Blog w.e. 08.06.18

Welcome back to my first blog since our half term break. It has been lovely to see all of the children happily back in school, once again, demonstrating positive attitudes towards their learning. I am delighted to tell you that, during the summer school holiday, Grove will be having our much needed new fencing. The design is fantastic and in keeping with the historic heritage of the academy. Well done to our children who also contributed to our successful bid application! Once this is completed, the children’s vision of a ‘risk taking playground’ will be able to take shape – how VERY exciting!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the ‘Special Men's Breakfasts’ which have taken place this week and are looking forward to Monday’s too. It is always fantastic to see so many of you in school supporting our events and enjoying family time in school.

Our Year 3's have been super stars this week as they've been completing their own risk assessments in preparation for the trip to Chester Zoo - it was interesting to see which dangers the children had anticipated finding in and around the Zoo. As well as this, children have worked extremely hard on time. Most have now mastered quarter past and quarter to and have blown their teachers' socks off - test them at home and see if they can tell you when tea will be ready. Gryffindor have also worked hard to plan their own diary entries from the perspective of Will, the young boy who found himself at the heart of a tsunami disaster on a family holiday.

This week in year 4, the children have been showing off their drama techniques when performing a scene from the Harry Potter playscript, ‘The cursed child’. The children have taken on the roles of the characters using expression and intonation. They will be using these skills to create and perform their own script next week.  In maths, the children have been calculating the perimeter of a range of objects and have been solving problems with missing lengths. As part of their topic, they have designed a habitat for their creature and look forward to making these over the next few weeks.

It's been a fantastic and fun first week back in Ravenclaw too with lots of exciting learning taking place. In Ravenclaw, modal verbs have been the focus in English - the children have used their knowledge of modal language to plan a persuasive radio advert based on year 5's ‘Alice in Wonderland’ Theme - the Queen's Garden Party sounds like a must-visit event! In maths, Ravenclaw have also been focusing on exploring area and perimeter, involving active learning. The children built shapes using equipment and then physically explored the meanings of both area and perimeter by completing fun activities; children then used this knowledge to establish the perimeters of composite rectilinear shapes (or to me and you: shapes made up of different parts of rectangles!)

It's official! The science testing is over and once again, all of the staff could not be prouder of the year 6's efforts (particularly those four who were selected for the SATs sampling). In addition to the science preparation and testing, the children have begun their transition work for their chosen secondary schools. Moreover, they have been planning, drafting and writing their 'Candy House' narrative. The children have allowed their imagination to take over and have produced some exciting and interesting stories. Well done year 6 you have and will continue to be amazing as we come to the end of the Key Stage 2 assessment timeframe.

Unfortunately, all of this lovely news is followed with some disappointing news about attendance. Our whole school attendance decreased from 96.6% to 93.9% in the last week of term. Attendance on the last day of term was particularly disappointing, as are the number of holiday request forms that we are receiving. This week, I met with the Educational Welfare Service who are supporting us in addressing poor attendance and unauthorised requests. Thank-you to the majority of you who appreciate the importance of meeting national and school attendance targets; we really do appreciate your efforts. **Our ‘Attendance Lottery’ is being launched this week - to reward 100% WEEKLY attendance in EVERY CLASS!** Ask your child all about it and do your best to ensure that your child is included in their class weekly draw to win their class prize!

As I sign off, I will make reference to Mrs Moran’s letter that you will have received tonight. May I take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of steering your children’s education and care during my time as Principal of Grove (and Hamilton for many ☺). I know that Grove will continue to be a fantastic school, where trustees, governors, staff, parents and children expect the very best.

Enjoy your weekend and I will see you next week for week 2, summer 2!

Mrs Machin