Blog w.e. 18.05.18

Wow what a busy week it has been here at Grove! This has particularly been the case for Year 6 and I have to say that we are extremely proud of every single one of the children. They have all worked so hard and shown off their MAGIC values to the very best of their ability. You have been amazing Year 6 and are an absolute credit to yourselves, your grown-ups and the school – well done! I would also like to thank my staff for ensuring that the children have felt supported within a stress free environment (as much as possible ☺) and you, our parents and carers for working with your children and for getting them to school bright and early for breakfast. For Year 6, the week has concluded with a day of relaxation and a film; it was certainly a well-deserved break that the children enjoyed.

Also this week we have had our pre royal wedding celebrations! The children tucked into their wedding banquet eagerly on Thursday and this was then followed by our ‘red, white and blue’ day today as we continued the celebrations in readiness for the wedding of Prince Harry and Meagan on Saturday– everyone looked fantastic! Interestingly, as part of their research into the history of The Royal Family, Year 3 have learnt how, years ago, it was illegal not to wear socks in the Queen’s presence! This was one rule that I didn’t know existed!!

Alongside all of this the children have been waiting with baited breath to find out which book has received the majority of the votes for our ‘One Book, One School’ topic in the second half of the summer term. All votes are in, counted and verified and the results have been shared with the children……and the winner is…….The Twits by Roald Dahl! Well done to Miss Carr and Mrs Darlington for your effective campaigning and presentation! I will look forward to seeing the exciting learning activities that the teachers will be preparing and the transition displays that will follow.

In relation to attendance, unfortunately there has been another decrease in the whole school’s attendance for last week. Our attendance has fallen from 95% to 94.2%. This is disappointing since our whole school target is 97.5%. Missing valuable learning time is detrimental to a child’s education; I cannot stress enough the importance that all children are in school every day. While this is disappointing, some of the classes have shown a huge improvement in their attendance this week. A massive well done to Hufflepuff RM, who managed to improve their attendance from 92% to 99.1%. I expect that you will all work with us to ensure that we get closer to our attendance target next week.

Each year group has, as ever, been improving their knowledge and skills across all curriculum areas. Year 3 Gryffindor have worked extremely hard editing their work and making final improvements ready to write up the newspaper reports - I can't wait to ‘read all about it’ in their focussed writes! Also, the children have been solving problems involving money; for example, receiving change when they spend money in a shop. They did this practically, using and applying their maths skills to make sure that they weren’t short changing their friends!

In Hufflepuff, preparations are going ahead for the Year 4 school trip and the children have been getting excited - writing persuasive letters in the hope that they can adopt their own animal from Chester Zoo. I will be having a read through these to discover how powerful their persuasive skills really are! The children have also been developing their art work using three different skills. The outcomes look stunning and we have some incredibly skilled artists in our midst. In maths, the children have progressed to converting measures of capacity and have applied their understanding to reasoning problems. Can you find any bottles at home which they could convert between litres and millilitres with you?

There has been another excellent week of learning in Ravenclaw. They have completed their learning about imperial and metric measurements in practical, fun ways. They have had the opportunity to not just understand and develop their knowledge in measure, but have managed to solve problems with hands on activities. They have been converting liquid to and from litres and pints; measuring parts of the body converting between centimetres, metres, feet and inches; and weighing different measures using pounds, kilogrammes and stones (Mr. Woods lied about his weight by the way!). In English, the children have moved onto a new, exciting chapter in their class text ‘Alice in Wonderland’: 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' as they develop their knowledge and application of adverbials - I cannot wait to read their final pieces next week! In reading, Ravenclaw are now learning about language features and comparisons within and between books, focussing on similarities and differences between characters.

This week in PE, the children have continued with their sports day preparations, with all year groups working on improving their high jump skills. Although very few year 3 children had prior experience of this, they all very quickly applied the ‘Fosby Flop’ technique - with many jumping over 4ft! Year 4 have recapped jumping techniques and worked in small groups helping each other to improve using peer evaluation and feedback. Year 5 have used the interactive whiteboard to watch videos of their high jump performance and technique and self-assessed to improve. One more hardworking week to go before half term which will finish with an exciting and action packed Sports Day at Northwood Stadium. Mr. Woods has already started to show his competitive nature about who will be victorious! We do hope that you can join us next Friday at Northwood Stadium to commence at 10am. Please refer to your sports day letter for more information.

Well, that’s it for this week. Enjoy your weekend all!

Mrs Machin