Blog w.e. 28.09.18

Another busy week gone – half way through the half term already! Time flies when you are having fun! This week we held our ‘New to Year 3’ evening where it was lovely to see lots of new faces here at Grove – a huge thank you to the children who stayed behind and led our tours around the school. They did an amazing job and we were very proud of them and how they represented the school. I am sure that the Year 2 children and their parents were very impressed with the activities that they experienced in each classroom. Year 5 also began swimming this week and I know that they have enjoyed continuing their learning journey with this skill from Year 4.

In Gryffindor this week the children have been learning how to compare and order whole numbers up to 1000 through problem solving and reasoning questions – it has been tricky but they have used their MAGIC attitudes to help them to be resilient and keep trying. In writing they have been learning what a prefix is and how these can change the meanings of root words – ask them at home about how these work. The children have progressed further with their Hogwarts prospectus through developing the use of paragraphs in order to organise and add a clear structure. In Science they have tested their force based predictions and evaluated how their investigations were carried out – we have some budding scientists emerging!

Hufflepuff have had, what can only be described as, another fantastic week! All four classes have been focussing on their 9x table and managed to say them aloud without any prompts after only 20 minutes! Wow! This was all thanks to our magic counting stick - I'm sure your children would love to test it out on you all at home. Now they need to work on learning these out of order too so that they can recall them quickly! Please help them to learn their times tables at home. Also, children have been working hard to write their reports about cats! Who knew that cats had so many weird and wonderful traits? I know the Y4 teachers can't wait to read and mark these – well done Hufflepuff.

Year 5 continue to impress in Ravenclaw with their work on the Viking text: Beowulf. Their focus this week has been on summarising elements of the text in preparation for writing a narrative based on the gruesome events of the story. So far, the children have begun to consolidate their understanding of the events in the text whilst also using thesauruses to up-level their own ideas regarding atmosphere and feelings in the text. Can mighty Beowulf defeat the terror-tyrant Grendel?  During Maths this week, Year 5 have further strengthened their understanding of decimal numbers by ordering and comparing them. The children continue to show great confidence in this tricky topic  - particularly when asked to write these numbers in words so a big well done to Year 5! Finally, in Creative, Ravenclaw have continued to expand their awareness of modern-day and Viking counties in the United Kingdom by editing and improving a mistake-filled explanation about this topic.

In year 6, he children have written a diary recount from the perspective of Van Helsing as he begins his investigations into the effects of Dracula’s escapades. The children have applied exciting noun phrases to clarify meaning and give detail. In Maths, they have worked on rounding numbers to any given multiple using a range of practical activities. Their Science investigation into sugar and its effects has got the children thinking about the shocking quantities of the substance that can be found in some of their common snacks – I am sure that they will tell you all about this at home! They have created a display to share this information and presented their findings to each other using their speaking and listening skills. Finally, it has been a pleasure to see the children engage with their home learning of spellings and times tables and we are already seeing the benefits of this commitment – thank you for your support.

Next week we have yet more exciting events taking place. On Thursday the children have been invited to share in our special lunch as part of celebrating ‘World Teacher Day’ – don’t forget to send in your nominations and come dressed as your favourite teacher but remember it’s a secret so Shhhh don’t tell the teachers! We will also be celebrating No Pens Day alongside this where the children take part in exciting learning without any writing!

Have a lovely weekend and thank you again for your ongoing support.

Mrs Carrigan