Blog w.e. 22.03.19

Wow the end of week 4 of the half term! I cannot believe how quickly these weeks fly by! As usual it has been an action-packed week with lots of exciting learning opportunities for the children in every year group.

This week, Year 3 have started to read ‘Horrible Histories – Savage Stone Age’ by Terry Deary in order to develop their understanding of the layout and language features of a non-chronological report. From the text, they have built a bank of vocabulary to use within their own work, such as ‘extinct, deceased, hunting, gathering, fall-trap and moas’. If you don't know what a moa is (or was), then please ask your child and I am sure that they would love to teach you something new! In maths, Year 3 children completed their money unit this week and are now masters at counting, adding and subtracting amounts of money in line with the expectations for their year group. They found it particularly useful to count the notes and pound coins first before counting the pennies. Why not encourage your child to work out their own change from a £5 note the next time they buy something in order to apply their skills in a real life context? In creative lessons, the children have been producing some cave paintings; they have been learning to create different textures within their art work by mixing paints with soil, sand, flour and other materials. It was certainly a messy but thoroughly engaging and enjoyable lesson! Well done Year 3 for another spectacular week!

Y4 Hufflepuff have also had another exciting week of learning where they have been busy consolidating their multiplication skills by applying them to a series of problem solving situations. They've shown super gumption when solving these problems and have worked extremely hard to apply their learning effectively! I think the children and teachers alike are ready for a new unit of work next week as they begin to look at Measure. As well as continuing to be maths wizards, children have been continuing their holiday brochures for Ostia, where they have been exploring excursions that tourists can book. In creative lessons, our super talented year 4s have been designing and making their Roman mosaics using stamps and card - they are looking fantastic so far and I can't wait to see the finished results.

An excellent week has been had by all in Ravenclaw as Year 5 have been learning about a range of new topics. In English, the children were so thrilled to find out that they will be progressing through a unit of work to produce a persuasive brochure for their own theme park: 'Wonderland'. This brochure will advertise different aspects of their Alice in Wonderland-themed attractions with a particular focus on dashes and persuasive techniques (which they have started to learn about this week). In Maths, Year 5 have been excited to have moved onto a new practice book of "Power Maths" as they look to develop their knowledge of multiplication. The children are really enjoying maths and can't wait to get to work! In Geography, the children have developed their knowledge of compass points and have enjoyed a range of activities including finding 'treasure' in our grand hall using a map. Finally, away from the classroom, Year 5 have been working hard in PE this week as the challenging 'Bleep Test" has been completed to assess fitness. The assessment is a tough task and is a physically demanding activity so a huge, huge credit to all children who took part.

Our year 6, this week, have become journalists. Using their current text, ‘The Silver Sword’ they have planned and begun to write a newspaper article based upon the dramatic escape of Polish prisoner, Joseph Balicki. They have had to hook the reader in with their catchy headlines and snappy lead paragraph as well as using technical vocabulary to describe the sequence of events. So far these are looking great and the children are enjoying writing them – I can’t wait to see the finished articles! In maths, they have continued their preparation for SATs by looking at how to answer a range of questions- they have become much more confident in explaining their understanding of the processes involved (even when tackling questions involving algebra). The children are working extremely hard to both learn new maths skills and apply their existing ones in a range of different contexts. In their topic lessons they have looked at the roles of women during the war and how they supported the country and its troops. I think some of them have been quite shocked to find out about the roles of women during this time compared to nowadays.

Well done to all for another fantastic week here at Grove!

Please can I remind you again about the importance of correct uniform and PE kits as we are finding that there are still many children who are not adhering to the academy policy, particularly with regard to footwear (trainers are only allowed for PE).

Have a lovely weekend and many thanks for your ongoing support.

Mrs Carrigan