Blog 11.05.18

I must say that it does not feel like 2 minutes since I was writing the blog for last week! The weeks are really flying by this term and the children are all very busy with their MAGIC learning.

The children have been enthused and inspired during our One Book One School (OBOS) launch this week. The teachers have been campaigning for their favourite books in readiness for our ballot on voting day. The School Council selected three texts from those submitted by staff and now it is over to the rest of the children to make the final choice! It has been fantastic to see the children so excited and motivated about reading and exploring texts! They have been demonstrating their understanding and value of democracy to vote and select theri focus text in readiness for the final 3 weeks of term. Miss Wynne has campaigned for ‘Peter Pan’ by J.M. Barrie, Miss Carr has been encouraging votes for ‘The Twits’ by Roald Dahl and Miss Morris is hoping the ‘Northern Lights’ by Philip Pullman will be everyone’s favourite choice! Our ballot has now taken place and the results will be revealed on Monday – which text will be the winner? Watch this space!

Y3 Gryffindor returned from the Bank Holiday extra refreshed and with fantastic attitudes ready to work. This week, they have been adding money. Firstly, they needed to have a secure understanding of all the different coins on a place value grid and then transfer their addition skills to a different situation. In English, they have been looking at headlines ready to complete their newspaper reports about the tsunami; they have used their excellent skills to make these imaginative and ‘catchy’. Creative work this week has been eye opening as Year 3 have been learning about global warming - a very grown up topic! The children wrote some amazing, informative writing to share their knowledge and the damages that we are causing living our everyday lives. The children have brainstormed and generated ways they can help our World, including simple, small steps such as turning the classroom lights off when it is sunny inside, turning the radiators down or making sure we close doors on windy days so that we don't waste any heat.

This week in Year 4, the children have been Learning about the features of persuasive letters and hear on the grapevine that they will be applying persuasive strategies in letters that are coming to me – I await with eager anticipation! I am really looking forward to reading them and seeing just how persuasive the children in Hufflepuff can be! In Maths the children have been learning how we measure and convert the mass of an object and have been surprised at some of their findings.  
The children have enjoyed their PSHE lessons where they have used photographs of themselves as a younger child or baby and have discussed the physical and emotional changes that they have already experienced. They really enjoyed working out who is who! In Science, the children have moved on to learning about habitats and exploring the different environments that animals live in. They tell me that they are looking forward to designing their own habitat for their mysterious creature very soon.

After a successful previous week in English (with work on dashes), Ravenclaw have been learning to use direct speech in their writing to show communication between major characters in their focus text: 'Alice in Wonderland'. Although direct speech can be challenging in terms of rules to apply, the children have developed their skills admirably over the course of the week and they have included some humorous dialogue and speech examples. Progressing on from their work with multiplying fractions last week, the children are now ordering and comparing fractions and are proving to be 'fraction masters' within class - a feat not to be underestimated! During Reading they have continued to evaluate the impact of language on their audience and are now showing greater confidence in being able to discuss why writers use certain vocabulary - hopefully this skill can be transferred into their writing and across other subjects. Finally, in Music, Ravenclaw have started to look at the work of the brilliant Danny Elfman: the world-renowned composer famous for his work on various film scores (including that of Alice in Wonderland). I hope their enthusiasm shown this week encourages them to look at other pieces of music too.

For Year 6 the final week of preparation is over and the children are ready to show off their individual best. Everybody’s best is good enough at Grove and all children know that they will shine and make themselves, you and us very proud! They need to enjoy family time this weekend and be bright and early on Monday morning ☺

Alongside all of the class based learning that takes place here at Grove the children are also lucky enough to receive PE lessons from our specialist teacher, Miss Woolridge. This week all classes have been practising their athletic skills that they will be applying when competing on Sports Day, which is now only two weeks away! Year 3 and 4 have been focusing on throwing events such as Shot Put, and Javelin. In rounders, they have worked in small groups to help each other improve by peer evaluating their throwing techniques. Year 5 have been practising running techniques - sprinting and also pace running. Within each class, every child has chosen at least one field activity and at least one track activity that they would like to compete in. Next week, we will continue to practise our individual events so every child is ready and confident to compete for their team on the day – how exciting!

Spanish Club (or 'Las Estrellas' to call it by its real name) has grown since we returned after Easter. There are lots of new faces who have come along ready to have fun whilst learning some Spanish words and phrases. Speaking of fun, this week, the club members celebrated 'Cinco de Mayo' which is a huge festival in Mexico. The children learnt the Mexican Hat Dance, which is fast, energetic and a little silly (which of course they love!) Following that, they decorated a Piñata with the colours of the Mexican flag!

I have been informing you for the last few weeks about attendance in school and after our recent improvement in attendance, I have to say that we had a disappointing week last week. Our overall weekly school attendance dropped from 96.5% down to 95%. ☹ All children need to be in school every day in order to ensure that they do not miss vital learning time. This week, our special ‘well done’ mention goes to **Slytherin HC**, who attended for 99.7% of the school week, and **Hufflepuff AC**, who attended for 99.3% of the week. I hope that next week we will see another rise back towards our whole school target of 97.5%. Mrs Blackhurst and Miss Bentley, who lead on our school improvement priority of attendance at Grove, will be announcing our thank-you rewards for children and parents/carers who work with us to ensure that children’s attendance is above school target very shortly – we really do appreciate your partnership working to improve our school!

Have a lovely weekend all and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Mrs Machin