

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits, Spring is in the air. As we approach the end of Term 4, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the recent events at Grove Park Primary School.



Firstly, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the parents who attended the recent parents' evening. Your presence and active involvement in your child's education are vital, and we value your ongoing support. If you are unable to attend, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class team for a suitable time to discuss their progress.

In line with our commitment to fostering a love for Reading and Science, we celebrated World Book Day and Science Day with great enthusiasm. The children took part in various fun activities and showcased their knowledge and creativity linked to Time. These events not only provided them with opportunities for hands-on learning but also instilled a deep appreciation for the wonders of books and the marvels of science. We held a competition for children to design a new bookmark and represent time. Thank you to all those who took part and a big well done to you all.



Serengeti Winners – EYFS Harlee (Giraffe) KS1- Bella (Meerkat) KS2 Bella B (Rhino)
Arctic Winners - EYFS- Isabelle B (Polar Bears) KS1- Eli (Puffin) KS2- Ella H (Arctic Fox)

I would like to extend my gratitude to our dedicated HSA for organising the Mother's Day sale. It was a delightful occasion that allowed the children to express their love and gratitude towards their mothers and loved ones. The funds raised will go towards supporting various school projects and initiatives, improving the overall educational experience for our pupils.



Staffing Update:

As we informed you during this term, it is with a heavy heart that I announced the departure of Miss Hyams, who has been an integral part of our teaching staff for the past ten years. Miss Hyams has been a remarkable teacher and made lasting impressions on the lives of many pupils during her time here. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her commitment and dedication to Grove Park. We also say a sad goodbye to Mrs Downard, who has made the difficult decision to leave Grove Park. Mrs Downard has been within our community since 2010, working with many children throughout the school and supporting several teachers. We wish her all the best for the future.

We also have some exciting news that Miss Donaldson is due to get married in April, becoming Mrs. Watton. She also would like to inform you all that she is expecting her first



baby! Her baby will be due in the Autumn, and she is very excited to tell her class next term. As well as this, we also share the lovely news that Mrs. Grady is expecting another baby. Her baby is due in July, and she is hoping to remain in Ostrich class until this time. On behalf of all the Grove Park community, we wish them all the best and look forward to sharing the safe arrival of each baby.

Lastly, we wanted to briefly touch upon the essential issue of railway safety. As part of our continual efforts to promote the well-being of our pupils, we arranged railway safety workshops during this term. These sessions provided valuable knowledge and skills to our children, equipping them with the necessary tools to stay safe around railway tracks. We encourage you to continue reinforcing these lessons at home and adhere to the proper safety guidelines when using railway crossings.

As always, I am grateful for your continuous support and involvement in your child's education, and we wish you a restful Easter break.

Further Notices:

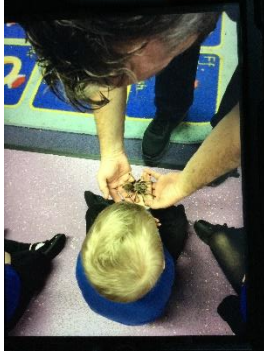
We are committed to supporting children with their social and emotional health, along with providing safe spaces within the school where children are self-regulating and find a sense of calm. As part of our development projects, we are excited to share that Grove Park have appointed a Forest School assistant, Mrs Day, who will lead outdoor sessions for different year groups across our school site and within the other Trust schools. Forest Schools allows children to learn, build and bond with others and develop key life skills through fun, outdoor activities. At Grove Park, as well as using the woodland area for these sessions, we are also developing a new provision called "Cuddle Corner". This will house rabbits and guinea pigs, allowing children to build connectivity with animals and develop empathy skills. Further information regarding our new animals will be sent home to you soon, along with consent forms for your children to access and engage with our new pets.



Bourne Kids Wrap around club

As you are aware we have a successful Breakfast and After school club provision at Grove Park that has become very popular. We are of course limited to the number of children per session each day and require you to book your children in before they attend. We cannot take your children who are not booked in, as it may cause our staff ratio to be incorrect. We reserve the right to refuse entry at this point. Please ensure your child is booked in for the correct number of days you may need us. Any further queries regarding our wrap around care, please contact the team via the club email: bournekids@ba-mat.org.uk.

Giraffe Class Term 4



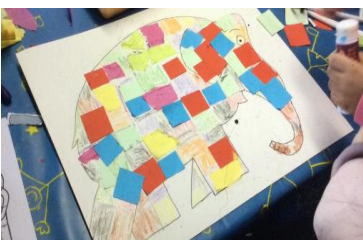
Our topic on different creatures started with a visit from 'Creepy Claws', a foundation set up by a gentleman who takes in unwanted animals and rehomes them. We were introduced to a number of interesting and unusual creatures including a tarantula, a gecko, an albino hedgehog, a snake and a scorpion, who lit up when a torch was shone on it. Many of us were very brave and either stroked or handled a selection of the animals.

We then worked individually to make a bird feeder using Cheerios and a pipe cleaner. Using 20 Cheerios we threaded them carefully onto a pipe cleaner and hung them on the fence in our outside area. It was very exciting to find that, after the weekend, many of the pipe cleaners were empty!



In our creative time, we have made ladybirds out of a variety of materials including playdough and paper plates and made puppets on sticks. We also followed instructions on how to draw a ladybird and made fossils out of clay. During our PE sessions, we are learning to participate in team games and improve our balance and coordination on simple pieces of apparatus.

Our handwriting continues to improve, with lots of practise, and we are becoming more confident at writing simple sentences. In maths we have looked at number bonds to 5 (and 10), simple recording of addition sums and have focused on doubles (to 5) and halves (from 10).



This term we have also celebrated World Book Day, Red Nose Day and Science Day. We had great fun during all of these events and Harlee Goff won a science prize for competing in the challenge and making a sand timer.

Meerkat Class- Year 1

This term, Year 1's topic was 'Africa'. We have learned facts about the continent of Africa (did you know there are 54 countries in Africa?) and we have looked carefully at some of animals and people who live there. We have enjoyed making African drums, necklaces, Ndebele houses and African habitats and animals. We have embraced the vivid colours and patterns seen within the continent and also thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Wingham. We saw many animals from Africa. We compared lion's and elephant's teeth and giraffe neck bones to our own. Our favourite animals were the meerkats, of course!



Look at the size of these teeth and bones!

African drums and making African habitats

In **Maths**, we have been solving problems such as finding missing numbers. We have been using known number facts to help us and have learnt different strategies to find the answer when we are stuck. We have definitely used our value of resilience to keep going. We have been counting in 2s and 5s too.

In **English** this term, we read 'The Lion Inside' and thought about how Mouse and lion were feeling. We predicted the ending to the book but were all surprised when the mighty lion was scared of the tiny mouse! We also wrote a recount of our trip to Wingham and had great fun creating riddles and guessing each other's animals. Can you solve our riddles?

I have four legs.

I am a carnivore with sharp teeth.

I ROAR! ... What am I?

I have four legs.

I am a herbivore.

I have a trunk... What am I?

In **Science**, we have been looking at different animals and classifying them into groups. Were they mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles or birds? How did we know? We also looked at whether the animals were carnivores, omnivores or herbivores and took part in a most fantastic investigation that involved looking at (chocolate) POO!!! We were able to work out which poo belonged to which animal by the remains within it- grass, fruit, bones, feather and so on. We had a most disgustingly fun time doing that! We also celebrated Science day by dressing as scientists!



World Book Day

On world book day, we mixed with other infant classes to read and enjoy different books. We took part in art and writing activities and did it all dressed in pyjamas!



Finally, we have had some rather special visitors in Year 1. New born chicks! We watched them hatch- it was amazing!



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!

Scarlett Axl Evelin Joshy Joey-Lee

Term 4 in Lion Class

Our topic this term has been 'Australia'. The children have loved learning all about the Australian animals and some significant people during lessons about the history of Australia.

Our Value Champions this term were:

Waris, Kariya, Freddie, Lottie, Damian, Ava.

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



In maths this term, we have been looking at shape and fractions. We started off by looking at 3D shapes and their properties. We used post-it notes to help us count the **faces** and we used sticks and marshmallows to help us understand **vertices** and **edges**! The children did very well not to eat any marshmallows, until they were at home anyway!



After looking at shape we moved onto fractions, the children have already shown a great understanding of halves and quarters.

We will continue to look at fractions next term



In English this term, we have been reading 'The Koala Who Could' which linked beautifully to our topic all about Australia. The children have written a non-chronological report all about koalas.



We have had a particular focus on grammar and writing in past and present tense.



This term we had visitor to come into a classroom to show us a didgeridoo.

He told us a story about a didgeridoo. The children then also had an opportunity to play the didgeridoo, you can watch this via the QR code.



In science, we have looked closely at everyday materials and developing an understanding as to why things are made out of certain materials. We began by exploring the school to find different materials and then to describe them. We then played a game to help us decide what materials would be best for different objects.

In week 5, we carried out an investigation. This investigation was about what material was the bounciest. We had polystyrene, plastic, sponge and rubber balls. We discussed their properties and made a prediction. We found out that rubber was the best at bouncing!



The children looked very cosy ready for a day all about books and reading!

The children were given the opportunity to vote for what book they wanted to read during World Book Day. The choices were Greg the Sausage Roll, Lunchbox Hero, Charlie McGrew and the Horse That He Drew and Elmer and the Patchwork Story.

After lunch, we did some art work based on our favourite book in the reading corner. We had a go at sketching our favourite page.

This was a really fun day and was lovely to see the children engaged and excited about reading.



In DT, this term we have made puppets. We began by designing our puppet and then we practised joining materials with safety pins, glue and pegs. Once we had practiced, we were ready to start creating our puppets. The children showed

resilience when doing this as it was tricky! The end results look amazing and I'm really proud of the children for their fantastic effort.



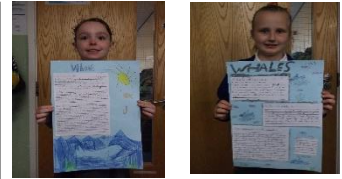
Next term our topic is all about **Pirates!** Next term we will also be going on our school trip next term to visit the Tower of London, ready for our term 6 topic, The Great Fire of London. Please check on Arbor for any information!

Thank you for another fabulous term! Have a lovely half term and happy Easter!



Elephant Class Term 4

Term 4 has been very busy this year, We have been diving deep, deep down into the waters to study the majestic Blue Whale, As part of this topic, our class has read and listened to 'The Morning I met a whale' by Michael Morpurgo. This atmospheric book highlights the importance of protecting our seas for future generations. In our English lessons, we have used facts about whales to create poster, simile poems and letters



World Book Day was a successful day in our calendar. We had the opportunity to mix with children in Year 4, 5 and 6 who had similar interests to ourselves. In the classes, we created pieces of art, design technology projects and pieces of writing. Congratulations to Ashley for winning a book in our Book mark competition.

Our Science topic this term has been light. We have looked at different sources of light and the reflective properties of others. We know that we see objects because light bounces off them and into our eyes. We have used torches to make shadows and experimented with a variety of opaque, transparent and translucent materials to test the shadow's density. During this term, we had an exciting 'Time' themed Science Day. During the day, we looked at how devices to measure time have developed over the centuries. We created a timeline of these facts and even designed our own futuristic watches. In the afternoon, we made our own sand timers using plastic bottles and salt. We investigated with different amounts of salt to get as close to a 30 second timer as we could. It was a tricky experiment but we showed great resilience in completing the challenge.



We have created some amazing art both in class and at home. We have developed our fine sketching skills in our flower and bridge drawings, as well as creating river collages from scrap materials. To continue our theme of protecting our oceans, we had great fun making our own recycled whales at home.



Congratulations to the following children for gaining school value certificate this term.

Week 1- Respect-Jacob

Week 2-Resilience-Sukhman

Week 3-Responsibility-Alexis

Week 4-Resourceful-Wills, Week

5-Respect-Jennie and our Values Champion-Penny.

Thank you to Jennie and Wills for representing our school at the Active Stacking Festival



Zebra Class Term 4 Newsletter



Term 4

Here we are at the end of another busy term and it's hard to believe we are already over half way through year 4.

The children have certainly had lots of fun days, including World Book Day, Science day and Red Nose day. It was lovely to see them all dressed up and taking part in all the fun activities.

I would like to say a huge well done for the way the Zebra class have represented themselves during their swimming sessions. They continue to make me very proud to be their teacher.

Well done to Amelia and Jaks who were picked for a special visit to the Forest school at Iwade School. I believe lots of muddy fun was had.

One of the highlights of our term was our visit to Iwade School for our VR workshop on volcanoes. The children were really engaged in their learning and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

In our day to day learning we have looked at multiplication, area and fractions in maths. Our English has been focusing on a story set on a volcanic island. We have looked at electricity in science and volcanoes, mountain and earthquakes in our discovery topic. In PE we have been practicing our tennis and dodgeball skills with Mr Claridge and I have been putting them through their paces with circuit training.

It was lovely to see so many of you at parents evening. I hope you enjoyed seeing your children's amazing work.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and raring to go in term 5.



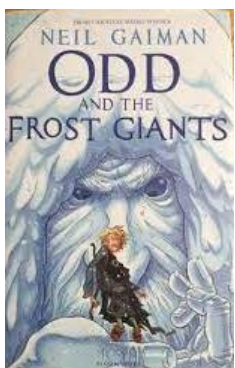
Well done to our values winners for term 5: Lexi, Shriyen, Sophia, Jaiden and Eliza



Rhino Class

In term 4, our topic has been "Valhalla". It has been an interesting topic learning about Vikings, invasions and Norse Gods.

We have used 2 interesting books this term, which has helped us understand more about the Vikings and inspired some amazing writing. Odd and the Frost Giant was used for our reading sessions and Arthur and the Golden rope was adapted for the children to create their own myths. It has been the most inspired with writing the children have been so far this year.



This term we have enjoyed some additional special event days. Children were split within the community classrooms to celebrate "World Book Day". All the children undertook a variety of Art, D+T and Reading activities. We also had Science Day. The focus was around time and the children in Rhino really enjoyed making their sand timers using salt and bottles



As part of the Viking topic children learnt about Long ships and how these were used. Children loved designing and building their own Long ships. These were a great success. We even tested the buoyancy of their boats, which linked to our science.



Huge congratulations to our values champions this term: Annabelle, Ore, Alyssia, Olivia and Ollie

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Downard for all the help and support she has provided to not only Rhino class but also the entire school community.

We look forward to welcoming you back after Easter. Our new topic will be the "Vanishing Elephants".

OSTRICH CLASS

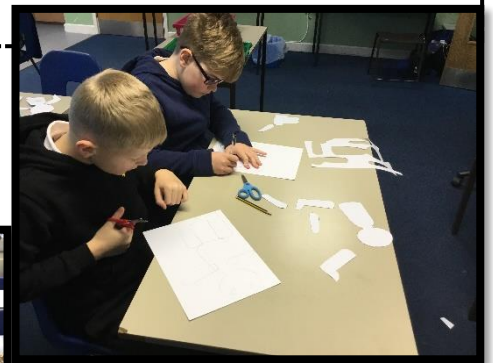


In science, we have been learning about classification of living things. We were lucky to have Creepy Claws visiting: the children were able to put their learning into context by seeing animals in real life, deciding how they would be classified and why.

This term, Ostrich Class's topic has been 'Can we Save the Tiger?' We have been learning about lots of animals, including vultures, bison and snails and of course tigers, and how they have come to be endangered or extinct. Not only have we thought about the causes of the animals' predicament but also how we can help. We have had lots of emotive writing aimed at persuading people to do what they can to help innocent animals.

The children produced some excellent artwork linked to tigers, which they added to their final presentations - they were impressive.

We have been reading 'Tiger Heart' by Penny Chrimes and our writing has been based on 'Can we Save the Tiger?' by Martin Jenkins.



We also had Science Day this term. The children made timers – it was great to see the problem-solving skills they used when it did not quite go as well as they had hoped.

In DT, we designed and made tiger traps that could be used to take tigers to safety. The creativity and teamwork shown by the class was fantastic.

World Book Day was a fun day of reading and activities related to the children's chosen books. The opportunity to wear pyjamas to school is always welcome!

A huge well done to Beau, Izzy, Isabelle, Damisi, Joseph, Amelia and Will for being our values certificate winners this term.



Next term, our topic will be 'Adventurers'. We will be learning about people who have been on extraordinary adventures, including Amelia Earheart and Michael Collins. The team in Ostrich Class would like to wish you a very happy Easter and we will see the children back on the 15th April for term 5.