collaboration with HandsOn London**, who will be bringing over 50 volunteers to our site every month. We look forward to their work on our grounds and forest school! Thank you for your continued commitment to Griffin Primary.

Mr. Jack Taylor, Principal

This half term, our Nursery and Reception children are exploring a vibrant curriculum focused on nature and growth. In Personal, Social and Emotional Development, they're building confidence and independence—Reception is practising the 'Doing Turtle' strategy for big emotions, while Nursery focuses on self-care and routines. Communication and Language is blooming with rich vocabulary around animals, plants, and life cycles. Physical Development includes daily sensory circuits and activities like hopping, cutting, and mark making to strengthen motor skills. In Literacy, children enjoy books about life cycles and gardening—Nursery through rhymes and sound play, Reception via the Little Wandle Phonics scheme. Maths comes alive with hands-on activities exploring number patterns and shapes. In Understanding the World, children investigate how butterflies grow, sunflowers bloom, and pollination works. Creative expression thrives through role play and art using varied materials. [It's a joyful season of discovery and development for our youngest learners.](#)



EYFS



Year 1



Year 1 will enjoy a fantastic Spring term full of creativity, curiosity and growing confidence! In Literacy, they will explore non-fiction writing through One Day on Our Blue Planet, creating brilliant lion fact files. Laughter will follow as The Queen's Knickers inspires story rewrites and introduces prefixes like "un" to change meanings. In Phonics, children will work hard with Little Wandle to prepare for the Phonics Screening Check, practising decoding real and alien words. In Maths, they'll count in 2s, 5s and 10s, explore multiplication, division, and place value to 100, while solving real-life money problems. In Science, pupils will learn about animals, diets, and classification. History lessons will explore the lives of Queen Elizabeth I and II. Art will involve sculpture, PE will focus on racket skills, and RE will highlight kindness in the Prophet Muhammad's life. [Please see more here!](#)

Year 2



Year 2 will burst with creativity and curiosity this half term! In Literacy, pupils will be inspired by *The Secret of Black Rock* to write imaginative stories of adventure, courage and friendship, exploring magical worlds beneath the waves and in nature. Reading fluency will grow through the Little Wandle programme. In Maths, children will explore fractions and time using practical activities and visual models—finding halves, quarters and thirds, and reading both analogue and digital clocks. In Science, pupils will investigate Living Things and Their Habitats, learning how animals and plants depend on their environments. History lessons will uncover how South London has changed since the Industrial Revolution, using maps and artefacts to bring the past to life. Art will involve sculpture inspired by Rachel Whiteread, while PE will develop cricket skills. In PSHE and RE, children will reflect on healthy lifestyles, strong relationships, kindness and respect. [Read more here!](#)



This half term, Year 3 pupils will travel through time, explore science, and tap into their creativity. In Literacy, they will read *We Are Water Protectors* and use it to write informative posters and texts while refining their tense usage. Reading will be supported by the Little Wandle Fluency programme, with texts about seas, oceans, and environmental themes. In Maths, pupils will compare and calculate with fractions and develop their understanding of pounds and pence. Science will focus on light—how it travels, reflects, and forms shadows. In History, they will explore Ancient Egypt, learning about pyramids, pharaohs, gods, and the Nile. Art lessons will involve experimenting with paper sculpture, while Computing will introduce digital media production through video and image editing. In RE, pupils will explore Hindu deities and different understandings of God in Sanātana Dharma. PSHE will build positive relationships, and PE will develop cricket skills, teamwork, and coordination. A fantastic term awaits, [please see more here.](#)



Year 3



Year 4



This term, Year 4 pupils at Griffin Primary will explore *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman, developing adventure narratives and persuasive writing. In Reading, they'll enhance comprehension skills and enjoy poetry from *Marshmallow Clouds*. Maths lessons will cover decimals, money, and time, while Science will focus on states of matter and the water cycle. In History, pupils will learn about Roman Britain and its lasting impact. Art will involve sculpture inspired by Alberto Giacometti, and PSHE will focus on positive relationships. PE will develop cricket skills, and in Music, pupils will study motifs and composition. [Read all about it here.](#)



In Summer 1, Year 5 pupils at Griffin Primary delve into Harry Potter-themed literacy, exploring persuasive writing, character analysis, and advanced grammar. In reading, they will conclude *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, focusing on character comparison and literary techniques. Maths lessons will cover shapes, angles, coordinates, decimals, negative numbers, and unit conversions. In science, pupils will investigate material properties like conductivity and solubility through experiments. History lessons will explore the ancient Maya civilisation, including their governance, religion, and trade. In art, pupils will create Maya-inspired clay masks. PSHE will focus on relationships and digital safety, including online communities and technology habits. Computing will introduce programming with the Crumble controller. In RE, pupils will study Islamic beliefs about the afterlife. PE will develop cricket skills, and music lessons will focus on musical theatre, linking to English by creating a Harry Potter-themed performance. [Find out more here.](#)



Year 5



Year 6



In Summer 1, Year 6 pupils at Griffin Primary will study *Rose Blanche* by Roberto Innocenti in English, exploring themes of kindness, bravery, and war while writing reflective flashback stories. Reading will focus on comprehension and SATs practice. In Maths, pupils will learn about angles in shapes and revise key topics for SATs. Science lessons will cover evolution, inheritance, and how species adapt. In History, pupils will explore London during World War II, focusing on the Blitz's impact and the city's resilience. Art lessons will involve creating personal sculptures inspired by artists like Judith Scott, reflecting identity through mixed media. PSHE will address mental health, resilience, and emotional well-being, while RE will discuss how humanist role models inspire modern values. In PE, pupils will develop cricket skills, including batting, bowling, and teamwork. [More details here.](#)



Summer Term - Key Dates

Oracy Day - 21st May

CPD Day - 23rd May CANCELLED. School open.

Performance Poetry Week - 16th June

International Day – 20th June

Reports Sent – 23rd June

Parent Teacher Conferences – w/b 23rd June

Transition Day – 1st July

Year 6 Production – 16th July

Reception Graduation – 17th July

Sports Day – 11th July (*18th July backup date*)

Year 6 Leavers Assembly – 21st July at 2:30pm

EYFS Sports Day – 10th July 9:30am - 11am



Griffin Community Council

Over the coming term, we are looking to relaunch our Community Council!

What is a Community Council?

In summary, a Community Council is a group of 9 volunteers, made up of parents, staff and community representatives, who meet 4 times a year to focus on things that are unique to our school, such as the context of the local community and how the school's curriculum can best meet the needs of our pupils.

What skills / experience do I need for the role?

No special qualifications are needed for the role and training is available for members, including a full induction. We are, however, looking for parents / carers who have:

- A strong commitment to maximising the potential of all our pupils;
- Good interpersonal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills' and
- Are fully committed to the continuing success of Griffin.

Want more information? [Add your email address here.](#)

Please don't worry, this is not committing you to anything!