Blog w.e. 14.12.18

Welcome to the penultimate blog of the Autumn term! What an amazing but busy week we have had this week. The children are all still very busy preparing their concerts and are very excited to perform to you next week – I have to say that they are looking amazing and you are in for a real treat.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks for all of your support at the Christmas fayre this week - it was fantastic to see so many of you there spending your money and supporting our Academy with our fundraising events. There was a lovely Christmas spirit and both children and adults alike had a great time! I have to say that there were some beautiful gifts and prizes on offer – I even treated myself to a couple of purchases! I cannot emphasise enough how much the money raised at these events supports the school and our pupils. The staff, children and volunteers put a huge amount of effort and time into organising and preparing the fayre to make it such a huge success so I am sure that you will join me in saying a huge thankyou to everyone involved.

Back in the classrooms the children have also been very busy continuing their learning journeys.

Gryffindor have had an action-packed week. From multiplication and division using their 3 and 4x tables; to preparing and performing their wintry poetry in English. They have looked at and used lots of new vocabulary which they can now add to their repertoire. In maths they have focussed on their 3 and 4 times tables, looking at both multiplication and the inverse, division. The children are doing really well with learning their tables and are becoming more fluent at recalling their facts. It has been a busy week of learning that the children have thoroughly enjoyed! The children, AKA ‘scientific wizards’, have shown how 'bright' they are this week by exploring light and shadows further. Why not ask your child to show you how shadows move using their hands?

Y4 Hufflepuff have experienced an adventure this week where their teddy bears from home have been able to join the magical learning (even the teachers bought their old teddies in!) These teddies stepped through the doors of Hogwarts Great Hall and were amazed! The teddies have been used to help children empathise with the characters Albert and Florence Bair, from the Heathrow airport advert - if you haven't yet seen this, it's worth a watch with your tissues to hand. Children have begun to learn the skills to subtract 4 digit numbers, but before they began subtracting they looked at the vocabulary surrounding subtraction and the teachers were blown away with the amount of words that the children know relating to subtraction!

As well as all of the above, children in Years 3 and 4 have been working hard putting together the final parts of this year’s show stopping performance; Lights, Camel, Action. Our children and staff can't wait to perform this to you next week so don't forget to bring your dancing shoes!

As we approach our final week before Christmas, Ravenclaw continue to produce some excellent work. In English this week, the children have continued the next part of their application write based around Year 5's topic text: Beowulf. After gruesomely destroying some of Beowulf's men in the dead of the night, the merciless monster (Grendel) was stopped in his tracks by the daring Viking/Saxon warrior-prince : Beowulf. Gripped in a vice-like grip, the two giants wrestle across the mead-hall causing destruction in their wake - who will come out victorious? In "Power Maths" this week, the children have continued to use a range of skills learned this term to solve tricky problems involving addition and subtraction – they have all worked hard to recall and apply their skills. In Science, Year 5 have completed an assessment based on forces such as friction, gravity and air resistance whilst in RE, the children have learnt about how other countries across the world celebrate Christmas!

In Year 6 this week, all children have been showing off the knowledge they have developed over the term as they completed their SATs practice testing. There are many fantastic results showing just how hard all of our children and staff are working. It is great to see the children settling into the test process and come out smiling. During the afternoon sessions, the children have been learning about the archaeopteryx - a prehistoric bird that all current birds are said to have evolved from. In addition to this, there has been the magic of Christmas entering all of the classrooms as the children have prepared for their Christmas Carol concert. They really do have the voices of angels - why not ask your child to share their favourite song with you!

As I am sure that you will agree it has been an action packed week here at Grove and no doubt next week will be just the same as the festive preparations continue. Let’s just hope that the ‘white stuff’ stays away as we have lots of exciting things planned from concerts to parties and festive learning fun.

Wishing you a restful weekend

Mrs Carrigan