

Dear Parent and Carers,

Gosh what a busy term this has been! We have seen many wonderful activities taking place and on reflection I am amazed at how much we have packed in.

This term we have extended our pupil roles to having a team of Restorative Justice Children support others during unstructured times, such as lunchtime. We have found that this group of Year 5 and 6 children effectively listen and support others when they need it and have worked extremely well amongst our team of play leaders. Some of our team also had the chance to share our Restorative Justice with children from other schools, training them on questioning techniques, supporting children to understand how others feel and modelling appropriate behaviours.



In November we paid tribute to our fallen soldiers, through a respectful and beautiful remembrance service. All children came together with staff to mark this important moment in our history. Our Community Head pupils read moving poems and we shared our art work from each class. The children honoured the 2 minutes silence and took this time to reflect.

This Anti-Bullying Week,
let's make a noise about bullying.

MAKE A
NOISE
ABOUT
BULLYING

As well as this, we have also started our ambition to “Make noise about Bullying”. This started during Anti-bullying week and through a series of lessons and assemblies the children explored how we can use super powers to support others. The children had many wonderful ideas ranging from teleportation, invisibility to catch things happening, flying so that they can remove anyone from harm. This highlights how caring our children are and how they would like to make our school fun and enjoyable for all. On 23rd November our KS2 children were also paid a visit by Captain Wonderweb and the Esteem Machine. The children headed off on an exciting adventure with Captain Wonderweb and his trustworthy crew as they explored the distant stars and, more importantly, what makes for safe web surfing. In their adventure, the children learned all about internet

safety, delivered in a fun and engaging way. The show delivered a crucial message for our children who are all growing up in this digital age. This amazing team will return to Grove Park in January to work with our KS1 children.

Throughout Term 2, we have also taken part in a number of fundraising events, such as Children in Need, and HSA Christmas fete. From these events, we raised over £2000 for our school and £1994.64 for Children in Need. Thank you, this means a great deal to us and your support has been amazing.



We would like to thank the HSA for their wonderful efforts again this term. Not only have they given us a festive Christmas Fete, but also held Elfridges for our children. They set our school hall up into a lovely gift workshop and were very busy elves indeed. Without their hard work and commitment, we would lack many resources for our school. So on behalf of us all, thank you for making Grove Park a wonderful school.

Finally, we ended the term with many wonderful festive highlights. The nativities and performances were outstanding, especially from our Year R pupils. It is moments like this that, as parents we cherish, I hope you enjoyed them as much as we all did.

A big thank you to the kitchen staff and lunchtime staff, who enabled us all to have a wonderful Christmas dinner. It is never easy cooking for lots of people, but especially on a busy day like this one. We all enjoyed it and had lots of fun.

This year we ended our Christmas week with class parties, where the children had a special visit from Father Christmas and his Elf. Thank you to the HSA for helping us to fund a gift for every child, we hope they enjoy their new books over the festive break.



Parental Engagement

Thank you to all of the families who attended parents evening this term. These are valuable meetings and we appreciate you spending the time with us. If you haven't had a meeting with your child's teacher and would like information, please let us know and we can arrange a suitable time for contact to be made.

We also welcomed Key Stage 1 families to a Phonics workshop, hosted by Mrs Barney, our Phonics lead. This meeting talked through our phonics scheme, Little Wandle and how you can support your child at home with early reading skills.

Finally, our SEND team hosted the first of a series of workshops for parents to talk about our SEND offering and the provision for your children. The first meeting was a meet and greet time for families to meet our team and moving forward we will be holding sessions regards different topics. All parents and carers are welcome, please do look out for the information for next term.

On behalf of all the staff, we thank you for your generous gifts and wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you all back on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.



Term 2 - Giraffe Class



Our second term at school has been very exciting and full of celebrations. We celebrated Halloween and decorated a pumpkin using our ICT skills.



On November 5th we learnt about the story of Guy Fawkes and why we celebrate the story of 'The Gunpowder Plot'. We enjoyed telling our friends about the fireworks we had seen with our families. We also celebrated Remembrance Day and made a class wreath of poppies.

A week later, we looked at the Hindu festival of Diwali (the festival of lights). One of the



traditions is where girls make a bracelet for their brothers as they hope that their brothers will protect them throughout the coming year. We made some bracelets for ourselves, our friends and our teachers using wool and pasta shapes. It was great fun!



We have also been celebrating the change of seasons and enjoyed walking around our school grounds looking at the autumn leaves that had changed colour and fallen to the ground. It was great fun scrunching through the leaves and noting the different shapes that we found.

Last week we were very surprised when we came out of the hall to find that snow was falling! We put on our hats, scarves, gloves and coats and enjoyed playing in the snow



and catching snowflakes on our tongues. However, it only lasted for a little while and half an hour later it was gone! Alongside this, we are



beginning to blend the sounds that we know into words and are learning to make, read and write words by ourselves.



Using Numberblocks we are also getting very good at recognising our numbers, knowing how to make those numbers in different ways and learning how to write simple sums. Finally, we have had a very exciting couple of weeks getting ready for our first Nativity. We are looking forward to dressing in our costumes and showing our families how hard we have been working.

We would like to wish you all a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Meerkat Class- Year 1

This term, Year 1's topic was 'Towers, Turrets and Tiaras'. We looked at castles in different parts of the UK, looked at the features of castles and then designed and built our own out of junk modelling. We were even able to make a working drawbridge! We had a great time making them and added battlements, thick walls, turrets and a portcullis to make them as real as possible.



In **English** this term, we have enjoyed reading all about 'Nibbles'. He is a very naughty monster who likes to nibble his way through books (and everything else!) and change the stories. We have looked at traditional tales such as Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and Jack and The Beanstalk and laughed at how Nibbles changed the endings! We completed some wonderful pieces of writing of other things he did too, like eat everything he saw when he was on holiday! We tried hard to use full stops and capital letters. We made paper plate models of traditional tale characters too, such as Little Red Riding Hood, Granny and the wolf!



In **Maths**, we have been learning to add and subtract and can use practical objects, a part-part-whole model and number lines to help us. For home learning, some of us even made adding machines and some of us have written our own number word problems!

We have also been practising number bonds to 10.



In **Science**, we have named everyday materials and sorted them according to their properties- which were bendy? Soft? Absorbent? Waterproof? We also went on a hunt around school and labelled what things were made from. We really enjoyed investigating different materials and experimented to see which material would be best to make a waterproof cape out of for Little Red Riding Hood.



Here we are sorting objects



Do you think we caught any snowflakes on our tongues?



We have also focused on the seasons and have watched as we have passed through Autumn and have begun to look for signs of Winter. Did you see it snow on the first day of Winter? Playing in the snow was such fun! We tried to catch snowflakes on our tongues and laughed as we ran around as the snowflakes fell.



Dressing up for charity!

Don't we look fabulous in our outfits for Children in Need?



Respect Responsible Resilience Resourceful

Well done to all the class for trying hard to follow and show our 4 values in class and around school. The following children have received certificates so far for showing these values. It has been very difficult to choose!

Ted Bella Gideon Stanley Jakub Nikola Adalind Grace-Kelly John-Paul Eric Jake

Term 2 in Lion Class

This term has been very busy with our Christmas festivities! The children performed a fantastic nativity, they showcased their excellent singing, dancing and acting. We hope you enjoyed it!

Our Value Champions this term were:

Ellie, Toby, Teddy, Max, Arwen and Toby P-H.

Well done, we are so proud of you for demonstrating our school values, keep it up!



We have been looking at money in maths this term, we've been looking at adding amounts together and finding change. We even transformed the classroom into a shop to give us some extra practise! We had a good understanding of what the coins were, how to add amounts together and how to find out the change!



In our writing this term, we have looked at a story called "A Boy Called Dickens". This is all about Charles Dickens and how he grew up and became a great author and storyteller.



We have retold the story and written a interesting non-chronological reports, all about him too! The children have seemed really engaged in this topic, particularly learning all about Charles Dickens and life in the Victorian era.

In DT and science this term our task was to build a bridge using paper. We investigated how we could make the paper stronger and what paper folds we could use. The challenge was to see if our bridge could hold a coin.

We then evaluated our bridges. After, we had time to try and improve them and make them stronger!



We have spent many afternoons in the hall practising for our nativity!

Please scan the QR code below to have a listen to one of our songs from the nativity.

This was the song the children requested to put on our newsletter, so it's a firm favourite!



We collectively made a wreath to show our respect during Remembrance Day. We all participated in whole school 2 minute silence to reflect on those who have and continue to serve us in the armed forces.



We were also lucky enough to have some fun in the snow!



We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and we will see you all in the New Year!



Elephant Class Term

Our topic this term was Deep, Deep Down. This gave us the chance to learn about life under the sea and the effect plastic pollution has on this delicate ecosystem. To encourage us to recycle and reuse we created sea sculptures from plastic items we had collected at home. Our home learning also gave us the opportunity to make dioramas and



Our science topic involved looking at skeletons and the important job they do. We realised that we would just be huge blobs of skin and organs if we did not have one. We understand that we could not move or protect our organs

During our art and DT lessons, we have been practising our watercolour skills and have used them to paint multi-coloured fish and stunning Christmas cards. Our sewing skills are slowly developing, as we create our special Christmas decorations too. To commemorate Remembrance Day we



We would like give a special mention to those children who have shown consistency in upholding our school values: Deborah for Respect, Jaxon for Resourcefulness, Jake for Responsibility, Evie fo

From all in Elephant Class, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Zebra Class



PE will be on a Wednesday and Friday in Term 3. Could you please make sure children's earrings are removed.



What an amazing and busy term we have had!

We have looked at the Amazon Rainforest and the Mayans in our discovery topic which also links to our English and science topics. This included lots of discussions regarding deforestation and the effect it has on us, animals and our planet. The children were very engaged in the topic and had plenty of ideas about what is happening in our world today.

On the Friday before Remembrance Sunday the whole school came together to pay our respects to the fallen heroes. We made a wreath and a child from each class was selected to hold the wreath in front of the whole school. I was very proud of Zebra class as they represented us in an incredibly mature and respectful way.

In PE this term we have continued with gymnastics in our indoor lessons. For Thursday's lessons we have been braving the cold to look at hockey with Andy. The children have worked very hard on their skills and there has been some good passing and shots at goal.

As Christmas approaches we have looked at the story of the birth of Jesus in our RE lessons. We have also made Christmas cards using watercolours. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and produced some beautiful cards. We made tree decorations, for our school tree, out of paper.

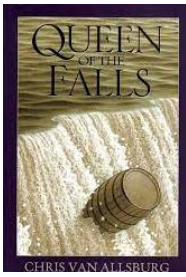
In computing they have been made films using stop start animation with Mr Matthews.

Congratulations to our values certificate winners for term 2. These were Jeff, Tommy, Ronnie, Kelbie and Jaks. Keep up the amazing work.

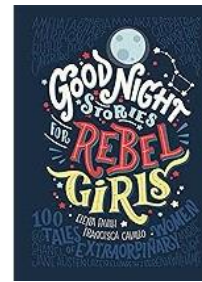
I would just like to finish by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone back and refreshed in term 3.

Merry Christmas

Rhino Class



In term 2 our topic has been "Inspirational People" but we have focussed on great women and their achievements. We have used the book "Rebel Girls", which contains 100 inspirational women and their impact on the world today.



We have followed the story "Queen of the Falls" for our writing sessions and the journey of daredevil Annie Edson Taylor. Your children should be able to confidently talk to you about this story or other inspirational people covered this term including : Jane Goodall, Simone Biles, Serena and Venus Williams, Michelle Obama, Sylvia Earle, Rosa Parks and many more.

Rhino class have loved learning the game of Netball this term. They are now confident in the rules, positions and how to play. It has been great to see their competitive and enthusiasm towards Netball matches.



With Christmas upon us, we have undertaken some amazing creative tasks. Rhino class have loved making Christmas baubles for our class Christmas tree, making Christmas cards with watercolours and most impressively sewing their own Christmas puddings! The children loved doing these tasks and have amazing creations to bring home.



Huge congratulations to our values champions this term: Dylan, Ollie, Mia, Connor, Charley and Annabelle.

A further congratulations to Samuel for winning the "Litter Angels" competition, which is run by MP Gordon Henderson and affiliated with Sittingbourne McDonalds. His poster will be displayed around McDonald's car parks to encourage people not to litter.



We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to term 3, where our topic is "Above and Beyond" (SPACE)

Final notes -PE kits must be in school every day - Homework from term 3 will be due on Mondays - Reading at home minimum 3 x a week (Bring records into school)

Year 6 - Ostrich Class

This term, Ostrich class have been continuing with the topic World at War. We have had a busy term two, exploring the Battle of Britain, The Blitz and conducting a local history study comparing Sittingbourne in WW2 to current day.

Linking to our topic, in English, our reading and writing focus has been 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo. We have produced setting descriptions, and letters with a focus on parenthesis and expanding our vocabulary. In our story the main characters heard sounds of explosions and were certain they saw a plane crash, but they were unsure whether it was an enemy plane or the RAF. Before reading on we began our research into the different types of planes in WWII and produced some amazing guides all about: The Hawker Hurricane, The Spitfire and The Messerschmidt 109 and 110.



On the 11th of November we marked Remembrance Day by joining together as a school on the playground. Our service consisted of a poem read by each community alongside each class presenting their handmade wreaths. It was a fitting way to remember those that lost their lives in the line of duty.

In DT, we have linked our learning of shelters used during the war to help us create our own model size Anderson shelters. We thoroughly enjoyed making them, being resilient when we needed to make any amendments and painting them to create the final masterpieces!

A massive well done to our value certificate winners this term:

Leah, Izzy, Balian, Amelia and Phoebe.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Have an amazing and safe half term.

Further Notices

We would like to share a few staffing changes that have taken place, we welcome Mrs Fisher, who will be working alongside Mrs Barney in Puffin Class. Mrs Fisher will be working every Thursday and Friday and will now take the place of Mrs Yiangou who left at the end of Term 2.

Over Term 2 we welcomed, Miss Overy to our EYFS team, Miss Altringham to Year 1 and Mrs Sieber to Year 5. All are experienced professionals and have had a great start to Grove Park. We also welcome Mrs Bird to EYFS soon, as another member of team and have Mrs Salter returning from her maternity leave and will also be working part time in EYFS.

We would also like to make you aware that Mrs Elmer, in Ostrich class will be undertaking a placement visit and will return in Term 4. Mrs Grady and the rest of the staff remain the same for your children.



We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our parking restrictions and regulations. Sadly, we have received a number of complaints from our local residents who find it hard to access their properties during peak times, as vehicles are blocking access. I appreciate that parking during these times can be challenging, but politely ask that our children arrive and leave school calmly and that we respect our local residents. Thank you.

Finally, we held a flag competition for each community. The designs are incredible and we thank each and every child for participating. The Trust team have looked through the entries and selected a few designs that will be taken, merged and made into the community flags soon. Here are a few of the successful designs that will be created into a shared community flag.





TERM DATES:

Tuesday 2 nd January	all day	Staff Development Day
Wednesday 3 rd January	8.45am	Term 3 starts
Monday 8 th January	pm	The Astronomy Roadshow – Reception classes only
Wednesday 17 th January	pm/eve	Choir trip to Young Voices at O2
Tuesday 23 rd January	all day	Year 5 Trip to The Royal Observatory, London
Friday 26 th January	am all day	Year 6 trip to Rochester
Friday 9 th February	3.15pm	Term 3 ends
Monday 19 th February	8.45am	Term 4 starts

Swimming dates to be confirmed in term 3.