



# GRIFFIN NEWSLETTER



Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Griffin Parents/ Carers

I am delighted to write to you today with a message of joy and hope from everyone at Griffin. It has been an academic year of 3 very different and unequal thirds (I know mathematically that's not possible!) We began in September with our **Year of Griffin Goes Green!** Yes, we were living in Bubbles but we were back together.

January brought a Lockdown and thanks to our lovely Griffin families our **Home Learning** was a little easier this time and we got through!

On 8th March we reopened our doors, albeit, at different entrance points and moved to the new 'normal'. Bubbles became part of our days at Griffin and we moved forward with a new learning focus and happiness.

And here we are.... ready for the Great British Summer Holidays (with equal promise of the Great British Summer weather!) Thank you to all our families for your support and flexibility this year; we could not have had such a successful year without you. May I say a special 'thank you' and 'farewell' to our Y6 Families who are leaving us next week and especially to those with no younger students - so many of you have been involved with Griffin for many long years. We wish you all happy and successful futures.

On Monday morning this week our students met their new Teachers and were very excited at the prospect - I hope they told you all about it.

We would, also, like to thank all of our staff for their hard work at Griffin this year and we are looking forward to September already!

## **1. The Year of Going Green**

We are proud of the progress and achievements of our Griffin students this year and our end of year Tests show progress across the school in Reading, Writing and Maths. They have been marked and reviewed and lessons learnt ready for September. I'd like to make a special call to Y6 who have worked hard since the return from Lockdown and achieved some fab results.

We have, of course, been privileged to enjoy our 1st year in our **Forest in the City** and the magic of our Griffin new Library - can't wait for September and the hours of reading we will all be able to share.

On Tuesday next week, your daughter/ son will bring home their end of year report. Please note we have not reported on attendance this year because of Lockdown but we have reported end of year Teacher Assessments. These are informed by the Tests but reflect each student's achievements in relation to the Expected standard for their year group. If you have any questions about your daughter/ son's report please do not hesitate to contact the Class Teacher.

Thank you for contributing to our **Little Amal** collection yesterday for our non-uniform day - we haven't counted the donations yet but every penny will go to a great cause. It has been so lovely to see our students begin to understand her story this term and we look forward to sharing her adventures on **The Walk** in September.

## **2. Farewell and thank you!**

This term we are saying farewell to a couple of our members of staff.

Ms Austin-Olsen has been with us this year as part of her 1st year of training to be a Teacher. We wish her lots of success in her next year of training in Greenwich.

Ms Skinner will be leaving us after her year at Griffin - it has been a strange year to be part of our Team but we wish her lots of happiness in her next post.

Ms Nembhard joined us in 2018 and she has seen many students through their upper Key Stage education. She is now off to teach in East London. Thank you for all your ICB work and for everything you have given Griffin. We'll miss you, Nisha and hope you enjoy your new school.

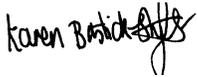
Mr Campbell has decided to change direction in his career a little and is going to work at an offsite alternative provision centre for a year in September. Thank you for all your positivity and kindness, Luke - have a happy future!

Finally, we are saying a big 'thank you' and 'farewell' to Abi Mclvor next week. As many of you know Abi has been working at Griffin for 14 years; since only her second year of teaching! During that time she has played so many different roles and held lots of different job responsibilities. Abi has worked with generations of families and is now going to spend some extra special time with her own children and family. I am sure you will join me in sending Abi all our best wishes. We wish her a wonderful future and much happiness as she moves to the next chapter of her life.

### **3. Holiday 'keeping in touch' email**

We wish you a happy Eid next week if you will be celebrating and we wish everyone a wonderful summer holiday. We will write to you just before the autumn term begins to make sure all is Covid safe and we are set to return at 8.55am on Friday 3rd September 2021.

Happy holiday!  
Karen



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

### **Message from the Head of School**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Well what a year it has been! We've had an amazing year including many exciting Inside Out Fridays, Outdoor Learning in our new forest and even a visit from a member of the Royal family to open our new library! It's been sad not to be able to share all of the highlights with parents/ carers in the usual way and physically see you all at coffee mornings this year, but I do hope you have heard from your children about all of the fantastic learning experiences that have been taking place, as well as enjoying the updates in newsletters. Our students have shown such resilience this year in switching from face-to-face teaching to remote learning and back again and have embodied our Griffin moto, 'Give your best, get the best!' I really hope that next year there will not be any disruption and that you will be able to come onsite to visit our new library, our Forest in the City and share in the students' achievements at celebration events once again.

It's a bittersweet message from me this week as I am so proud of all of our students but am saying goodbye to you all because I will not be returning to Griffin next academic year. After 14 years at Griffin, four of those as Head of School, I am taking a career break to spend some time with my family before deciding what the next stage of my career will hold. Thank you so much for all of the support you have given me over the years; I will miss you all hugely! It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to teach so many of your children and get to know your families and I will look forward to updates on how everyone is doing next year.

Griffin is a fantastic school and I am very proud of everything we have achieved in the last 4 years: developing an exciting curriculum offer, including our Inside Out Learning model, and creating a supportive and cohesive community that works in partnership to enable students to get the best possible outcomes. Students at Griffin are happy and passionate about their learning and it is a pleasure to talk with them and see their work in lessons everyday.

I leave the school in the very capable hands of Karen Bastick-Styles, Executive Head, Carly Doyle and Louise Black, Deputy Heads, and Nicolle Atkin, SENDCo who know our students and families so well and always work to secure the best possible outcomes for all of them.

Stay safe over the summer holidays and hopefully I will see many of you in my final few days next week to say 'goodbye' in person!

Abi Mclvor

**A Message from Ms. Black**

There have been so many moments worth highlighting this year, it's hard to know what to mention! However, my favourite school development has got to be our wonderful **Forest in the City**. We 'made' it in the Autumn term, out of an old, disused running track in a great state of disrepair. And now it's blooming and home to all sorts of wonderful plants and animals. Even a dragonfly likes to call it home!

**Every** child planted a tree and **every** child has been learning and playing out there, particularly across this final term- with their work linking so beautifully with our Sharing the Planet theme. Next year, even more learning will take place in this stunning natural setting and even more of our students will also access Forest School sessions.

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome our community on site to see it for the first time last Saturday. Thank you to all our families who supported the **Happy Streets Festival** and had such kind words and feedback for us. I'm glad you love it out there, just as we do!

We are looking forward to the official opening event in September. Watch this space for information. We will be sharing photographs from our recent school project too - the winning images are well worth celebrating!

I wish all our Year 6 students the best of luck with their next school chapter and I hope you all have a lovely summer!



**A Message from Ms. Doyle**

I will be very sad to see our Year 6 students leave Griffin. Although they are ready for the excitement and challenge of secondary school, time seems to go in the blink of an eye at primary school. We have known many of these children since they joined us in nursery or even as young babies, dropping older siblings at school. We miss our students very much when they leave us. Good luck Year 6!

I am very pleased that Wandsworth libraries are launching their Summer Reading Challenge 2021: *Wild World Heroes*, today. The theme perfectly culminates our year of Griffin Goes Green. It's like we planned it...

If you are able to take your child(ren) to a Wandsworth library during the holiday, please do. The challenge is to read 6 books during the summer. It is totally free of charge. Let's keep our children reading! Ok

**Summer Reading Challenge 2021**

# WITH WANDSWORTH LIBRARIES

**10 July - 11 September, 2021**

Wandsworth Libraries is delighted to announce the **2021 Summer Reading Challenge: Wild World Heroes**. This year, we're celebrating the environment, eco-heroes, and—of course—reading!

**Read 6 books, Collect Prizes, and Save the World!**

The Challenge is completed in **2 visits** to the library:

**Visit 1, from 10th July:** Register for the Challenge and select your **6 books** to take home.

**Visit 2, by 11th September:** Submit your completed Wild World Heroes book log, and earn your prizes!

**What can you do to help your neighbourhood wildlife?**

In addition to the Challenge, Wandsworth Libraries will be offering events throughout summer all about books, the environment, and more! In the event we cannot hold events in-branch due to Covid-19 restrictions, you will be able to find us online.

**Learn more from your local children's librarian!**



Rachael Miles  
**Battersea Park Library**  
 309 Battersea Park Road  
 SW11 4NF  
 020 7720 4122

[better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth](http://better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth)  
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 YouTube: Wandsworth Librarians

On the note of reading, please return all Griffin books to your child's teacher so we can organise them ready to give out to other students in September. Hunt around to see what you can find under children's beds and in bags.

Have a great summer!

**A Message from Mr. Campbell**

I can't believe it's the end of another academic year! I would like to wish all of our leavers from Y6 lots of luck and happiness as they move onwards and upwards to their secondary schools. I have really enjoyed watching students grow and learn to be more resilient with everything this year has thrown at them - you have all done incredibly well. Here's hoping for a slightly different academic year next year!

Adding to the farewell messages, I would also like to thank the entire community for support and challenge over the past two years here at Griffin. I will look back on my time with very fond memories and you'll always have a special place in my heart. Wishing you all, students and families, a wonderful summer and a super successful school year 2021/22!



