



# Griffin Gazette

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We've had another incredibly busy and uplifting week at Griffin Primary, filled with inspiring opportunities and celebrations of our pupils' talents. **This week, Year 5 proudly represented our school at Wandsworth Civic Hall**, performing their own original poems on stage. Their confidence, creativity and teamwork were outstanding, and we are so proud of the way they showcased their voices to the wider community.

**Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an amazing author talk with David Walliams**, who shared insights into his writing, answered questions, and inspired the children to keep developing their own storytelling skills. It was a real highlight of the week and a fantastic opportunity for our young readers and writers.

A huge thank you also goes to our HandsOn volunteer team, who spent the weekend clearing and preparing our Forest School space so it can continue to be used safely throughout the winter months. Their hard work means our children can enjoy outdoor learning in a refreshed, accessible environment.

**A reminder that Parents' Evening takes place this week on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please speak to your child's class teacher to sign up for a time slot if you have not yet done so. **We also have Own Clothes Day this Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November to raise funds for our Winter Fair. Children are invited to wear their own clothes (no school uniform) and bring £1 to support our fundraising efforts. Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

Finally, we would like to share an important staff update:

**Alison Effah- Mensah, our business manager, is leaving Griffin Primary School on 14 November 2025 to move on to pastures new. She has enjoyed working with everyone over the past five years and would like to thank all those she has worked with for their kindness and support. She will miss everyone!**

Kind regards,  
Jack Taylor, Principal



## EYFS

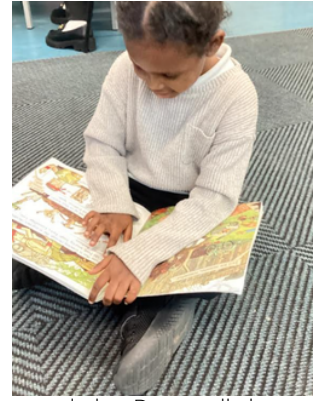
This week we have been enjoying the festive story The Jolly Christmas Postman. The children loved writing postcards to their friends, creating their own Christmas trees, and wrapping parcels just like the characters in the book! We have also started practising our Christmas songs and nativity, filling the classroom with lots of excitement. In Reception, the children have been working on AB patterns and practising reading and writing CVC words, while Nursery have been joining in with early festive activities too. It's been a wonderfully busy and joyful week, and next week we will continue to discover and explore this exciting celebration together!



Over the past two weeks, Year 1 has been full of exciting learning! In Maths, the children have been busy identifying and describing 2D and 3D shapes around the classroom. In English, they created brilliant wanted posters to help track down the mischievous Professor Spade. In Art, we explored different types of lines and listened to Clair de Lune and Flight of the Bumblebee, noticing how the music inspired contrasting marks and movements. Meanwhile, in Geography and Science, the children have been investigating seasonal changes and exploring the different types of weather we experience throughout the year.



## Year 1



## Year 2



**Please don't forget to sign up for a parents evening slot.**

Over the next few weeks Year 2 will be starting a new book in English, Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs, and we will be focusing on coordinating conjunctions, verb tenses and spelling. In Maths, we are beginning our Geometry unit, where the children will learn about 2D and 3D shapes and their properties. In Science, we will continue exploring our topic on plants, learning about what they need to grow, and in Geography we will keep building our understanding of the continents and oceans. We are looking forward to a wonderful few weeks of learning ahead!

**Please remember to read with your child for 20 minutes each day, and children may bring a toy to school that they will draw during Art. Finally, a reminder that Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th.**



## Year 3



Year 3 have begun learning about Christianity in RE. This week, the children took part in thoughtful role-play activities that helped them understand the Christmas story and its significance. They also reflected on what Christmas means to them personally, sharing ideas with great enthusiasm and sensitivity. We were so impressed by their engagement and the depth of their discussions—what a wonderful start to the unit!

**A gentle reminder: Please continue to read regularly with your child at home and remember to sign their reading record. Reading records should be completed and returned by Friday so that we can change the children's books in time for the following week. Thank you for your support!**



## Year 4



Year 4 have been hard at work on their multiplication tables, practising, applying, and examining the relationships between, the 3, 6, and 9, times tables. In English we're preparing our retelling of Theseus and the Minotaur and our understanding conservation and plate tectonics is really coming along in Science and Geography. Jaguar Class are really impressing at swimming lessons and we're so proud of the effort and resilience everyone is showing.

This week, a group of our pupils proudly represented Griffin Primary at the Wandsworth Schools Poetry Festival Celebration Day. The children took part in exciting workshops led by the brilliant Breis and had the chance to meet other poets from across the borough. In the evening, they performed twice in front of families, friends and a panel of special guests – including celebrated poets Valerie Bloom MBE and Joseph Coelho, the former Children's Laureate. Both poets spoke with huge admiration about our performances. Valerie Bloom described the children's rhythm as "incredible" and "perfect", praised their "amazing actions", and said she especially loved the line "born in a country of beautiful landscapes." Joseph Coelho also shared how much he enjoyed our rendition and complimented the children's confidence and delivery. Before the performance, the children enjoyed a well-earned pizza dinner, and the whole group had a fantastic day from start to finish. We are immensely proud of how brilliantly they represented our school.



## Year 5



# Year 6

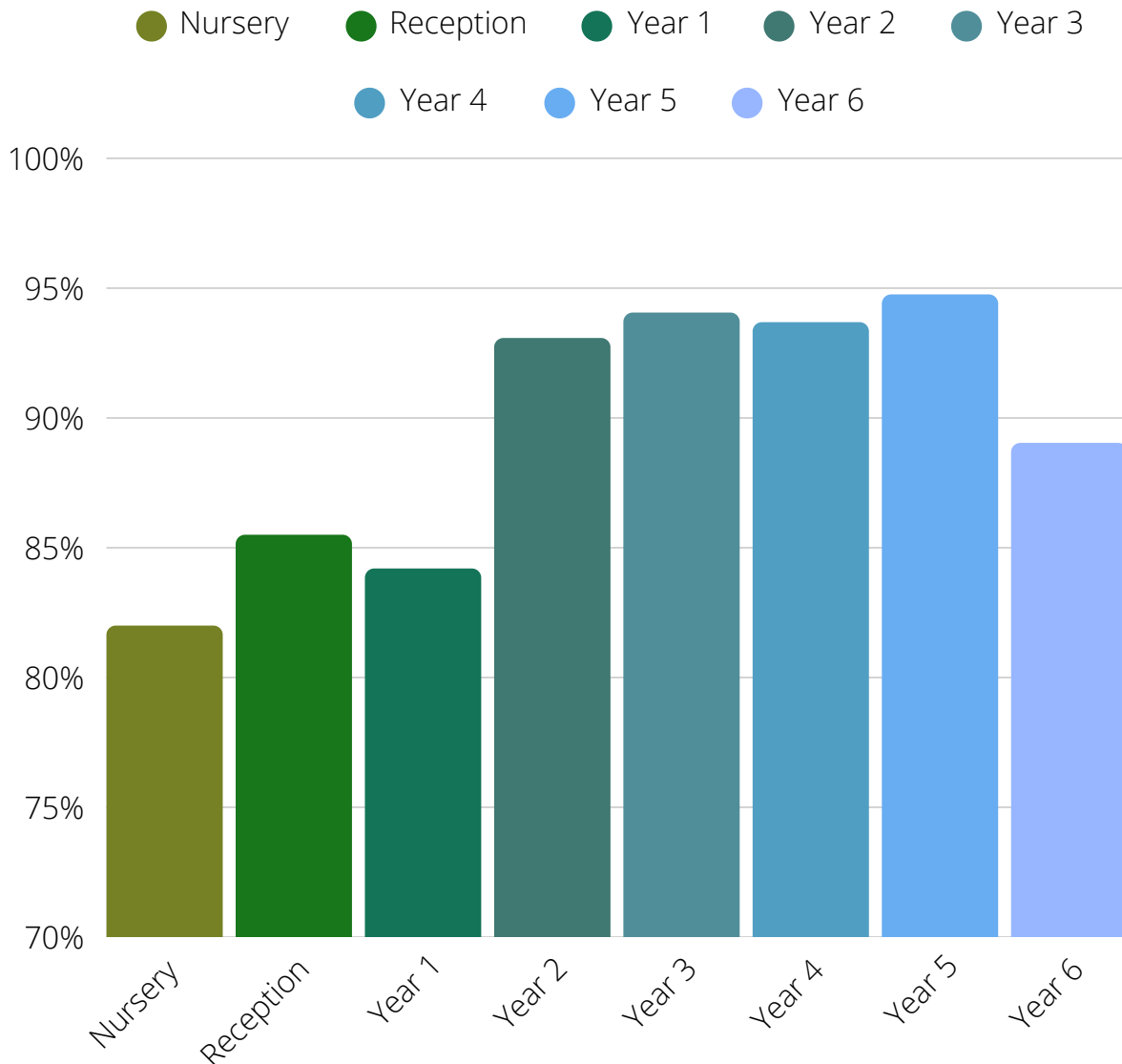


This week in Year 6, we wrote powerful letters to Lord Capulet from Juliet, trying to persuade him not to force her into marriage. In maths, we tackled some challenging fraction work, building our resilience as we converted denominators and practised adding and subtracting them. We also had the exciting opportunity to meet the author David Walliams and hear about his stories. Overall, it's been a busy, creative and challenging week where everyone worked hard and got stuck in.

## Attendance

As we move into the colder months, we know that coughs and colds become more common. Children can still attend school if they have mild symptoms, such as a runny nose or a cough, as long as they are well enough to take part in the school day. Good attendance is vital for maintaining progress, confidence and routine, and every day in school really does make a difference.

If you are unsure whether your child should attend, please call the school office and a member of the team will be happy to advise you.





# Friday 28th November 2025 Own Clothes Day!

Leave your uniform at home and wear  
your own clothes to school!

£1

donation to  
raise funds for  
the school  
Winter Fair





# Griffin Primary - Residential Trips

In aid of The Elliot Foundation Academies Trust

*Residential trips offer life-changing opportunities for pupils to build confidence, independence, and resilience, but too often, cost is a barrier. We want to change that. Our goal is for every child in Years 4, 5 and 6 to attend a fully funded residential trip, free of charge to families. These experiences should be for all, not just for those who can afford*



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