w.e. 30.11.18

It has been an exciting week as we have begun to get ‘festive ready’ here at Grove! The whole school is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! I am beginning to hear the sounds of Christmas songs as the children begin to practise for their Christmas concerts - I can’t wait to see them!

We have celebrated our ‘Stars in our Schools’ day too this week. The children have all been voting for their favourite member of support staff – they have made some gorgeous comments about our very hard working team and it was a delight to share in our celebratory assembly where these were shared. It was very exciting as our winners this year were crowned as our ‘stars’. The winners this year were……Mrs Sheldon and Mrs Wallace! This is a lovely way to recognise and celebrate how valued our wonderful support staff are and we are sure that you will share in saying a wholehearted thank you to them all.

Back in classrooms all year groups have been working hard to continue their learning journeys.

Gryffindor have had a really exciting week as they have started their arts and crafts ready for the Christmas Fayre. In Maths this week, the children have been looking at solving worded problems using addition and subtraction. They have also continued to practice and embed their 4 times tables – please keep practising at home as it is essential that they really know their times tables inside out! In English, the children have written their own setting descriptions using our text, ' The Magic Faraway Tree'. They have also begun to look at different conjunctions and how they can be used for cause and effect. Some of their descriptions are amazing as they show off their use of descriptive language. In Science, the children have been looking at mirrors and how different mirror shapes can produce different effects – I am sure that they will enjoy sharing this with you at home.

Hufflepuff have also had an exciting week learning how to use expanded noun phrases in descriptive writing. Through these lessons, children have learnt some new vocabulary which they are now confidently using; ask your children to teach you their new skills.

In Maths, they have been learning how to add 1s, 10s, 100s and 1000s to 4 digit numbers and looking at how the numbers change. The children have used their previous learning on place value to help them with this – it is great to see them applying prior learning to support them with new learning. There has been lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum as the children continue to learn all about their topic around Egyptians.

Another fantastic week has been had by all in Ravenclaw this week with lots of new, exciting learning occurring across the year group in a range of subjects. In English this week, the children have been deeply focussed in planning and drafting their final scene from our Viking tale Beowulf. Lovely examples of suspense through dark and gruesome language have been on display this week and the children have been so excited to showcase their use of vocabulary and adverbials! During Maths this week, "Power Maths" continues to be successful as the children have moved into estimating and rounding numbers to check their answers; and solving numerous problems involving mental addition and subtraction. In Science, Year 5 have been investigating the relationships between movement and forces with a particular focus on the works of Sir Isaac Newton and Galileo Galilei and their theories around gravity. The children have explored this topic by creating their parachutes and investigating how air resistance can affect speed thus appearing to reduce the strength of gravity. Finally in RE, children have been learning to understand religious buildings and the functions of the objects inside them.

In year 6 this week, the children have finalised their diary entries about the moment Mina was introduced to Skellig. They have all worked very hard to develop the skills of writing in the style of a diary – some children have found this challenging but through editing and improving they have achieved their goal of creating an effective diary. In Maths they have been applying their understanding of the four operations to a range of reasoning problems. This has involved the children recalling their knowledge and drawing on the correct operation needed to solve the problem. Learning to use and apply their skills is crucial in supporting their understanding of ‘real life’ maths so please support them at home with this too. This week the children have also really enjoyed finding out about Charles Darwin and his scientific theory of evolution. They have enjoyed trying to work out where different animals evolved from and solving the mystery of the Galapagos finches.

The weeks will only get busier now as we approach Christmas but it is crucial that children remain focussed on their learning amidst all of the excitement and we thank you for your support in helping them to achieve this.

Many thanks

Mrs Carrigan