



Griffeen Valley Educate Together National School

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Newsletter- 14th of May 2021

School Photos

Class photos will take place outdoors on Monday 17th of May. Thanks to the PTA for organising the photo day.

School calendar

The school calendar has been finalised and is attached below and will also be available on the school website.

School building

Work is progressing well and on schedule and at this present time all rooms are on track to be ready for classes to move into in August. New windows are being fitted to the entire building at present. The temporary accommodation will be moved from the school grounds in early July. A full update will issue from the DES in the coming weeks and once this is received it will be shared with parents.

Dreamspace

Ed's 6th Class took part in a Virtual Microsoft Dream Space where they used virtual micro-bits, learned about Artificial Intelligence, Mixed Reality and learned how to code their own game of Rock Paper Scissors using micro-bits. The facilitators from Microsoft were impressed with the participation and abilities of the pupils.

Engineers Week

Matt's 6th class received a virtual visit from Annette Sohor of IBM. This visit had to be postponed previously due to restrictions so we were delighted to be able to go ahead with the visit this week. We would like to thank Annette who has been a regular visitor to our school over the last few years and is a parent of a past pupil. This year 6th class learned about wind energy and how wind works in engineering. Pupils made their own pin wheels and took them outside to observe how the wind would affect their designs.

Tech Fortnight

All classes took part in Tech Fortnight recently. During week one Infants to 2nd class used BeeBots and carried out lots of computational thinking challenges. In week two 3rd to 6th classes carried out a variety of activities using Chromebooks including the Hour of Code. All of the above activities, including MS Dream Space and Engineering work, will go towards achieving our next Discover Primary Science and Maths Award. All staff, teachers and SNA's, completed 6 hours of training with DPSM to further develop STEM learning in our school. Thanks to Nicola, Bernadette and Melanie for all of their work co-ordinating the DPSM award.

School Garden

Work continues on the school garden but growth has been a little slower than we had hoped due to the poor weather in April! Things are beginning to take shape now and pupils have potato, strawberry and coriander plants ready to transplant outdoors next week. Special thanks to Alica, Erica and Alex from 6th class who have been monitoring progress in the garden on a daily basis!

1st class walking tour to Johns Bridge

All of the 1st classes visited Griffeen Park before the mid-term. They located the ruins of John's Bridge as part of their local historian research project and completed a scavenger hunt during their walk. The children completed some fantastic projects and fact sheets upon their return to school. Well done to all of the boys and girls- you are excellent history detectives!

Ramadan and Eid

We would like to wish all of our families who are celebrating the festival – “Eid Mubarak”. As part of our Learn Together Curriculum, all classes learned about Ramadan and Eid and completed some lovely art work and projects. Children were delighted with their homework free evening on Wednesday – a s were many parentsJ

School Calendar 2021 -2022

School re-opens Tuesday 31st of August 2021

Halloween Break

School closes Monday 25th to Friday 29th October 2021

Christmas Holidays

Last day of term Wednesday 22nd of December 2021 – school closes half day

School closed Thursday 23rd of December 2021 to Wednesday 5th of January 2022

School re-opens Thursday 6th of January 2022

February Half Term

School closed Thursday 24th and Friday 25th of February 2022

St. Patrick's Weekend

School closed Thursday 17th of March and Friday 18th of March 2022

Easter Break

Last day of term Friday 8th of April 2022- school closes half day

School closed Monday 11th of April to Friday 22nd of April 2022

School re-opens Monday 25th of April

May Bank Holiday

School closed Monday 2nd of May 2022

June Bank Holiday Week

School closed Monday 6th of June to Friday 10th of June 2022

End of term

Last day of term Thursday 30th of June 2022 – school closes half day