Blog w.e. 09.03.18

Welcome to my weekly blog! Thank goodness that the weather has been kinder to us this week and ‘normality’ has been resumed.

This week we have celebrated Mother’s Day and it has been wonderful to see so many of our ‘special ladies’ in school sharing special moments with their little lovelies. The children spent lots of time writing and reciting poetry and preparing for their special visitors. Some MAGIC moments and memories were created and your feedback comments are overwhelmingly positive – thank-you! Some of these will be shared on our school website (parent tab, parent comments).

I also attended our ‘Dance Extravaganza’ performance this week, where our talented young performers took to the stage to show off their amazing skills. I can honestly say that my heart swelled with pride as I watched them dance with confidence! They were truly fantastic and I am extremely proud of them all. Thank you to all staff who attended, in particular Miss Woolridge. Your time and ‘above and beyondness’ is recognised and appreciated very much.

This week, in Year 3 Gryffindor, the children have been planning their stories about Barney and Stig’s next adventure. It looks like Stig and Barney are going to be having a wild time travelling around the world on some magical, imaginative adventures! Once the children had planned their initial ideas, they began developing their characters and settings by describing them using adjectives, similes and expanded noun phrases. In Maths, Gryffindor have been continuing to explore equivalent fractions; showing them using images and a range of equipment. In topic learning, they have been observing and describing Stone Age tools and have linked their Stone Age learning into maths by measuring the sizes of the tools they were designing and making. It was certainly a tricky job making sure they were accurately to scale!

In Year 4 this week the children have also begun their narrative based on the story, 'The Indian in the Cupboard'. This saw the children put their own toy (a Roman solider) into the class cupboard. They used drama to act out the moment a real-life Roman was found and have been using a range of prepositional phrases and their spelling rule: /ou/ as in rough in their writing. In maths, the children have extended their conceptual understanding of fractions; building further on their Year 3 learning. In topic lessons, the children have been designing their own Roman mosaics. They have some fantastic and creative ideas and I cannot wait to see the finished products from our Year 4 artists.

In Ravenclaw this week, the children have focused on composing and performing poetry and annotating poetry based around mythical, Greek creatures in preparation for writing their own next week. Year 5 will now be focusing on diary writing and have started to identify and annotate features and language. Finally, in Maths, the children are mastering their understanding of division by investigating relationships between divisors and answers. Supporting your children with learning their times tables at home will really help with this and many other mathematical concepts. Indeed, I myself attended maths training this week, where research based evidence demonstrated the importance of teaching children to ‘use their head’.

In Year 6, I am so proud of their MAGIC attitudes and resilience (children AND staff ☺). They have been focusing on a range of skills in English: passive verbs, prepositions and direct speech. They have had the opportunity to not only apply this understanding to test questions, but have then implemented these skills into their writing with a focus on developing their previous week's newspaper report work. The quality of their writing has been fantastic and they have produced some eye-catching news headlines! I am looking forward to reading these to keep up to date on the latest Grove news! As for maths, the children have taken on the challenge of trying their first full SATs practice paper. They have also progressed into adding fractions visually; which they will continue to practise next week.

After writing about another super week, it is not pleasant to end on a negative note and I send sincere apologies to the vast majority of parents and carers where the paragraph below does not apply. Indeed, I thank-you all for your continued support and gratitude for the hard work and dedication of my staff at Grove.

Unfortunately, it has been reported and evidenced that a minority of parents are using social media sites to air negative views about our academy. This is in breach of our Home School Agreement, Parent Code of Conduct and use of social media policy. May I remind those responsible of the appropriate routes for addressing issues and concerns? Teachers are accommodating of requests for meetings in communication diaries and, in most cases, appropriate and positive solutions are discussed and agreed. If you remain dis-satisfied, you will be invited to meet with the Year Lead and class teacher who will progress any remaining issues to Senior Leaders and/or myself as appropriate. I will be contacting and speaking with some individuals in relation to this and explaining more fully our expectations and potential criminal implications of the use of social media in this way.

Once again, sincere thanks to the majority of you who work in partnership with my team to ensure that Grove provides an ever improving education and care for your/our children.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Machin