

Dear Parents and Carers,



We have had a short term 3, welcoming in the New Year and packing in lots of fun and engaging activities along the way. This term Ms Middleton and her lunchtime play leaders have started to develop our OPAL provision for all children. This approach offers children fun and stimulating games and resources that allow all year groups to play together. It is a delight to see and hear the children laughing, sharing and modelling vital skills to each other. By implementing this, we have started to see a reduction in behaviour incidents and seeing more of our children burning off energy, ready for their afternoon lessons. OPAL has many layers, and these will be rolled out gradually throughout the rest of this academic year.

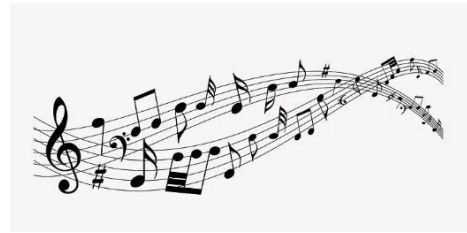
One of our school development points focuses on ensuring children feel happy and safe at our school. During Term 2, we welcomed a behaviour audit of our provision into our setting to review our behaviour and conduct during various times of the day. We would like to share that Grove Park is a wonderful school for our children, with kind and friendly pupils who welcomed our visitors in a polite and respectable manner.

One thing that is truly evident from my visit to Grove Park School is the sense of community within the school. There is clear feeling of togetherness for all to see involving both staff and pupils. All pupils who I spoke to both formally and informally told me they felt safe and happy at the school and enjoyed coming to the school. It was also clear as I toured the school that staff were happy and also appeared to enjoy being within the school environment. I feel this is helped massively by the division of the school into communities, giving each area an identity and almost creating two smaller schools within one larger school.

The children at Grove Park shared how they felt heard, supported and valued. They understand our school values and can feel a difference. We will continue to work hard to support your children with their emotional wellbeing and hope that we can continue to offer them the love and kindness during their time with us.

At the start of January, as many of us do, we thought long and carefully about creating New Year's resolutions and through our assemblies, we decided to change our approach and create a personal pledge of promise. All members of our school community, made a promise to themselves for example *"to turn a negative into a positive"* or *"make new friends within the other classes."* Some children linked it to their learning and others have thought carefully about behaviours and attitudes. The pledge your child has made is personal to them and we have seen a large number of children ending this term, reaching their goal and meeting their promise. We are very proud of all the children and would like to thank them for their perseverance and dedication. Please ask your children about their promise and see if we can help them achieve their targets.

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, our staff took the choir to the O2 for the Young Voices singing event. This is always a joyous time in the school calendar and our children love the experience. Having spoken to the staff and children, everyone was amazing, sang beautifully and were outstanding superstars. A big THANK YOU to all the staff for helping and making such a special event so memorable for our pupils.



As some of you are aware we have been supporting a pupil in Year 6, Jude and his family, who is currently receiving medical support for a life changing condition. Jude has been a member of our school community since 2017 and has many friends within the school. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January, a group of children from his peer group and class decided to raise money for Jude through a 24 hour **no gaming challenge**.

Logan, Alfie, Teddy, Ted, Harry, Tommy, Archie, Maddox and Thomas raised over £400 for Jude through giving up their gaming privileges for a set period. At times, there were some moans, but they battled through, as they know the difference this money would make to Jude. We are extremely proud of these children for being such wonderful friends and looking to help others in need. This is a true mark of our school values, showing *Respect* and kind towards other, *Resilience* and perseverance to a good cause and acting *responsibly*. We, along with their proud families would like to say thank you to each of them and share how wonderful they have been.

# Congratulations

Finally, we hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming you all back into school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **Further Notices:**

Our Local Governing Body have an exciting opportunity for two new members of our parent community to apply for governor positions for our Trust. If you feel, you can ensure clarity of vision, help embed our Trusts ethos, support with strategic direction, and help support our staff please look out for our letter, which will be sent home at the start of Term 4.

We politely ask that children refrain from bringing football cards, Pokémon cards and other trading cards into school with immediate effect. Unfortunately, it is leading to some children being upset and causing children to worry. We hope you will support us in this, and we will look for ways to ensure these interests are re-established in an appropriate manner, when it is appropriate to do so.



## Giraffe Class Term 3



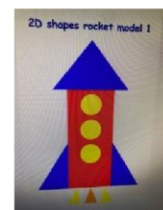
Our space topic started with a visit from a gentleman and his astronomy dome. We loved sitting in the dome and watching the sky turn darker and darker until above us were thousands and thousands of twinkling stars. We were taught all about the different stars, the shapes they make and their names including 'The Plough', 'Cassiopeia' and 'The Great Bear'. It was also very interesting to see how they move throughout the year.

We then worked together to make a rocket using junk materials. It was fun to add features inside the rocket: moon dust, chairs, a control panel and a window through which we could view space. The final touches were the tin foil covering and the flames at the bottom.



In our creative time, we have made aliens out of play dough with pipe cleaner arms and legs, googly eyes and aliens with folded paper arms, legs and hair. We painted different planets within our solar system and have learnt all about the planets with an exercise dance. During our PE sessions, we have pretended to be astronauts, aliens, stars and rockets using our bodies in a range of ways.

Our handwriting is improving, with lots of practise, and we have started to write simple sentences including what we would use to get a star down from the ceiling. In maths we have looked at ordering sizes of objects, making patterns and been on a 2D shape hunt around the school.



Congratulations to the following children who have upheld the values of Grove Park School: Grace for Resilience, Layla for Responsibility, Roman for Resourceful and Arabella for Respect.

# Meerkat Class- Year 1



This term, Year 1's topic was 'The three Queens'. We learned about Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth I. We know Queen Elizabeth II lived a little while ago, Queen Victoria lived a long time ago and Queen Elizabeth I lived a long, long time ago! We ordered important times in their lives and had great fun drawing pastel portraits of Queen Elizabeth I with her red hair!



In **Maths**, we have been learning about 2d and 3d shapes. We can name them and discuss how many sides, corners and faces they have. We made repeating patterns and learned about numbers to 20.



In **English** this term, we have enjoyed reading 'The Queen's Hat'. As the Queen left Buckingham Palace, her hat blew away in a whoosh of wind! It flew all over London. We can now recognise and name the London landmarks it flew to! We enjoyed making them out of different construction toys and drawing them too. We also made up our own story about the King's Hat- it flew all round Sittingbourne. We can retell our story as well.



London Zoo



London Underground and Tower bridge



A story trail for 'The King's Hat'

In **Science**, we have looked at seasonal changes and went on a Winter walk. We spotted many signs of Winter- bare trees, evergreen trees, berries and we even heard a robin (it was hiding from us but some of us have managed to spot it in the school grounds since!).



We also carried out an experiment with ice- what happens when it is in a warm room and why does that happen? We

Finally, don't forget to log into Numbots to practise your number skills and onto your online reading accounts to practise your phonic and reading skills as well. These will really help you in class!

## Making crowns in DT

We designed and made our own crowns in DT. Don't we look fabulous!



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!

Yahya Jake Archie Albie-Jak

## Term 3 in Lion Class

Our topic this term has been 'Ice'. The children have been really excited and engaged in their learning about the Antarctica and penguins in particular! You may of even heard about the penguin egg I found!

Our Value Champions this term were:

Dexter, Nebo, Oakley, Sofia

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



In maths this term, we have been looked at a variety of different topics. We made and read bar charts and tally charts. Most recently, we have looked at measurement. We have been out exploring using a ruler to see what we could find. We had so much fun and now we know how to measure accurately using a ruler. Great job!



In our writing this term, we have been reading *The Penguin Who Wanted to Find Out*. We loved this book so much that we wrote a letter to Mrs Flain to convince her to allow us to have a penguin as a class pet.

We also have retold our story this term and written our own stories about a penguin who loses his egg. These have been amazing to read and all of your children have done a wonderful job!

We also have been practising our handwriting this term. We have been looking closely at our capital letters and how they should look against other letters. We practice in our writing by using different colours pencils to help us remember.



In PE this term, we have been learning and trying a variety of different gymnastic rolls.

They were all willing to help each other to succeed! Some children demonstrated these rolls, as they had been learning these at gymnastic club!



In science, we have looked closely at habitats and animal adaptations. The children have really enjoyed learning about this and some children were even able to link their understanding into their stories!



We started the term off sorting the animals into the correct habitats. Then we looked at their adaptations and how and why they live in their habitat.



A huge well done to the children that have brought in igloos and penguin habitats! They have been so creative! The children have come into school very excited and wanting to show off their home learning! Great job!



During art this term, we have been using a variety of mixed media.

We used oil pastels to create an Aurora.



We also have made a collage creating an icy landscape in a collage, using Romare Bearden as inspiration.



Next term our topic is all about **Australia**. We will have a visitor coming into school to teach us all about diggerdooos! It would be great if the children could do some research on a diggerdoo before this workshop! Any information regarding the visitor can be found on Arbor, thank you!



# Elephant Class Term 3



Healthy Eating was our science topic this term. We have looked at the importance of eating a

The Romans have successfully landed in our part of Sittingbourne this term. We have looked at how the Roman Empire spread across Europe because of the strength of its army and studied the influences they left behind, we have had fun learning about the life of Romans, and in particular, the forms of entertainment they watched. Gladiator fights and chariot racing were very popular and interesting to study. Another aspect of normal life were the visits to the Roman baths. Did you know they went to the toilet in the same room and used a communal sponge on a stick? Yuk! One of our home learning tasks was to make a piece of Roman headwear, which showed off the creativity of the pupils and their parents!

In our English lessons, we have been transported to the city of

Pompeii and have used our imaginations to write descriptions, letters and stories based on this historical event! As part of our reading work, we have listened to the story of Romulus and Remus and used the text to answer questions and study new and interesting vocabulary.



balanced diet and the jobs of each of the important food groups. We have made our own plate of food using a mixture of art materials and have studied the labels on food to understand their nutritional value. Our Design Technology gave us the opportunity to look at where the food comes from and why it is important for our environment to eat local produce. We even had the chance of making a seasonal tart with puff pastry and vegetables of our choice.





During our PE sessions, we have been honing our defending skills in our netball sessions, we have practised looking for spaces and calling to the members of our team. We understand the importance of passing the ball quickly and keeping our feet still when we have the ball. In dance, we have marched as Roman soldiers and created testudo formations to defend ourselves from the Barbarians!

Congratulations to the following children who have upheld the values of Grove Park School: Isla for Resilience, Nancy for Responsibility, Ayo for Resourceful and Larson for Respect.





## Zebra Class Term 3 Newsletter



### Term 3

Here we are at the end of term 3 already. It's hard to believe we are already through the first half of the school year.

This term we have looked at the Victorians and the Industrial Revolution. Our discovery topic has included George Stephenson, The Father of the Railways and the changes to our towns and cities.

In our English and guided reading sessions we have looked at Charles Dickens and his story of David Copperfield.

Our maths this term has been the continuation of our multiplication and division topic. The children have been amazing with this topic and also in their Times table quizzes and TT Rockstars.

In science our topic was sound and we looked at the telephone and how sound travels. In art we have looked at tint and shade and the effect it has on paintings and in our DT lessons we have made bridges.

PE has been a mixture of tennis for our outdoor lessons and archery for our indoor lessons. The children have really enjoyed the archery and shown great maturity in ensuring they were using the equipment safely.

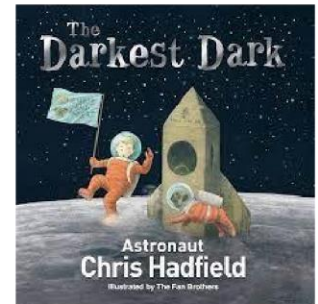
Finally I would like to say congratulations to our values winners this term. Well done to Alize, Florence, Ruby and Harper. I am

incredibly proud of Zebra class and all they have achieved this term.

Have a fantastic break and I look forward to seeing the children back for Term 4.

# Rhino Class

In term 3, our topic has been "Out Of This World". It has been an interesting topic learning about famous astronauts, space travel and planets.



We have looked at a book written by Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield (The Darkest Dark) and this has been the stimulus for our writing. The children loved learning about Chris and his life events that led to him becoming an astronaut.



This term in PE, the children have looked at tag rugby and gymnastics. The children in Rhino class have attempted this with enthusiasm. (Polite reminder - PE kits should be in school every day)

The big "WOW" of term 3 has to be the school trip! We travelled by coach to The Royal Observatory in Greenwich. Here we visited the planetarium and were amazed by the show. Every single child loved this experience, looking at the stars and delving into planets. We walked around the museums and saw many historical artefacts such as telescopes, clocks and phones from the past, it shocked some children how much these have advanced in a short time span.

Huge congratulations to our values champions this term:  
Bella B, Lily, Connor and Bear



This term we have welcomed Miss Moore to Rhino class. Mr Banning teaches Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Miss Moore teaches Wednesday and Friday. The class TA team are Mrs Sieber and Mrs Downard. We are all excited for the second half of year 5 with your children!

Please engage with learning at home. Children will receive weekly homework and should be reading at home a minimum of 3 x a week, bringing their records into school to be checked off. We hope you have a wonderful restful break and look forward to seeing the children back after half term.

Our new topic will be the "Vikings".

# Year 6 - Ostrich Class

This term, Ostrich class have started a new topic titled 'Please, Sir, I want some more.' We have been exploring the works of Charles Dickens and life in the Victorian Era. Linking to our topic, in English, our reading focus has been 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens and our writing focus has been 'Oliver Twist' also by Charles Dickens. Our discovery lessons have helped us to understand what life would be like in the Victorian Era and how the characters in both these books might be feeling. We have researched workhouses, children at work, the rich vs the poor and what crime and punishment looked like in the era.



Linking to our learning, we visited Rochester to immerse ourselves in our Charles Dickens topic. We started the day with a Charles Dickens workshop at the Guildhall Museum; we had fun finding out the missing words and matching them to objects from popular Dickens stories. Next, we stepped aboard a full-size reconstruction of a prison hulk; it was truly terrible conditions in which the prisoners were kept. Venturing back to Rochester High Street we started our Dickens walking trail, we had to uncover the clues along the way looking for certain objects and uncovering the names we needed to solve the mystery. In the gardens of Eastgate House, we got to see the chalet that stood at Dickens' home, it is amazing to think he worked on some of his best-known novels there. To finish our day, we visited Rochester Cathedral and attended an Oliver Twist workshop; we re-created the story of Oliver Twist using our best theatrical voices. A fantastic day had by all!



During Term 3, we have been working hard in maths on fractions and percentages. We have had some tricky concepts to grasp and have been linking our prior learning of multiplying and dividing by 10's, 100's and 1000's to support us, we have shown great resilience and will be ready to start algebra in Term 4.



In Science, we have learnt about another Charles, this time Charles Darwin. We have been forming investigations surrounding the best type of bird feet and how adaptation has impacted this and how camouflage is important for survival.

In PE, we have been practising our gymnastic skills, thinking about how our body moves and how to confidently use equipment to execute a specific balance skill.

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

Archie, Hunter, Tommy and Thomas.

