Blog w/e 23.03.18

Welcome, once again, to my weekly blog. They say that time flies when you are having fun and that is certainly true at Grove! Indeed, we have had a fun day today during our Sports Relief fundraising activities and I would like to thank Miss Woolridge for organising and leading this event so well and you for your generous donations for this good cause.

Our children’s MAGIC attitudes and behaviour is always acknowledged by visitors in school. The children follow our Golden Rules and are looking forward to their silver parties next week; having achieved their Dojo targets. Their exemplary behaviour has also been recognised at The Victoria Hall this week, when our choir confidently showcased their talents on stage. Mrs Blackhurst could not ‘sing’ the praises of the children and staff enough. Many thanks to Miss Craddock and Miss Dalley who go ‘above and beyond’ so that our children can have these fantastic experiences.

This week, our teachers have been assessing whether children are working in line with their Age Related Expectations (ARE). We have had many proud conversations about children that are making accelerated progress. Thank you all for your valuable contributions, through homework and experiences, that undoubtedly contribute to their educational success. Teachers use their assessments to plan teaching and learning for the summer term and will share further details in their newsletters.

Gryffindor have amazed their teachers with their writing assessments. They have been fabulous to read and showcase how much progress they have made since joining us in September. Their teachers are very proud and their infant school teachers will be too! Also, the children have been learning how to subtract fractions within a whole and learning to spot patterns to help them with their calculations. Some questions involved using the inverse to work backwards because the questions began with the answer, so those were pretty tricky, but they got there! Y3 have been MAGIC learners in creative this week as they have been improving their artwork through triples using sketching, pastels and watercolours. I can't wait to see the display work come together next week - it is sure set to be a show stopper!

Year 4 have been practising their performance in preparation for their Easter assembly next week. They are looking forward to their adults joining us to celebrate and watch the children showcase their presenting and performance skills. They hope it will be ‘egg-cellent’! They have also written a narrative, including use of standard and non-standard English, a conversation between their roman soldier and themselves, as they continue their story based on the Indian in the Cupboard. In maths, the children have moved forwards in their learning about fractions and are now able to find a fraction of an amount. This has progressed from Year 3 which is pleasing.

What an incredibly busy week Ravenclaw have had too! In English, children have produced a brilliant piece of writing to promote Grove Academy in the form of a non-chronological report - the children really showcased the school and their talents very well! They have also had lots of fun preparing and performing play scripts; Grove Academy certainly has some budding actors and actresses in the making! They focused beautifully on their tone, volume and intonation skills! Please look for play scripts online and have some fun at home too! In maths, Ravenclaw have also been focussing on fractions. Though even harder than Year 3 and Year 4, they have demonstrated secure understanding and reasoning through the use of pictorial methods - a big well done! Finally, in art, the children have been focussing on different mediums including: pencil, charcoal and water colours to produce a variety of Greek-themed images in preparation for next week's display - we are certain that these will wow you as much as us!

It is fair to say that the Year 6 children had a great opportunity to let off some SATs steam as they completed a circuit fitness challenge designed by Miss Woolridge today. Following this, they had the opportunity to follow a 15-minute session delivered by Joe Wicks (creator of the 'Lean in 15' brand); another welcome break from their revision and SATs preparation. As part of their Sport Relief learning, the children also read and watched the life story of Precious (a young lady from South Africa) who has benefitted from the charitable work of Sport Relief. It was fantastic to see the children acknowledge the importance of charity fundraising and how this links to our British values.

On a final note, Joe and I would like to thank-you all for your generous donations during his fundraising collection and event for his dad’s treatment. Across our Esprit Academy Trust, we raised a total of £1,497.58 (Hamilton raised £302.02, Northwood raised £335.56, Grove raised £860). I know that some of you have donated on his just giving page too – again, thank-you to you all for being such a kind and caring community.

Well, I think that’s it for this week. Wishing you a lovely, restful weekend.

Mrs Machin