



# GRIFFIN NEWSLETTER



Friday 13th November 2020

Dear Griffin Parents/ Carers

I am so happy to write to you today from inside Griffin as we complete another week of learning and enjoy our autumn term 2 together; from the window, our **Forest in the City** is shining - so full of new trees and open to a world of imagination and wonder for generations of Griffin students. It is already exciting to see students engage with the Forest and to hear them talk about the way things look and will continue to grow. Do look out for Louise Black's regular pictures on Instagram: @primarygriffin

## 1. Free School Meals

May I remind parents/ carers that around the country there are families entitled to claim Free School Meals (FSM) who are not currently doing so. If you think you may be eligible please ... call Maggie or Alison in the Office and they will help with every step. It is also important to register even if your daughter/ son is in one of the year groups who get meals paid for by the Government (UFSM - Reception, Y1 and Y2) because we also get a little additional money to put towards learning materials for each student accessing FSM - it might be worth a try for you?

## 2. Parents Evening

This year as you are all aware our Parents Evening 'meetings' are taking place over different weeks by telephone. These are especially important this year as we have not been able to talk with you all at 'drop off' or 'pick up' each day. Our main aim is to ensure every parent/ carer is able to have a positive and purposeful discussion to catch up on social & academic progress across the term so far. Thank you to our families who have already taken part in a conversation and I hope you have positive and useful meetings.

## 3. Covid and Lockdown

In the week before half term we were selected randomly as one of a number of London and national schools for a visit by the DfE Health section to 'check' our processes for opening schools in a Covid secure way. I am delighted to tell you that we got 10/10 and no points of action needed. We are working very hard on a daily basis to make sure everything is especially clean and regularly cleaned throughout the day: this includes bathrooms and all touch points around the site. If you have any questions, or suggestions around anything we might consider to make things 'even better' at Griffin, as always, please catch up with a member of our Leadership Group in the morning or evening or email/ phone us and we will get back to you.

On a similar topic please see the letter below from our CEO of TEFAT (The Elliot Foundation). Hugh is keen to keep in touch with you all from a Trust point of view and here he is reinforcing messages of safety during a Lock-down when schools are doing everything possible to remain open.

## 4. Learning at Griffin

### a) Reading - **Big Read**

Our students are accessing the National Curriculum at Griffin this term and we are trying to keep things as exciting as possible for everyone despite things we have had to cancel because of Covid (trips and sharing events in particular) We have a big focus on Reading this term and hope your daughter/ son has talked to you about our **Big Read** with Greenside. We are encouraging students to read as many books as possible this half term for pleasure. We are also asking them to see if they are able to raise £2.00 each through donations from adults they know. We appreciate this may be difficult for some students at this financially precarious time - we also know other students may even be able to raise a little more. I have begun to tell our students the story of **Little Amal** and will share this with you all later this half term too. Meanwhile please ..... keep reading with your children at home, read to them, listen to them read and just enjoy lots of different books together. If you have a question about our Big Read or would like to borrow books from Griffin this half term, please contact Carly Doyle: [cdoyle@griffinprimary.org](mailto:cdoyle@griffinprimary.org). Carly can help with anything!



Little Amal walking in London

## b) Tests in 2021

Just to keep you all updated on information from the Government regarding tests in 2021. At the moment we have been told the following:

- Our current Y2 students will take part in a Phonics Screening Check in early December. *More information to follow next week!*
- Our current Y1 students are scheduled to take a Phonics Screening Check in June 2021
- Our Reception Students will be assessed on the 17 areas in the EYFS framework in June 2021.
- Our Y2 students will take end of Key Stage 1 tests in May 2021
- Our Y4 students will take part in a Multiplication Check in June 2021
- Our Y6 students will take the Key Stage 2 tests in May 2021
- Our Y6 students area also scheduled to take the Wandsworth Y6 test in December this year.

Of course this information is accurate at this point in the year and may change depending on the effect of Covid this academic year - we will share any new information as/ if it arrives.

## 5. Sharing events & celebration

a) We are very keen to share our end of term celebration events with you all in the best way possible. So please 'watch this space' and we will be in touch!

b) A quick reminder that we will be collecting our **Money Boxes** with loose change in December (please see pink box below). If your daughter/ son has not yet made a box it would be great if you could encourage/ support them to do so this week - it's a great task for all the family to do together!

c) Our lovely Greenside & Griffin students shared a morning together virtually last week reading & writing, encouraging and learning lots about each other - well done Y5 and thank you!

d) If your daughter/ son would like to enter our Christmas Card competition they should design a card at home - A4 size using any materials and then send me a picture of the card. We will then select one or two amazing designs to be our official Griffin Card to send to friends and community this year. Entries are welcome from students in Nursery - Y6 and need to capture Christmas/ winter in a joyful way. These entries need to be sent to KBS by the end of Friday 27th November.

With best wishes to you all - hoping everyone stays well and safe.

Karen

Karen Bastick-Styles (Executive Head - Greenside & Griffin)

Griffin - a Federation with Greenside and part of TEFAT.

## Story Book Inspired Money Boxes Collecting loose change for charity

Griffin students have been invited to design a 'money box' at home inspired by their Class Story Book for this half term. After they have designed and made the box at home please can your family collect loose change all the way through to the December. We will then choose a day to bring the money in and count it all. It really is a case that every penny counts and it's a great way to get young people to engage with charity, counting money and seeing that a little contribution from a lot of people can make a huge difference and impact.

It would be wonderful if families could send us a photograph of their Money Box when they have made it!

With many thanks for your help. KBS

## Home Learning Challenge



Black History Month is held in the UK each October and The National Education Union (NEU) is sponsoring the 100 Great Black Britons home school competition to explore Black British History this year. This competition is a fantastic way for students to learn more about the legacy and achievements of Black people in Britain and how they have helped shape our country.

Students are encouraged to use the resources on the website [www.100greatblackbritons.com](http://www.100greatblackbritons.com) and look at the biographies of the Great Black Britons nominated. Choose one or several Great Black Britons. Create a unique and innovative project to celebrate their work and legacy. This could be:

- a presentation (examples could include a slide presentation, a short film, a speech, poetry, a drama or dance performance)
- a display (such as artwork, photography, sculpture)
- a project or campaign (such as recorded interviews, a magazine, a music project)
- any other way of promoting the stories of Great Black Britons (perhaps a social media campaign, website design, posters)

The winning projects will be the ones that are the most innovative and that clearly show why the chosen Great Black Britons were important.

The competition is open to all ages. The closing date is 31 December 2020.

Further details can be found here: <https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/competition.html>

## A Letter from Hugh Greenway - CEO - The Elliot Foundation



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are coping with the second national lockdown and that your family and loved ones are well.

I am writing to ask for your help.

Over the last eight months at the Elliot Foundation we have done everything in our power to make our schools as Covid safe as they can reasonably be. We have redesigned the way we run schools from the ground up to minimise and mitigate the spread of the virus.

But this does not mean that it is entirely safe. Whilst the evidence suggests that the risk to young children from the virus is very small, the risk to you, your extended families and all of the staff working in our schools is much higher.

I need you to help us restrict the spread of the disease by **wearing a face covering and respecting social distancing rules when you drop off and collect your child**. For the duration of the national lockdown you should not be spending any significant length of time less than 2 metres away from anyone outside of your household. This means that, where possible, you should not be dropping off or collecting children from other families. It would also help if you restricted yourself to one adult per household at the drop off and collection points and stick to the staggered arrival and collection times that have been shared with you.

I ask for your help because if we do not together slow the spread of the Coronavirus then schools may have to close and people close to you may become very ill. Whilst we have a duty of care to your children and a moral responsibility to educate them to the best of our abilities, we must also look after our staff and I will not hesitate to close a school if it is unsafe.

If you have any questions or worries, please speak to the Principal of your child's school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Greenway".

Hugh Greenway - CEO

## Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well during this second lockdown period. At Griffin we are just very grateful that students are able to remain in school this time and continue learning with each other, albeit in a socially distanced manner! I've had lots of proud students bringing me their learning this week because they have given their absolute best and been a **10/10 learner**, which has really put a smile on my face. I hope you have enjoyed reading the text messages to let you know when this is the case.

Last week we elected new Student Voice Leaders who have been tasked with keeping our SMSC 'black book' for their class, which will evidence all the fantastic discussion and debate that goes on in our Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual learning. Last week we learnt about famous people who have used their voice to be leaders of positive change, like Marcus Rashford and his campaign for ensuring students who receive FSM continue to get this support in the school holidays. We then discussed what makes a good leader before students put themselves forward for the role and the class voted to elect the girl and boy in each year group who they thought could be leaders of positive change at Griffin. I am delighted to announce that the following students were chosen by their peers:

Y1	Jeremiah and Aishah
Y2	Sohrab and Layla
Y3	Dylan and Iqra
Y4	Ezekiel and Rayaan
Y5	Hamza and Kamilah
Y6	Osman and Zainab

Congratulations to all those elected! They will now meet with me each week to discuss the SMSC learning, any changes they think we need to make at Griffin as a result, and what to capture in the black book for that week. We will also elect and involve Reception students from next term so watch this space!

Please do take the time to read the rest of our newsletter- it contains important information about support available for families at this tricky time as well as information about all the lovely things that are happening at Griffin that we sadly can't invite you in to see for yourselves.

Best wishes for the next couple of weeks ahead,

Abi McIvor  
Head of School

### **Attendance Update**

There has been a huge improvement in attendance the last few weeks which is great, because we know that students who attend school more frequently make much better progress!

On Monday 9th November we held a **100% Attendance Day**, which means we were aiming for every student to be onsite that day. Dolphins, Leopards, Pandas, and Polar Bears did an amazing job and managed to hit that 100% target! Although, we didn't quite manage to have everyone here, we did hit 96% attendance that day overall which is definitely a good start to the week. Keep up the good work everyone!

Please keep your daughter/ son's attendance as high as possible by:

1. Booking appointments for *after school or as late in the day as possible* (after 1.30pm).
2. Sending students to school if they just have minor ailments such as colds - we will call you if they get any worse at school and need to be at home, but often they are fine to be in school with colds. Remember we can give paracetamol in school if you wish. Please let us know on the gate if you are sending medicine in for your child and we will call you to complete the medicine form.
3. Ensuring you are *on time* (lateness after 9.30am is coded as an absence).

## **Anti-Bullying Week 2020 - United Against Bullying**

**Monday 16th November** is **Odd Socks Day**. Students (and staff!) are invited to wear odd socks to school to highlight that we are all unique on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week. Across the week we will be working with students to help them understand what bullying is (and what it isn't) and what part they can play to be 'united against bullying' in school.

To find out more about Anti-Bullying Week and for resources to help you discuss this with your child go to

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>



### **Mr Campbell - Support for families**

**Early Help** is a service providing support to parents and families in the community. Once a referral goes through someone will be assigned to support you. Early help has provided some wonderful help for our families in the past and continues to do so. They will work with you and the whole family to improve outcomes for you all. The kind of support they can provide: housing, behaviour routines, SEND advice, attendance, healthy eating, breakfast and meal time routines. Early Help will be able to signpost you to additional services if requested. More information can be found [here](#)

How to access this support:

Kathy Kettell works out of the Yvonne Carr Centre. She has a drop in on Monday mornings.

Call the office and ask for a call back from me.

### **Local Support During Covid-19**

During this lockdown, nationally people have found their financial circumstances have changed. If this is the case for you and your family there is support available:

Wandsworth and Lambeth Foodbanks.- They are currently delivering food boxes for families in our area. Referrals can be made from school. Please call the office/contact me.

Waste Not Want Not - Hadas who runs the food service for the community out of Yvonne Carr has advised that she will be preparing Christmas meals for families who are struggling in our community on Christmas Day. If you would like to be referred for this wonderful service please contact me.

**Rackets Cubed** - We have recently made links with a local group who provide community boxes. These contain food staples like rice and pasta (and other items) as well as resources for children. Items change and vary each week. We are hoping to get this up and running very soon so watch out for an announcement from us. These boxes will be available to anyone who wants them.

Volunteer with us! We are looking for volunteers to support with sorting and putting together these super community boxes. Please contact me if you have some spare time on Fridays from 10am and would like to help.

Mr Campbell's email: [lcampbell@griffinprimary.org](mailto:lcampbell@griffinprimary.org)

**Message from Ms Black**

**Forest in the City - It looked so beautiful in the mist last week!** Please do talk to your children about their involvement in the project. We've planted so many trees and now it's time to watch them grow, and the space evolve. As soon as we can invite you in to see it, we will do!

Sessions start next week. If you have any spare wellies or outdoor clothes that you no longer need, please do donate them to the school. They would be very gratefully recieved!

