



Griffydam Primary School
Achieving together



Welcome to Griffydam Primary School

Foreword:
Mrs Claire Coates,
Headteacher, says:



A big hello and welcome to our wonderful Griffydam Primary School.

Proud

I am extremely proud to be the new Headteacher at Griffydam. It really is a very special place to teach. This prospectus has been designed to give you a flavour of some of the fantastic things that we do here.

‘The Griffydam Way’

‘The Griffydam Way’ is central to all we do and our philosophy is to encourage our children:

- Aim as high as I can.
- More than just me.
- I can do it.
- Go the extra mile.
- Think for myself.

Outdoor learning

We are so lucky to sit right in the heart of the National Forest, so our children can benefit from our beautiful grounds and outdoor learning provision. We believe in focusing on the whole child, offering music, art and sports provision alongside academic achievement.

Achieving together...and making every child feel special.

Our motto is ‘Achieving Together’ and this ethos of care runs throughout the school, from our youngest to the eldest amongst us. Griffydam Primary School is at the heart of the local community, and proud to be so. We make every child feel special.

Dedicated staff

I am also very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential, and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child’s time here...and increase your child’s enjoyment of learning

Get in touch

If you wish to hear more about what we can offer your child please contact us for more information or an appointment to meet me. We welcome visits and love to show our school ‘in action’. Telephone on 01530 222281 or email office@griffydam.leics.sch.uk.



School day: settling in

School hours

- 8.45am – the bell is rung and children line up.
- 3.05 pm - parents of Foundation Stage children collect them from the Foundation Stage area.
- 3.15 pm - school closes.

Breakfast club and after-school provision

We have a before and after school club on site, run and managed by ‘Clubs Complete’. Breakfast Club runs from 7:30am, and after-school care is until 6:00pm. Do feel free to visit before or after school to discuss your needs with Alice or any other member of our Clubs Complete staff.

Uniform

The Governors and staff believe that school uniform increases the children’s pride and ownership of their school and we insist on children at Griffydam wearing a school uniform. The school uniform consists of:

- Plain white shirt, blouse or polo shirt.
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo.
- Plain navy/black trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore dress (no sportswear, jeans or ‘cut-offs’).
- Sweatshirts, cardigans, tracksuits, T-shirts, caps, book bags and P.E. bags may be purchased directly from our uniform supplier <http://www.yourschooluniform.com>.

School meals and snacks

Lunch

Children can have a hot lunch as many times as they like in the week and can order a meal on the morning they require it. School meals for children in Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2 are government funded i.e. free to children in Classes 1 and 2. School meals for children in Years 3-6 i.e. Class 3 & 4 cost £2.20 each. We actively promote healthy bodies and minds through initiatives such as Food for Life, Healthy Schools and Bronze Sports Ambassadors etc.

Free school meals

Application forms for free school meals are available on request to any family whose income is below £16,190 per year. Although meals for all infants are now government funded, we would still ask you to complete the application if you fall into this category.

Milk

Children under 5 are entitled to free milk and other children in school may purchase it. If you wish your child to have milk with their lunch at school, please order it from www.coolmilk.com. Parents of children aged under 5 must still order milk via the website.

Fruit and snacks

Children in Reception and Key Stage One have access to free fruit at break-times. Key Stage 2 can buy snacks from the school tuck shop. Presently, all children stay at school during lunchtime and those who do not have a hot meal bring sandwiches.



Creative curriculum: foundations for success

Creative and balanced

In the last few years we have developed and implemented a more creative curriculum, linking learning across subjects to give a more coherent learning experience. Fully engaging our learners through exciting curriculum topics.

All areas of learning

We believe that each child has an entitlement to a planned curriculum, which covers the principles of breadth, balance, relevance, coherence, differentiation, continuity and participation. We will endeavour to provide educational activities which recognise all areas of learning. These are aesthetic and creative, human and social, linguistic and literary, mathematical, moral, physical, scientific, spiritual and technological.

The curriculum is divided into three stages

- Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5
- Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7
- Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the Government's Early Learning Goals with seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education.



Enriched curriculum: trips and visits

Educational visits and residential trips

To further enrich our curriculum, all children are offered a range of visits, both locally and further afield. These include:

- 1-night residential visit for Key Stage 1.
- 3-night residential visit for Key Stage2 - this year we will be going to Whitemoor Lakes in Staffordshire.
- Ulverscroft Manor to study the woodland.
- Derby Museum to investigate life cycles, etc
- Tesco to study 'farm to fork'.
- A whole school theatre visit at Christmas.

French

In addition, we provide French tuition for all children from Reception upwards, delivered by a specialist teacher.

Residential trips and visitors

Older children have the opportunity to go on residential trips during the school year. We feel these experiences can help to develop qualities of self-reliance and tolerance of others. Children learn independence and develop confidence.

Additionally, we arrange visits to the school by theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists and musicians.



Inclusion: a curriculum for all

Special educational needs

The school aims to ensure that all pupils, including those with learning difficulties, physical problems and the more able child, experience a broad and balanced curriculum at an appropriate level, through which they will acquire the basic skills and attitudes to meet new challenges with confidence. We offer a range of enrichment activities to extend the more able children both in and out of school.

Monitor and assess

Members of the teaching staff actively monitor and assess all pupils to ensure that their individual needs are met and, when necessary, to seek the advice of external agencies. The school has used the services of the Fosse Health Trust, Educational Psychology service, the Specialist Teaching Service and the Special Needs Assessment Service during the year. The SEN policy sets out how children with special needs are identified, assessed and supported according to their individual needs.

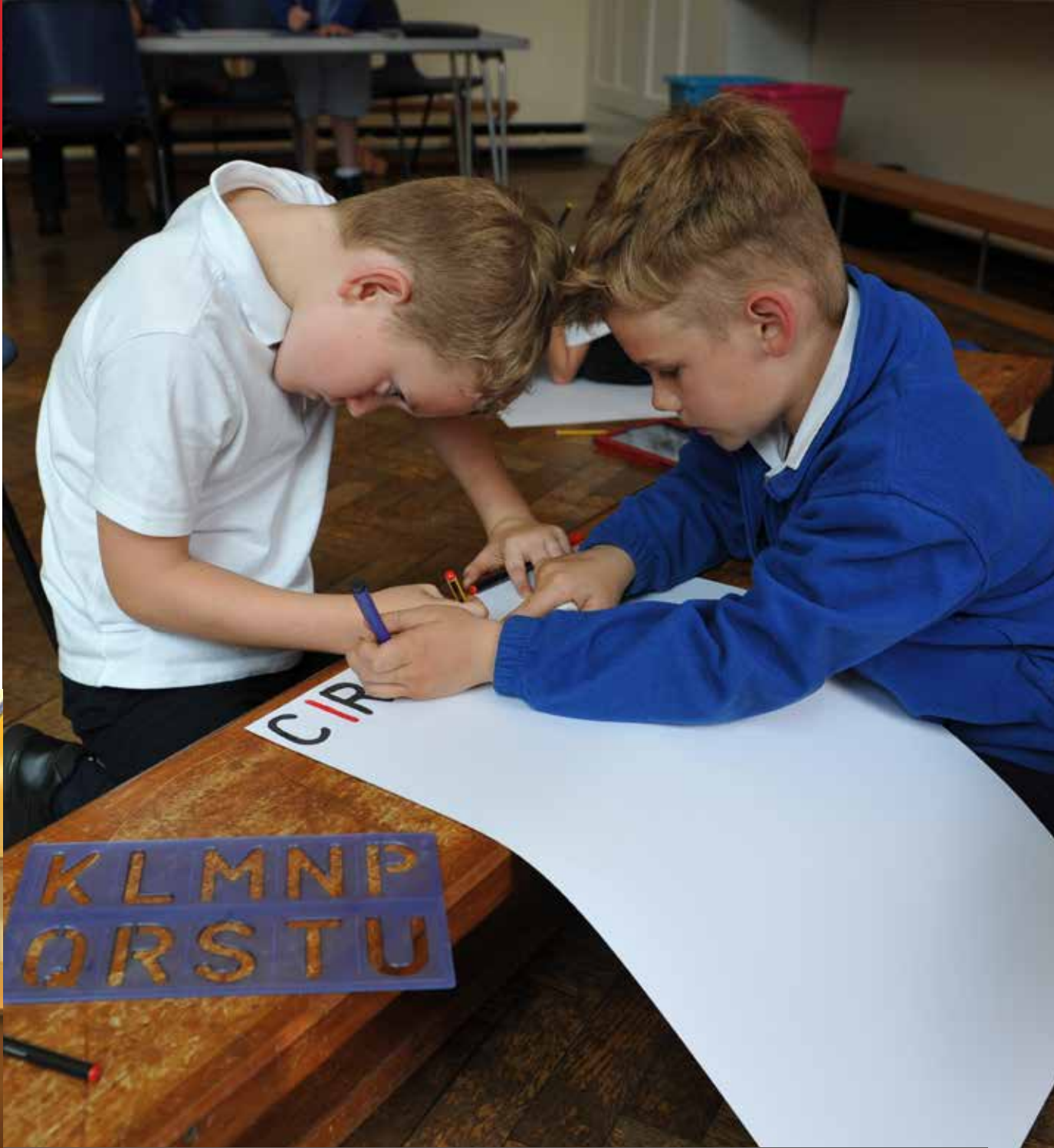


Sensitive and tolerant

The policy of the school encourages and values children with special needs (either academic or physical) to attend the school. Socially, we feel the pupils in the school learn from this and become more sympathetic, sensitive and tolerant towards others.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.



Behaviour and self-development

A home/school partnership

Discipline begins at home, when adults expect their child to follow simple rules for safety and to carry out simple instructions. Where children are used to such discipline at home, they will have no difficulty in accepting discipline at school.

Courtesy, respect and kindness

School discipline at Griffydam is consistent and encourages self-discipline. We expect each person to treat everyone with courtesy, respect and kindness, to be welcoming to visitors and to show a sense of responsibility for their own and other people's possessions and for the health and safety of everyone.

Follow the rules

There is an acceptable standard of behaviour underpinned by the positive and firm attitudes of the staff. Infringements of the school rules are initially dealt with by the teacher. Further breaches are punished by loss of privileges and at this stage the Headteacher becomes involved. A clear indication of what is expected is re-emphasised with the child at this point. Parents are informed of relevant school rules to which their child needs to conform, to make clear that a further breaking of the rules will require their direct involvement.



Your child's achievements

Feedback, assessment and planning

At Griffydam Primary School, we believe marking should provide constructive feedback to every child, focussing on successes and improvements against learning objectives, enabling pupils to become reflective learners and helping them to close the gap between current and desired performance.

Identifying the achievements

We use assessment as a means of identifying the achievements of our pupils and of indicating ways to further support them. Assessments inform planning and target setting for groups of pupils and/or individuals.

We are developing a mastery approach to maths and using the White Rose resources for this. We use Cornerstones for our topic planning and our English is based on genres and quality texts.

School reports and parent's evenings

Feedback on termly assessment is provided to parents via parent consultation evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms. We write summative reports at the end of each academic year and offer a drop in to discuss the reports in July. Parents are always welcome to come in talk about their child's learning at any point in the academic year.



Clubs...sport and music

Wide range of clubs

We run a wide variety of after-school clubs to appeal to every child. Recent examples are:

- Cookery Club
- Sports Club
- Gymnastics
- Christmas Crafts
- Football coaching
- Cross country
- Table tennis
- School newspaper.

If you have any ideas for clubs, or are able to offer your help in running a club, we will be very pleased to hear from you.



Sport

We have a dedication to sports such as cycling, tag rugby, Quicksticks, hockey, athletics and more, in association with the local Sports Partnership, as well as regular PE sessions. We also participate with local schools in offering a wider range of sporting opportunities, including cross country, crown green bowling and multi-sports.

Sports coaching

Sports coaching from Reception to Year 6 is provided by a specialist sports coach, and KS2 children have regular swimming lessons.

Music

We provide whole class music tuition in Class 3 (this year it's the Ukulele) with the opportunity to perform at the Leicester De Montfort hall, and we will be attending Young Voices at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. One-to-one peripatetic music tuition is available, for which there is a charge.



Admissions

Admission Griffydam Primary School

We are very proud of our wonderful school and all that it has to offer. We strongly recommended that you contact us directly to arrange a visit as we would love to show you around.

Applications

At Griffydam we follow Leicestershire Authority's Common Admissions Policy. Griffydam School admits children to the Foundation Stage at the beginning of the Autumn Term once they reach the age of 4. This is known as "4 plus" entry.

Prospective parents are invited to make an appointment with the Headteacher when considering applying for a place here at Griffydam School. After this initial visit, parents need to apply to the Local Authority (LA) for a place at the school, whether or not they live in the catchment area. Once a place has been allocated through the LA, the school will make arrangements for some introductory visits for the child, during the summer term preceding their entry.

Contact Leicester City Council School Admission Team

- Visit: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/school-admissions/>
- Ring us on: 0116 454 1009 (option 1)
- Email us: admissions.online@leicester.gov.uk
- Write to us: School Admissions Service, Customer Service Centre, York House, 91 Granby Street, Leicester, LE1 6FB



Getting involved

Voluntary helpers

Everyone has some skill to offer and parents and grandparents are always most welcome to help in school. If you feel able to offer your support in some way, please do not hesitate to contact us. When we need help in a specific area we will ask in a letter.

PTA

This is a thriving group, which raises funds for the school and holds social events for the children and adults. Funds raised in recent years have furnished the library, paid for a large amount of outdoor play equipment, contributed towards the purchase of Interactive Whiteboards and data projectors and funded the outdoor learning area for Foundation Stage, as well as the installation of air conditioning in the mobile classrooms. Everyone is welcome to join this group and the variety of their events appeals to all tastes.

Generous PTA contributions make the environment for the children much more stimulating and enliven their education. The Staff and Governors are grateful for their enthusiasm and continued interest. Watch out for notices on the PTA notice board outside school.

Governors

Our Governing Body provides strategic leadership, taking long term decisions and planning ahead. This includes budgeting for the income received by the school from a variety of sources and how that income will be spent in the school. The school has an improvement plan and progress against this plan is reported to the Governing Body regularly. The school operates with a number of policies and procedures and these are approved by the Governing Body and reviewed on a regular basis. The governors can be contacted through the school.





Seaside



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