



Griffin Gazette

Friday 19th December 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Autumn term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderfully busy and joyful few weeks at Griffin Primary, full of celebration, creativity and community spirit.

Our term ended on a real high with the **Winter Fair**, which was a great success. As the first event of this kind at Griffin in several years, it was fantastic to see our school buzzing with families, laughter and festive cheer. **We are incredibly grateful to our PTA for all of the time, care and hard work they put into organising the event, and we are excited that this marks the beginning of many more events to come for our school community.**

We have also been treated to some truly special performances. **The EYFS Nativity was a delight, and our whole school Christmas Concert was amazing.** Watching so many children take part with confidence, enthusiasm and pride was a real highlight and a wonderful reminder of the talent and togetherness within our school community.

Beyond our celebrations, learning has continued to thrive. **Year 2 and Year 3 enjoyed a memorable trip to the Polka Theatre, and Year 6 had a visit to the Jurassic World Experience at Battersea Power Station, with some pupils describing it as the 'best trip they've ever been on!'** Experiences like these bring learning to life and create lasting memories for our children, and we hope to bring you many more in the new year!

As we look ahead to the new year, we would like to remind families to please sign up to our Arbor Parent Portal if you have not already done so. This will be the only way to select after-school clubs in the new year, and we want to ensure everyone can access these opportunities smoothly. The information letter for the parent hub is in **English here, Pashto and Somali.** You can access the Parent portal **here.**

That just leaves us to thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We wish all of our children and families a fantastic and wonderful Winter break, filled with rest, happiness and special moments together and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year!

Kind regards,
Jack Taylor, Principal



We've been having a wonderfully festive time celebrating Christmas in class! The children enjoyed writing their wish lists for Santa, getting creative with free painting on foil, and exploring ice through hands-on activities. We've also been busy making combinations of patterns, recapping our shapes and prepositions, and practising reading CVC words as our confidence continues to grow. A real highlight was rehearsing for our Nativity, and the children looked absolutely fantastic during the real show and made us all so proud.

EYFS



Year 1



Over the past two weeks, the children have completed their final piece of narrative writing by rewriting the story of Traction Man, using time adverbials to help structure their ideas and sequence events clearly. In maths, they have continued to develop their understanding of place value to 20. In science, the children finished their learning about the seasons, before moving on to weather in geography. We also shared a festive lunch together, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. This week we say goodbye to Miss Bulent, our student teacher, whom the children have grown extremely fond of during her time at Griffin, and we wish her the very best of luck in her next placement. We would like to wish all our families a wonderful two-week break and we look forward to hearing all about it from the children when we return in January.



Year 2 & Year 3

Year 2 and 3 had a wonderful trip to the Polka Theatre. The children were amazing, worked incredibly hard all term, and we are so proud. Enjoy a well-deserved holiday!



Year 4



We're so impressed with the enthusiasm and curiosity which Jaguar Class have tackled the Autumn term with. We can see the resilience and practice being put into Maths and English really paying off. Year 4 have lots of exciting learning coming up in the New Year but we won't worry about that until everyone has had a well deserved rest over the holidays. We spent the last day of term exercising our creativity by making puppet theatres, puppets, and shows to perform with them, which the children did with great imagination. Their creativity and unique ideas were fantastic to see. A happy holiday to all from Jaguar Class.



Year 5



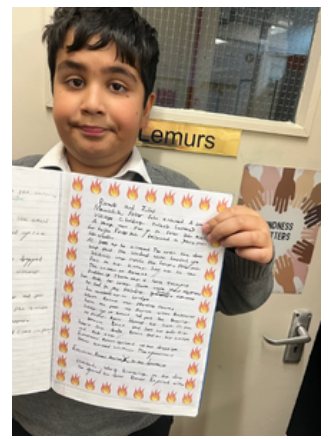
This week, Year 5 enjoyed a well-earned celebration party as we head towards Christmas. The class filled their marble jar, which is a fantastic achievement and reflects the brilliant attitudes, teamwork, and effort they have shown this term. To celebrate, the children enjoyed a party afternoon where they played a range of board games together and shared squash and drinks. The celebration also marked the end of our portal story writing, which has been truly phenomenal. The children worked incredibly hard to develop imaginative settings, characters, and detailed descriptions. Earlier this week, they even brought their writing to life by using AI image generation, creating pictures based on the descriptions from their own stories. This was an exciting way to see their ideas visualised and helped highlight the power of precise vocabulary and creative detail. We are extremely proud of Year 5 for their hard work, creativity, and positive attitude this term - a brilliant way to finish before Christmas!



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Year 6

Last week we had a brilliant time on our trip to Jurassic World, which was both exciting and memorable for everyone. Back in class, we finished our Romeo and Juliet unit and redrafted our stories, producing some excellent pieces of writing with clear improvements in structure and detail. In maths, we began a short unit on measure, focusing on applying skills accurately and confidently. We also completed our science topic on light by exploring different light phenomena, and brought our history learning to a close by writing an essay showcasing everything we now know about World War II. A fantastic end to several topics — well done, Year 6!



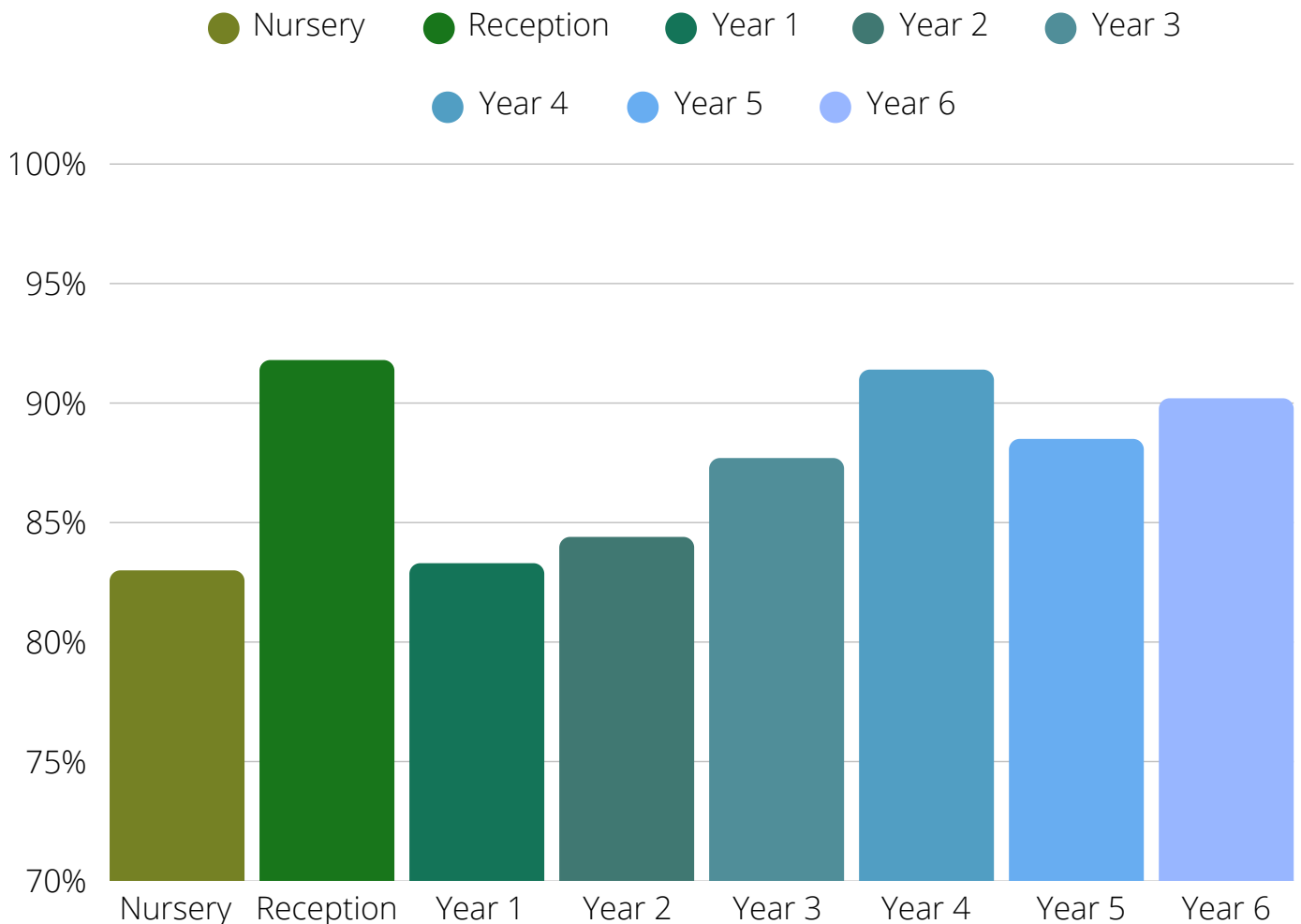
Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with attendance this term. It is positive to see strong attendance in several year groups, particularly Reception and Year 4, both achieving over 91% attendance, and Year 6, who are also maintaining good attendance at 90.2%. This reflects the importance of consistent routines and regular school attendance.

We continue to see lower attendance in our Nursery and Key Stage 1 year groups, where absence and lateness have had a greater impact. While we understand that younger children can be more affected by illness, regular attendance at this early stage is vital for building confidence, routines and strong foundations for learning.

We would also like to remind families of the importance of arriving on time, as frequent lateness can significantly affect children’s learning and well-being across the school day.

As always, if you are unsure whether your child should attend school, or if you need support with attendance, please contact the school office or speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team - we are always happy to help.



KEEPING WELL OVER THE WINTER BREAK

Info/Ideas for parents and carers

We know that that the winter holiday period can be a tough and challenging time for some. There's a change in the routine, and more unstructured time that can feel difficult and overwhelming to manage. You may also feel pressured to feel or present yourself a certain way during this time. We have therefore created this guide to support you and your family to stay well.

Activities for your child to try

Dance, Dance, Dance

Create a playlist of all your favourite tunes that fill you with joy and make you want to move your feet. When you feel like you need a distraction or a boost, put on your playlist and start to dance. *The combination of uplifting music and physical activity triggers a positive response in our bodies!*

Being outdoors

Nothing beats fresh air, and being in nature! Take a walk with your child/children in your local park, and use your 5 senses to be present in the moment. What things can you see, hear, feel, smell or taste?

Power of positivity

Sometimes we notice the negatives more than the positives. You could create a 'positivity box' or notebook to remind yourself of all the amazing things about you and your children, for any time you are not feeling your best. Think of five things about yourself that are positive and write them in the notebook or on a bit of paper to add to the box. You can do this for yourselves and/or your children.

"I am amazing!"

"I am a great
sibling!"

"I am healthy!"

"I am kind!"

Get creative!

Keeping your mind and hands occupied may help you to focus attention away from any worries or anxieties you are feeling. There are loads of activities to suit everyone. You might want to try arts and crafts (such as making holiday cards, glitter bottles or winter ornaments). Maybe you could try baking some special treats?



Scan for more winter
crafts ideas!

Acts of kindness

When we're kind to each other, it can help the world feel like a happier place. Kindness boosts our feelings of confidence and happiness, and can make us feel more in control. Think of different things you can do, that will showcase your kindness. Acts of kindness can encourage others to be kind too.

Having mindful moments

Being mindful means being aware of what is going on around you and how you are feeling. When we notice ourselves feeling anxious or worried about something, we can practice some skills that will allow us to relax and be present in the moment. Here are some ideas:

Deep Breathing



Breathe in through your nose for 5 seconds, hold for 3 seconds, and breathe out through your mouth for 7 seconds. Repeat!

54321 technique



5 colours

Notice five things around you that are yellow/ blue/ green etc.



Local activities in the area.

Wandsworth Winter Unlocked (HAF)

Wandsworth families with children in school years Reception to year 11, who are in receipt of benefits related to free school meals, can access FREE fun, local activities during the Winter holidays including a nutritious meal and a fun physical activity every day.

Activities include:

- Snow Much Fun Camp
- Mushkil Aasaan Play Scheme
- Holiday Food & Fun on the Food Bus
- MACWO Holiday Activities
- Sports Fun 4 All
- Roblox Coding
- HAF Football Camp
- Winter Fest Activities

and so much more ...

Scan QR code for the different activities available.



Tooting Hub Youth club at The Melrose Centre

Ages: 8 - 16

-meet friends -use the IT suite and music studio -play sports -learn a martial art -get involved in dance and drama activities -take part in art and craft workshops -learn life skills, including cooking

You can just "drop-in" to the centre during opening times



TOOTING MARKET CHRISTMAS POP-UP

1ST/8TH/15TH/22ND DECEMBER
GIFTS • LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • DRINK

Day out to see the Christmas lights: (i.e Central London. Battersea Power Station).



Please visit the Education Wellbeing Service You Tube channel.



Activities for looking after yourself as a parent/carer

Winter break can be a joyful but challenging time for parents and carers, filled with busy schedules, holiday preparations, and the responsibility of keeping children entertained. During this busy period, it is important to remember that self-care is important. Prioritizing your well-being ensures you have the energy, patience, and emotional resilience to support your family.

Taking moments for rest, engaging in activities you enjoy, maintaining healthy routines, and staying connected are important aspects of self-care. When you care for yourself, you're better equipped to care for others, creating a positive environment for both you and your children

Self-Care during the winter break can look like:

waking up before your kids



listening to music/podcast



cooking a festive recipe



keeping active



sticking to routines



staying connected



TIPS TO MANAGE WELLBEING OVER THE WINTER BREAK

Talk to someone



It can be good to talk about your feelings, so think about who you can turn to. It could be someone in your family, a friend, or a helpline that can talk to you about how you might be feeling. Kooth offers free online support too.



kooth

www.kooth.com
kooth_uk

Visit the Education Wellbeing Service YouTube channel



Monitor your social media usage

Social media can keep your anxiety high for many reasons. Try to have a limit on how much you check on social media. Remove or unfollow accounts that you notice make you feel worse.



12 days of Doing Good this December!

If you are looking for meaningful ways to help others, and to help spread some goodwill across Wandsworth this Christmas visit:



Here are some support services that you can access during this time

SLP CAMHS Crisis Helpline

SLP CAMHS Crisis Line

Urgent mental health support
for children and young people in
South London

0203 228 5980

Opening hours: 9am – 11pm
365 days a year



Young Minds

Offers tailored information, advice and support to parents and carers who are concerned about their child or young person's mental health. You can speak to us over the phone, or chat to us online. You can use our Helpline service ([0808 802 5544](tel:08088025544).) if you are the parent or main carer of a child or young person aged 25 or under. Our service is available across the UK. It is free and confidential.

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Advice and support for parents and carers. For more information please visit the Childline Website by [clicking here](#) or Call 0800 1111

Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) support services

Refuge - Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy (IDVA) provide free, confidential, non-judgmental and independent support and advice to anyone aged 16 and over who is experiencing domestic abuse.

Call [0203 8793544](tel:02038793544) (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or email Richmondwandsworth@refuge.org.uk.

Wandsworth One Stop Shop is a drop-in service for domestic abuse survivors. You can access discrete non-judgemental support, free advice and information from agencies concerning domestic abuse, stalking and sexual violence. No appointment necessary.

Available in two locations:

Battersea

- When: Every Monday (excluding bank holidays) Time: 10am to 12 noon
- Location: St. Mark's, Battersea Rise, SW11 1EJ (entrance on Boutflower Road)

Roehampton

- When: Every Wednesday Time: 10am to 12.30pm
- Location: 166 Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, SW15 4HR

Hestia refuge accommodation service

If you are looking for a refuge space, [call 0808 169 9975](tel:08081699975) or email Hestia at refuge.space@hestia.org.uk.

Lines are open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

