



# GRIFFIN NEWSLETTER



Friday 2nd July 2021

Dear Griffin Parents/ Carers

What a busy and exciting end to the academic year we are having, almost as busy as the weather here in Wandsworth as it goes from sunshine to rain - too quick to even make a rainbow!

The weeks are rushing by now and our lovely Y6 class have 2 weeks and 3 days before they make their way to Secondary school and their next exciting adventure.

## **1. CPD Days at Griffin**

Last Thursday our Staff spent a CPD day reviewing and evaluating the year and celebrating all the great things our Teachers have managed in this strange COVID year. On Friday we started planning for September and sharing all our great Curriculum ideas ready for another Griffin year - how exciting! We have now closed our RHE consultation and all our Curriculum plans will meet the National Curriculum requirements ready for September. We had a fruitful two days and hope you enjoyed some family time too.

## **2. Library Launch and visit from the Duchess of Cornwall**

I do hope you all saw the exciting story featured on our Instagram and in lots of national newspapers and magazines last week. During the morning on Tuesday 22nd June we held our Griffin Library Launch. We were thrilled that the Author Cressida Cowell (she wrote the *How to train your dragon* series & many others!) was scheduled to join us to make it an extra special occasion. To our delight we then received a request that HRH, the Duchess of Cornwall, would also like to be part of the day! HRH is the Patron of the Book Trust. It is the Book Trust who designed & created our Library space and also donated 1000 brand new, amazing books so it was a rather exciting day for them too. They have been campaigning, to the Government, for a while to say that all schools should have a Library to support the education of students and to foster a lifelong love of reading.

So ..... we will be using our Library over the next few months and years to show that they are correct - Libraries are important!

Do read the article below from Carly Doyle about the day it was exciting! I would also like to thank Carly for making it all happen - from bidding for the Library to setting it all up and making it a very special place!

## **3. Griffin Teachers - Sept '21**

In September I am delighted that we have a super group of Teachers ready to begin the year with us at Griffin.

Nursery - Magda Zaborska  
Reception - Felicity Self  
Y1 - Esther McGuinness  
Y2 - Jodie Wallbank  
Y3 - Jess Stoodley  
Y4 - Michael Downey  
Y5 - Alex Bliss  
Y5 - Hannah Smith  
Y6 - Tilly Williams


In July we will be saying 'goodbye' to Romy Skinner and Nisha Nembhard - more about this before the end of term!

I keep reminding myself that this time last year we were in a National Lockdown and our Y6 didn't even finish their time with us - so I know it's great that we are all together this year but it's still a little tough that our end of year celebrations, leaving events and Assemblies cannot happen in the way we would like - please see information below about the things we are hoping to run (assuming Covid allows!) and here's hoping by September we are back to normal.

I look forward to seeing you all at 'drop off' and 'pick up' over the next couple of weeks.

With best wishes

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,

I hope this message finds you all very well on this summer's day!

I am writing with a few important reminders and updates.

#### **Covid reminders:**

- If anyone in your household has symptoms of Covid (temperature above 37.8, continuous cough or loss of/change to sense of taste/smell) then everyone in your household must self-isolate for 10 days, or until the symptomatic household member receives a negative test result.
- Please ensure students do not bring any items in from home other than their PE kits, water bottles, reading books and packed lunches.
- Please ensure your daughter/ son is entering through the correct gate in the morning (EYFS, KS1 or KS2). If you have children in different key stages they should all enter through the gate for the youngest sibling and walk around to their own playground.

#### **End of Year Events Update:**

Sadly, due to the postponement of the lifting of Covid restrictions by the government, this has had an impact on our events in the final few weeks of term:

1. Sports day will take place with students only. I am sorry that we are not able to have families in school as normal for this event.
2. As we cannot conduct a face-to-face SRE meeting for parents/carers of students in Y6, we will only teach the compulsory elements of the SRE curriculum e.g. changes during puberty and not the lesson on conception and pregnancy, which we would usually consult on with families in advance.
3. We are still hoping that our Y6 graduation will be able to take place outside with families in attendance. We will send further information and updates on this soon.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we hope that things will be able to return to normal in the not-so-distant future!

Abi McIvor

Head of School

### **Attendance Update**

The class with the best attendance this half term will win a trip to the theatre on Wednesday 21st July to see Wind in the Willows at the outdoor Turbine Hall Theatre, Battersea Power Station. At the moment it is very close but last week the best classes were Pandas with 99.4%, Lemurs with 98.6% and Leopards with 97.6%. We will announce the winning class in assembly on Monday 12th July and get permission letters out that evening so watch this space to see who it will be!

Thank you to all the parents/carers who continually make the effort to get students to school on time, every day. It really has made a big difference in helping students to make as much progress as possible this year. Students who are late, even by 10/15 minutes each day, miss really valuable learning time, such as their phonics sessions in Nursery and Reception or their spelling and times table practice in Y1-Y6.

Please remember that the first day of Autumn Term 2021 is Friday 3rd September, so if you are travelling anywhere over the summer holidays you must be back by then and allow any time needed for quarantine upon your return.

### **A Message from Ms. Black**

I thought I would share with you some recent photos of our learning and experiences here at Griffin. From Nursery Forest School to British Flowers Week, some heartfelt 'protesting' in Y1 and our fabulous choir meeting HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, it has been a fun-filled few weeks! Please follow us @PrimaryGriffin (we are on Twitter and Instagram!)



### **A Message from Ms. Doyle**

The grand opening of our beautiful new library last Tuesday was a roaring success. A visit from the Children's Laureate and HRH, The Duchess of Cornwall, certainly isn't something we plan every day in primary schools but the organisation was worth every moment. What a day! Griffin is such a fabulous school and we are so pleased to have had the opportunity to showcase it..

Our library was formally declared 'open' after the cutting of a ribbon by our visitors. Following a welcome speech by Ms Bastick-Styles, Year 2 were treated to a reading, by Her Royal Highness, of, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* (one of her favourite children's books). Cressida Cowell then invited students to a draw-along: of a character from her books. We have some talented artists in Year 2! She spoke beautifully about the importance of reading, libraries and reaching for your dreams. Apparently she wasn't the 'best' writer or artist at school but through perseverance and practise, she has achieved many of her ambitions.

After the library, we headed to our Forest in the City, which looked fabulous in the morning sun. Here, students from Years 4 and 5 performed a poem and our choir



sang to our visitors. They were absolutely incredible. I admit to having a little tear in my eye...

The day concluded with interviews for the TES (Times Educational Supplement) and the Reading is Magic Festival, which will be streamed for us all to watch in September. During these interviews, our students spoke about their favourite books and the importance of school libraries (see photo above).

28 June 2021

Dear Ms Bastick-Styles and Ms Doyle,

I am writing to you on behalf of BookTrust to thank you for a wonderful morning to celebrate the opening of the new library.

It was a pleasure to meet you all and to see the vibrant reading culture you are developing at the school. Can you please pass on my thanks on behalf of BookTrust to all your staff who worked so hard to make this happen.

Please also pass onto your pupils what a credit they were to the school and to themselves – as guardians of the new library, when speaking poetry and singing so wonderfully. Their behaviour on a very exciting day for everyone (a royal visit and the Children's Laureate together!) was also exemplary. Most importantly I could see from the way they acted that they can and will be the readers and writers of the future.

All the best and we look forward to working with you through this year.



Diana Gerald  
CEO, BookTrust

Members of the press were on hand to record this wonderful day so we have many memories to look back on in photographic and film form.

Our students were a credit to Griffin throughout the day as noted in this letter from BookTrust.

We also received an equally positive letter from The Duchess of Cornwall.

On a personal note, it has been an absolute pleasure to lead the Life Changing Libraries project for Griffin this year.

Although officially open, our library will be completed and ready for use by students in September. It's already looking fabulous with our 1000 new books chosen by BookTrust and CLPE (Centre for Literacy in Primary Education): the 'best' and most popular children's books currently available. However, I need to finish cataloguing and organising everything, using our new online library system, so that we have a school library fit for use in 2021. We are so fortunate to have been involved in this project.

### **A Message from Mr. Campbell**

We put our students' 10/10 learning moments to the test when we welcomed Cressida Cowell and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall to Griffin recently. Each week students from classes have been selected as the person who has been the 10/10 learner. Some weeks there has been a specific focus such as being polite, communication with visitors and commitment to sustainability. Well done to all of our 10/10 learners so far this half term: Jake, Mohamed (Y1), Blessing, Mac, Saif, Rehman, Patrick (Y5), Ailiyah, George, Maysam, Estelle, Halima M, Sandra, Yusuf (Y4), Lucas, Lamiz, Blessing (Y5) and Rihab.

Our Leopard class have been learning about rainforests:



Jaguars have been working out the ages of trees and classification as part of their learning:



The community box scheme will continue every Friday in term time. Come with your face covering and bags between 2.00pm - 3.30pm. We have had lots of household supplies recently such as washing powder and shampoo - who knows what we will get next week! The final community boxes this academic year will be available on Friday 16th July - see you there!

#### **A Message from Ms. Atkin**

As we are coming to the end of the year we have been so proud of all of our students at Griffin! Along with the end of year reports from class teachers, students with SEND will receive their reviewed summer SEND support plan to share their progress towards their own personal targets. Please talk to your class teacher regarding any questions you may have.

Transitions can be challenging for students with additional needs, so please talk to your children regarding the next academic year and reassure them that we are here to support them with their worries and concerns. In school, we will be ensuring these transitions will go as smoothly as possible, preparing them for changes and new beginnings.

Go to the following website: <https://thrive.wandsworth.gov.uk/> to find out what summer events and activities Wandsworth has to offer during the 6 week break.

Wishing you all a good week ahead.