



GRIFFIN NEWSLETTER



Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Griffin Parents/ Carers

I am delighted to introduce our LG Newsletter today - goodness me - the half term is almost over - so incredible how fast it has flown by!

We hope many of you enjoyed coming in for our very 1st attempts at sharing our learning in our recent Family Assemblies. It was so noticeable that many of our little students have missed out on these types of experiences over the last couple of years - they were so nervous, but we're back and we will be giving them lots of experiences of speaking in public and building up their confidence. Thank you for beginning this journey with us.

We have had a super busy and enjoyable half term and I hope that this brief Newsletter, along with Class Newsletters which will be sent home next week to celebrate your daughter/ son's learning this half term, will give you a flavour of our recent learning and successes.

Many of you follow us on Instagram - if you don't, please start today - you will never be far from a Griffin moment!

A reminder to all our Y6 families that Secondary application forms need to be completed online and sent by the end of October - if you have any final questions, please check in with us before the end of this half term.

Look out for your daughter/ son's Class Newsletter next Friday too!

We break up for the half term holiday at 3.30pm on Friday 22nd October and return at 8.55am on Monday 1st November.

1. The Year of Change! Inside Out Learning

We've almost reached the end of our current theme of **Who We Are** with lots of exciting hooks and big questions - do talk to your daughter/ son about their work each week to help us help them recall facts and knowledge. Questions and chat with you at home really helps!

Our Reception students have all completed their National Baseline Tests and our Y6 students have taken end of Key Stage papers this week. Our Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 & Y5 students will be awarded Teacher Assessments for the half term. If you have any questions or would like to talk about the results for your daughter/ son, please check in with her/ his Class Teacher.

We have been very impressed by the attitude of all of our students in Y6 - well done to them all!

2. Meeting update

At 9.00am today we are holding our 'characteristics of good learning' session with our families - at the workshop we'll be talking about what we can all do together to support our students in being even better learners and what characteristics a great student needs to have in 2021 to be successful at school. This Newsletter may reach you before 9.00am as a last reminder!

3. Community Council

As promised, I am sending details of our Community Council later today - if you have any questions please just ask!

4. Events

We have lots to share as **Little Amal** nears the end of her incredible 3 month walk from Turkey, through Europe, over to England and finally onto Manchester.

I hope you saw some of the pictures I took last week when I was so privileged to spend 2 days walking with her in Brussels. Our students wrote letters, postcards and drew pictures that we delivered to the European Parliament to represent the voices of young people across the world. Our students wrote about 1 thing they would like World Leaders to change to make the world a better place for them and for young people like Little Amal. I set off with hundreds of letters in my suitcase! It was such a moving and emotional couple of days - full of reflection and hope - it was also great to do a couple of live hangouts with our students from the Walk.

We are now looking forward to Little Amal's arrival in England.

Friday 22nd October is a big day for us all! The following will happen:

a) The day will be a non-uniform charity donation day. We ask all students to donate a coin wherever possible.

The theme of the day is 'Flowers & Joy'!

b) In the morning a few students will be able to go over to Deptford to meet Little Amal.

c) At 2.00pm we will perform our original 3 minute **Dance to Welcome Little Amal** - with students dancing simultaneously across the world.

On Saturday 23rd October our Greenside & Griffin students are invited to be part of a choir on the Steps of St. Paul's awakening Little Amal and welcoming her to London. We have booked around 40 spaces in the choir. I will be at the event very early setting up so we are asking any parents/ carers who can bring students for a 9.15am meet with me that morning to join us. The event will be filmed for a BBC Documentary so it's very exciting. Please do come along if at all possible. Parents/ carers will, of course, be able to be part of the audience and see Little Amal in person (in her puppet format!) Please let me know asap by email:

karenbs@greensideschool.org if you can join us.



I do hope some of you will be able to join us at the Saturday morning event.

5. Additional Griffin Holiday Day

As I am sure you are aware the Queen will be celebrating 70 years since her coronation. The National celebrations happen across the May half term holiday. As such the Government has given all schools an additional holiday day this academic year. We are, therefore, going to add this holiday day to the end of the Christmas break. All of our students and staff will now break up on Friday 17th December and return to Griffin on Wednesday 5th January (not Tues 4th as previously published).

Have a great week ahead and hope to see lots of you on 22nd October!

Karen

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

Griffin - a Federation with Greenside and part of TEFAT.

A Message from Ms. Black

Three things from me today...

1. EYFS Open Days

We have spaces for our January Nursery Intake and for next September. We will be opening our doors on Friday 26th November and Friday 3rd December at 9.30am. If you know of any little ones, please spread the word! We take students in our nursery the term after their 3rd birthday.

2. Parent View

We absolutely love working with our school community and are really enjoying being able to invite you into the building again. Covid lockdowns meant we had to find new ways to connect with families (one positive!) and we hope it has supported you all to realise just how much we do in school - and how great a school Griffin is! As always, please come and see us with any questions or queries you may have. We are happy to help!

In the meantime, please do fill out Ofsted's Parent View here: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> and share your positive comments.

It really does help them to make their judgement and we really do want to showcase just how **Good** we are, when they next pay us a visit!

3. After School Clubs

We still have some spaces in some of our clubs for next half term. They run from the end of the school day, until 4.30pm. The cost is £2 per session. This money covers the additional resources needed, and supports us to pay the music teacher.

Key Stage 2 Steel Pans - 9 spaces

Y5 & Y6 - Forest School - 6 spaces

Both clubs will be brilliant - please email admin@griffinprimary.org if you would like a space!

Thank you!

A Message from Ms. Doyle

Summer Reading Challenge 2021

Congratulations to these students who successfully completed the summer reading challenge at a Wandsworth library during the school holiday: **Ilyas and Iqra; Mohamed and Salma; Rayaan, Isra and Mikail**. Well done! Reading at least 6 library books during the summer is a fantastic achievement. I hope you all enjoyed it.

We're lucky to have such brilliant public libraries in Wandsworth and Lambeth. The closest ones to the school are Battersea Park Library, Battersea Library and Clapham Library. Borrowing books is free of charge. Computer access and Wifi is also free at libraries.

I can't wait for our students and the community to start using our school library when it fully opens next half term.

Bug Club is also back up and running so your children can always access ebooks, set by their teacher, using a device. If they don't know their login details for Bug Club, please ask their class teacher.

Secondary School Applications

Y6 parents/ carers - please ensure you apply for secondary school before the deadline: midnight - 31st October 2021. If you have any questions, please contact me: cdoyle@griffinprimary.org

A Message from Ms Atkin

Key external professionals at Griffin

We are lucky at Griffin to provide access to a range of services for our students. There are some visitors who are more regular than others. We have our 2 Speech and Language specialists, Alice Guyatt (Lambeth) and Scarlett Tolzer-Milne (Wandsworth), our returning Educational Psychologist, Ifoma Bennett and Ilesha Ginn, who is new to Griffin. Anne-Marie Hall also continues to be our regular Teacher of the deaf for those students with hearing impairments.

Please feel free to get in touch for more information. Please feel free to email me at natkin@griffinprimary.org to arrange a meeting or ask a question.

Ms Nicolle Atkin (SENDCo)



Greenside & Griffin Term Dates 2021 - 2022

- Please note in the current Covid climate, all dates are subject to change at short notice

Autumn Term '21

(Wednesday 1st September and Thursday 2nd September 2021 x2 CPD Days)

Students return **Friday 3rd September 2021** (This may vary for New Nursery & Reception students)

Half term Monday 25th – Friday 29th October

Final day of term Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term '22

*Students return Wednesday 5th January 2022

Half Term Monday 14th – Friday 18th Feb

Final day of term Friday 1st April 2022

Summer Term '22

Students return Tuesday 19th April 2022

Half term – Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June

Final Day of academic year Friday 22nd July 2022

Greenside & Griffin closed to students:

Public Holiday - Monday 2nd May - Early May bank holiday

CPD Days x2 - Wednesday 1st September '21, Thursday 2nd September '21

CPD Day x1 TEF - Friday 27th May '22

CPD Days x2 - Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th June '22

*Please note the change to the start of the spring term.

Term begins on Wednesday 5th January (Tuesday 4th January is the additional Public Holiday at G&Gf for the Queen's birthday - this day has been selected by the academies under Government guidelines!)