Blog w/e 16.03.18

This week has been a very busy and exciting one! We have held our Science and Engineering Event in celebration of National Science Week and have dedicated this to Stephen Hawking who sadly died this week. The celebration began with an assembly where 3 different scientists and engineers shared their knowledge and experiences with the children – this gave them a real insight into the kind of fascinating work involved with these careers and many children were clearly very inspired. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their investigative activities and have created electrical vehicles to volcanoes! They have also learned about many famous scientists and engineers. Thank-you for joining us at the science and engineering fair and for your positive comments; the children were very excited to showcase their learning. It has become clear that we have many budding scientists and engineers here at Grove! I am sure that you will share with me in thanking the staff, particularly Mr Woods as Science Lead, for arranging and organising such a brilliant event!

In addition to science and engineering, Gryffindor have used their gumption at Swimming, where some children had to leave the side and show independence and confidence when swimming a whole length! They are now adding fractions within the same whole in maths and have had a range of rules to follow. Some have even been challenged to add fractions which are more than a whole and they had to explain and justify their work! In English, Gryffindor have impressed me with their use of improved vocabulary and writing skills when describing Stig and Barney. Well done Year 3!

In Year 4, the children have been learning all about tenths and hundredths in maths, counting up and down and drawing pictorial representations using hundred squares. The children found it fascinating how one tenth can be split into ten further pieces to make one hundredth. In English, Year 4 have been writing a conversation based on their class text, The Indian in the Cupboard, between themselves and a Roman soldier toy who has mysteriously come to life! Also, all of the Year 4 children thoroughly enjoyed trying their very best to earn their certificates at swimming this week, with many achieving their width and length.

In Ravenclaw this week, the children have retrieved and recorded information about their famous engineer as part of their reading learning – ask them who to tell you it was and all about them – you will be wowed! In writing, the children have recorded their favourite experiences of British Science Week as a diary entry. In Maths, children have been gearing up for the Year 5 competition based all around the properties of 2D and 3D shapes - we look forward to announcing the results of this competition next week.

Year 6 have also been developing their conceptual understanding of fractions. Evidently, they have become more confident in their ability to apply their learning and now recognise the importance of finding a common denominator to find their answers. Next week, the children will look to apply this understanding to the subtraction of fractions and to a range of reasoning and problem-solving opportunities. As for English, the year group has focused on developing their knowledge of semi-colons and how these can be used to separate complex items in a list as well as using colons to introduce lists; they will look to apply these skills in their own writing next week.

Next week, we have a maths focus with the children taking part in our maths competition. Remember then to do some last chance practise over the weekend! I am sure that we will have some very competitive children battling for the title of Tri-Wizard Champion!

In addition to high quality teaching and learning, good and outstanding schools need to evidence good attendance and punctuality. I am really pleased to share that, although still below school target, we had an improvement of 3% attendance last week. Thank-you for your support in this. Punctuality really does need to improve. Mrs Blackhurst and I will be monitoring this closely next week so please ensure that your child is on time for school every day.

I would like to finish by saying a HUGE thank-you on behalf of Joe and his family. You have all donated so generously and Joe has had a lovely red and white day today. I have promised that he will be the first to know the total amount raised across our Esprit MAT but we will update you shortly after that. You can still donate on the ‘Just Giving’ link if you and/or your friends would like to.

<https://www.gofundme.com/steven-standevens-fight>

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Machin