



Griffin Gazette

Friday 7th November 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after what we hope was a restful and enjoyable half term break! It has been such a pleasure to see the children return to school full of smiles, enthusiasm and focus. From the very first morning, classrooms have been calm, purposeful and full of energy, and it is clear that the children are eager to make the most of this next half term. We are so proud of how settled and motivated they have been. Attendance continues to improve, and our most recent data shows the fantastic progress being made across the school. **Thank you for your continued support in helping every child to arrive on time and ready to learn each day.**

We are delighted to share that our **Year 6 residential has been fully organised at no cost to parents**, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful experience. Trips like these create lasting memories and build teamwork, confidence and independence, and we cannot wait to see the excitement it brings. In addition, several exciting class trips are planned across the year groups this half term, giving children new opportunities to explore, discover and deepen their learning beyond the classroom.

Our very first PTA coffee morning will take place on Wednesday the 12th November at 9:00am, and everyone is warmly invited to come along. There is absolutely no commitment required, just a friendly chance to meet other parents, share ideas and enjoy a coffee and a pastry together. We would love to see as many of you as possible there. If you would still like to register your interest for the PTA, please register your details [here](#).

This first week has also been filled with creativity and inspiration. **BREIS the rapper has been working with Year 5**, helping pupils explore rhythm, poetry and performance in exciting new ways. **At the same time, the National Portrait Gallery's Faces and Places project has continued across different year groups**, giving children the chance to connect art, identity and storytelling through portraiture. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and imagination shining through these experiences. Our clubs programme also continues as normal, offering children plenty of opportunities to explore their interests, try new activities and develop skills outside of the classroom.

As always, I would like to thank all our families for your encouragement and partnership. The sense of community here at Griffin is something truly special, and together we are helping every child to thrive.

Best wishes,
Mr Jack Taylor
Principal

EYFS

This week we have been learning all about Diwali - The Festival of Lights! Our focus story was 'Binny's Diwali' by Thrity Umrigar, which helped us discover how families celebrate this special festival. The children had lots of fun making their own diya lamps using playdough and decorations, and they explored colourful rangoli patterns too. We also joined in the excitement of Bonfire Night by painting beautiful, sparkling fireworks. In maths, we worked hard on subitising numbers 1-3, recognising small quantities at a glance. Reception have been busy learning new sounds ('ff', 'll', 'ss', 'j') while Nursery have enjoyed singing and moving along to their favourite nursery rhymes. It's been a bright and joyful week of learning, and next week we will continue exploring this amazing festival with more exciting activities!



Please remember to read with your child for at least 5-10 minutes each day, as regular reading has a powerful impact on their learning and overall progress.

Over the past two weeks, the Year 1 children have been working incredibly hard across all subject areas. In Phonics, we have started learning the sounds in Phase 5, and reading has been a major focus—both for purpose and for pleasure. We have begun exploring *Traction Man* by Mini Grey, and the children have been completely enthralled by the story! In Maths, we are developing our subtraction skills using objects and by crossing out images. The children have also enjoyed starting their new unit on tag rugby and are all proving to be excellent rugby players. In Art, we have begun learning about Stephen Wiltshire, a London-born artist with autism who has some very special abilities—he is famous for drawing detailed cityscapes entirely from memory. In Science and Geography, our units are linked as we learn about the weather and the seasons. Please take a moment each morning to chat with your child about what they can see changing outside and the types of weather they experience—there's always plenty to discuss about the weather in this country!



Year 1



Year 2



Please continue to read everyday and send your child's books and reading records into school daily.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to develop our skills across a range of subjects. In Mathematics, we will be focusing on addition and subtraction, building fluency and confidence in using these operations to solve different types of problems. In English, we will be writing a recount inspired by "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" by Jon Scieszka, learning how to organize our ideas with a clear structure and write from a character's point of view. In Geography, we will be exploring where we live by learning about the continents and oceans, helping students gain a better understanding of the world around them.

Please remember to read with your child for at least 20 minutes each day, as regular reading has a powerful impact on their learning and overall progress.

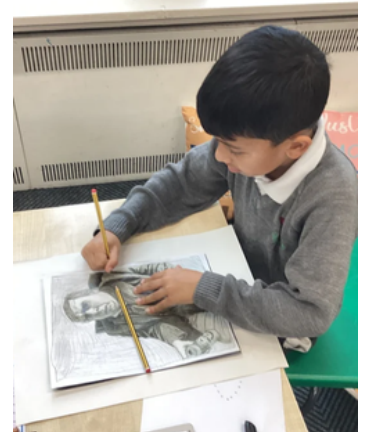


Year 3



This morning, Year 3 explored the art of portrait drawing. The children showed wonderful curiosity as they observed facial features closely and experimented with different ways to capture expression and detail. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they developed their artistic skills. The classroom was full of creativity and focus, and the finished portraits truly reflect the individuality and imagination of each child.

Please remember to read with your child for at least 20 minutes each day, as regular reading has a powerful impact on their learning and overall progress.



Year 4



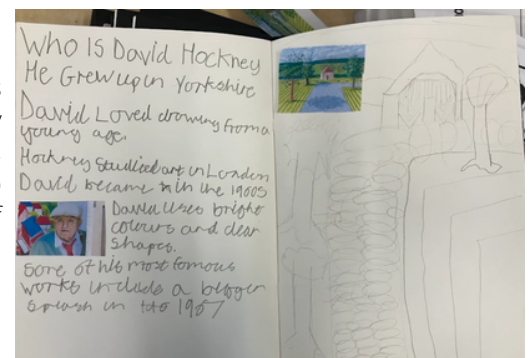
Year 4 have worked resiliently finishing their addition and subtraction unit in Maths. We've shown amazing skill and effort in swimming. Our English work has been really exciting, Ancient Greek Myths, filled with mean gods, ferocious monsters and strong, sneaky heroes. Year 4's curiosity and enthusiasm is great to see and will be a great asset as we explore geography and computing this half-term. Well done Year 4!

Children are able to dress for PE on Fridays this term, to speed up changing before and after swimming lessons.

This week, Year 5 explored the colourful world of British artist David Hockney. Pupils learned about his life, from his Yorkshire childhood to his famous paintings inspired by California sunshine and the Yorkshire countryside. They studied his bold use of colour, light, and technology, including his iPad artworks, and discussed what makes his style so unique. The children then created their own vibrant pieces inspired by Hockney's love of everyday scenes — filling the classroom with bright, expressive art!



Year 5



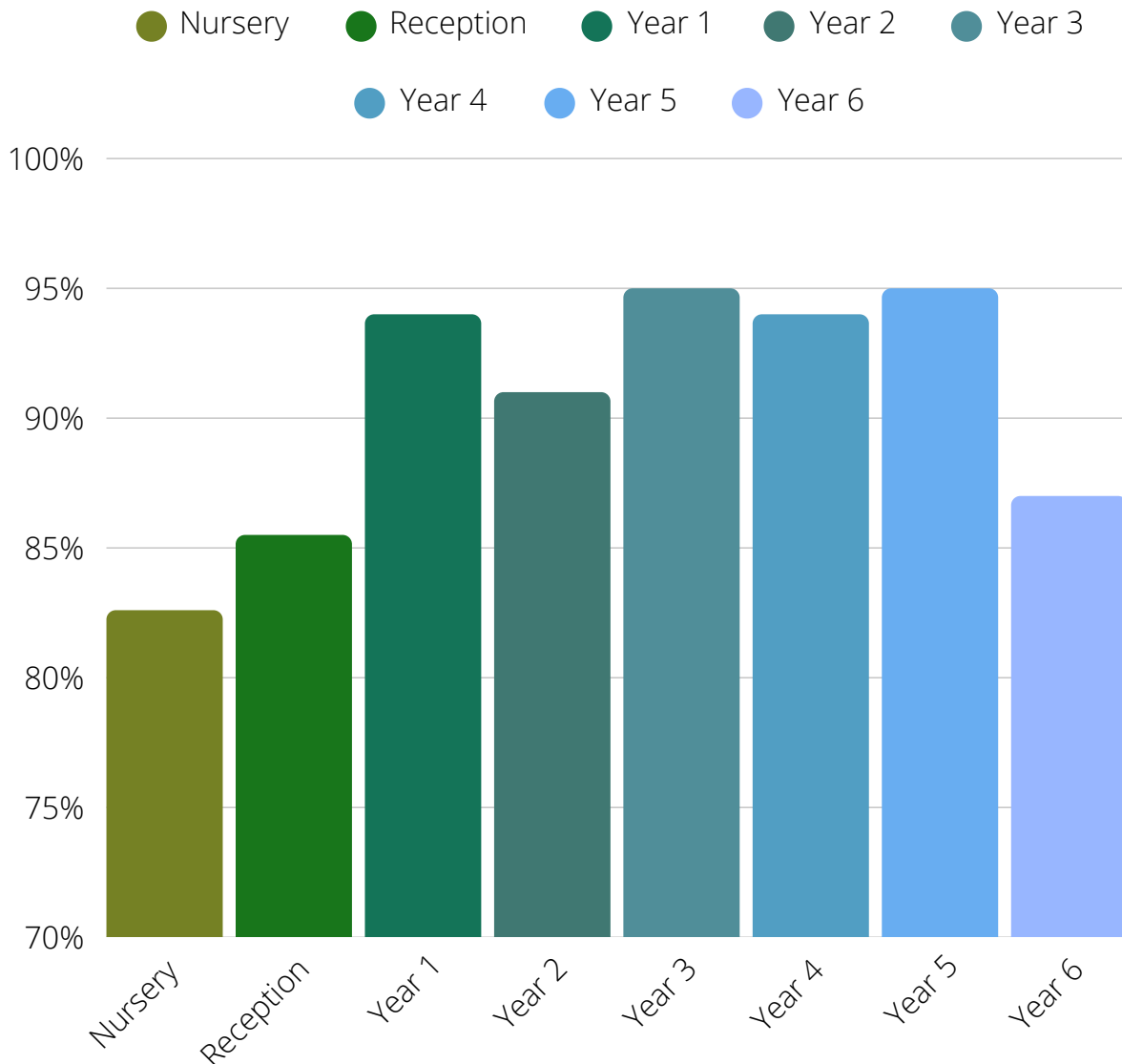
Year 6



It's been great to be back after the half-term break! We've wrapped up our work on addition, subtraction, and multiplication in maths, and have now moved on to fractions—starting with equivalent fractions. In English, we've begun our new unit on Romeo and Juliet, exploring the story's characters and themes. In history, we're continuing our World War II topic, this time focusing on the key leaders involved in the conflict. It's been a busy but exciting start to the half-term!

Attendance

It has been a strong start to the half term, and we are really pleased to see so many of our pupils attending regularly and arriving ready to learn each morning. Good attendance makes such a difference to progress and confidence, and we are grateful to all families for your continued support.



A huge well done to Year 3 and Year 5, who are leading the way this week with excellent attendance. Your commitment to being in school every day really shows in your learning and attitude.

We would like to give a special reminder to Nursery, Reception and Year 6 to make every effort to be in school every day. Every lesson really does count, and even a few missed days can make it harder to keep up with new learning. **Let's work together to see these numbers rise next week.** Punctuality is also important, arriving on time helps children settle quickly and start the day calmly and confidently. Please do let us know if there is anything we can do to support you.

Our whole-school attendance target is 96%, and with everyone's help, we know we can achieve it!



OUR PTA NEEDS YOU!



Support your child's education and the school community



Help shape school events, programs and priorities

Meet other parents and build friendships



Stay informed about what's happening at school



Register your
interest here





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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