Blog w.e. 23.11.18

Welcome to my weekly blog! Another great week here at Grove if not a little chilly! The children from Year 3 have made us very proud this week, out and about representing the Academy on their trip to the Catalyst Discovery Museum. They were excellent at showing their ‘Magic’ attitudes and showed outstanding behaviour.

Gryffindor have had such an exciting week! They thoroughly enjoyed the experiences on their visit, in particular having hands on experience of being a scientist. The children were actively involved in creating potions by demonstrating chemical reactions using a range of solids, liquids and gases. The children were completely 'spellbound' by their experiences. Back at school, the children have begun to read their new text: The Magic Faraway Tree. The children have already been predicting ideas of what might happen and what magic the tree is capable of. In Maths, the children have been focusing on 4x tables and how these facts relate to the 2x table – they have done an excellent job of spotting patterns and seeing the similarities and differences between the two times tables. The children have also created some fantastic pieces of art this week in the style of the street artist, Cheng Yingiie.

Hufflepuff have also been buzzing with excitement this week as they have been busy creating 3D life size models of Egyptian artefacts for their new displays including a pyramid (KE), a palm tree (JBa), a death mask (JWy) and yes… a mummy (RC)! As well as this, Hufflepuff have also working on rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. It has been lovely to watch how the children have grown in confidence using this skill. They really are developing into such clever mathematicians! In English, children and staff alike have enjoyed taking on the role of the key characters from our class text – Topher and Ka and planning a conversation using inverted commas. Teachers were really pleased that children have been using many different speech verbs and have made their writing so much more interesting!

What a busy week they have had in Ravenclaw this week! In English this week, the children have been focusing on preparing the final scene from their Viking tale ‘Beowulf’ in which the devilish demon Grendel finally meets his match. The children have been learning how different types of fronted adverbials can be used to build a clear picture of where, how and when key events take place. All of the children have explored exciting vocabulary and have used this to improve and extend basic sentences in order to make them full of suspense for the reader. During Maths this week, "Power Maths" continues to be successful as the children have been exploring adding and subtracting 5-digit numbers using the column method. They have been challenging themselves by looking at missing number questions which have involved using the inverse - what a fantastic effort from our mathematicians this week! Finally, in Science, Ravenclaw have been exploring relationships between movement and forces. In particular, they have been learning about water resistance, buoyancy and how objects sink or float. The children explored this concept by creating their own boats and investigating why these were able able to float and why. The children were excellent at making predictions and providing reasons for their hypotheses.

In year 6, the children have been busy writing diary entries for a range of scenes from the book ‘Skellig’. They have looked at how reported speech is used and applied this into their own writing. In maths, the children have developed their understanding of the formal methods for multiplication by one and two digits. It has been a pleasure to see them applying a range of methods in order to identify the efficiency of each. In science, the children have been looking at images of the Year 6 teachers when they were younger to develop their understanding of how some of our characteristics are inherited from parents. In RE sessions they have begun to look at different religious beliefs about death and the afterlife.

As you can see all of the children have been engaged in yet more exciting learning experiences. It is such a pleasure to visit classrooms and see them so actively involved in their work.

Wishing you all a lovely restful weekend

Mrs Carrigan