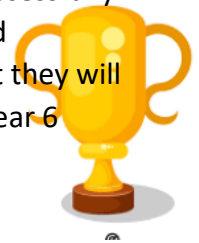


## Serengeti Newsletter Term 5

Dear Parents,

I trust this newsletter finds you all well and you are looking forward to the exciting events due to take place in Term 6.

On reflection of Term 5 I would like to extend my congratulations to Year 6 for successfully completing their Key Stage 2 SATs. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and determination throughout this year and during the tests, and I have no doubt that they will go on to achieve great things in the future. I hope they now look forward to the Year 6 leavers events and enjoy their last remaining term at primary school.



It is with tears in our eyes that we bid farewell to Mrs J Clay, a long-standing Teaching Assistant, who has exhibited unwavering dedication and commitment to Grove Park over the years. We are immensely grateful for her hard work and contribution to our school community, and she will be dearly missed in her role as teaching assistant. We hope she finds her time at home relaxing and hope she remains a friend of Grove Park in the future.



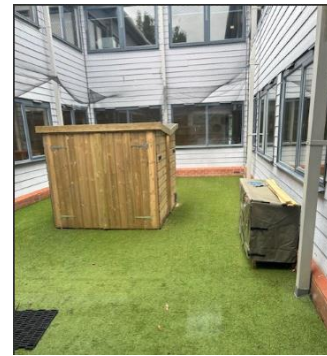
We also participated in Autism Awareness Week during Term 4. This provided a valuable opportunity for our pupils to learn about and understand the experiences of individuals with autism. I want to thank both the pupils and staff for their engagement and compassion during this important week, and for taking part in a sponsored walk. Well done Grove Park.

As we enter Term 6, we have some exciting events arranged for our children, including transition into new classes, a summer fete, end-of-year productions, along with many more. These events not only provide opportunities for our pupils to showcase their talents but also foster a sense of community and camaraderie within Grove Park. We hope you can attend many of these events and show your support.



Community Sports Days are also taking place in Term 6. This year we are hosting a new format to our sports day. They will run as communities and have set events for the children to participate in, including a family fun zone where you can join in the fun with your children. Arctic Community will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June and Serengeti will run on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The main gates will be open from 9:00am for parents to arrive and we aim to start all races at 09:30am for each class. Further information about the plan will be sent to you at the start of next term.

Finally, within the last newsletter we shared the exciting news of Cuddle Corner, a provision that will home rabbits and guinea pigs. This is well on its way and soon in Term 6 your children will see the first of our rabbits arrive, with some tortoises also making an appearance. Mrs. Day is leading our Cuddle Corner provision and as part of the set up will be bringing her own animals to test the allocated area to ensure it is safe and to help us establish where to place shelter and their new homes. As you can see from the picture, Cuddle Corner is still under development. With new aspects arriving daily. We now have their indoor space, raised netting at the top of the building and it has been laid with Astro turf. Once it is ready to open, you will be informed of a grand opening.



It is also with great excitement and pleasure that we announce to you that from September 2024, we will be introducing a school dog, Draco to our learning environment. Research has shown that interaction with animals can have numerous benefits for children's mental health and emotional well-being. Draco is a golden retriever and will be a trained therapy dog for our school. Draco is a family pet to Mrs Flain, who is his named owner and who takes responsibility for him and his training. The policy regarding the school dog and our smaller pets, along with consent forms will be sent to you during Term 6 and we ask that you read and sign these carefully before your child interacts with any of our animals.



As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions or require any further information. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated as we work together to provide the best possible educational experience for our pupils.

Have a wonderful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

## Giraffe Class Term 5



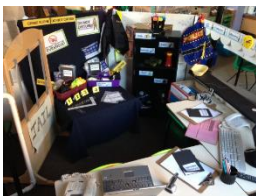
Our topic on Super veggies started with a dressing up day when we all came dressed as our favourite superhero. We learnt all about 'Supertato' and looked at, cut up and tasted a variety of different vegetables. Following on from this we looked at 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and tried sequencing and acting out the events from the story. We also planted runner beans that we have taken home to look after. Finally, we are reading 'Hospital Dog' by Julia Donaldson and finding out about lots of different animals and their needs.

We have also looked at the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo who painted faces using fruits, vegetables, and plants. After drawing a design for our face, we tried to recreate it in the style of Arcimboldo using different fruit. It was great fun, if rather messy, but we were really pleased with our pictures.



In our creative time, we have also been painting characters from our storybooks and making beanstalks out of natural materials. Every week we have a visit from Mrs Pastor, our French teacher, who is teaching us our numbers, colours, and days of the week. We can even say how we are feeling! During our PE sessions, we are practising our races for sports day and are getting very good at staying in our own lanes!

We are working hard with our writing and trying to remember our finger spaces and full stops. In math, we have looked at recording number bonds to 10 in different ways, simple recording of subtraction sums and 2D shapes.



In our outside area, we have enjoyed buying a variety of food from a 'shop' in our role-play area and pretending to be either the shopkeeper or a customer. Our shop has now turned into a police station as we are thinking about real 'superheroes' like Doctors, Nurses, Policemen and Fireman and what an important job they do in helping us and keeping us safe.

# Meerkat Class- Year



This term, Year 1's topic was 'To Infinity and Beyond'. We have looked at the history of space exploration and can use the terms past, present and future. We are able to place key events on a timeline. We loved using the chalks to create a picture of our solar system and we made books in our computing lessons!



In **Maths**, we have been learning about mass and capacity and had great fun weighing and playing with water! We have also started to learn about multiplication and division in terms of grouping and sharing. Please practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s with us and help us see the patterns in the numbers.

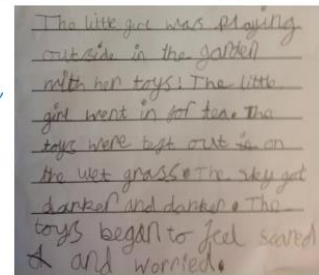
In **Science**, we have taken all our learning so far on the 4 seasons and used our knowledge to compare them. We have looked at the 12 months of the year (ask us to show you our actions!) and compared clothes we might wear, what happens to the trees and plants throughout the year and even made a weather chart. We really enjoyed our Spring walk and have talked about what we are looking forward to in the summer. What is your favourite season and why?



Finally, don't forget to practise your phonics. Reading nonsense words and searching for the sounds you know will help you decode the words.

In **English** this term, we have enjoyed reading 'Toys in Space' This is a story about a space creature who has lost his teddy called Cuddles. We then planned and wrote our own story about a different space creature who had lost a different toy. We need to practise retelling stories we have shared at home and identify the key events. Happy reading!

Wow! This is a great start to a story!



## Making space stations in DT

We designed and made our own space stations and moon buggies in DT. We made moving wheels and axles and could discuss the different elements needed on a space station.



## 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 for showing these values. It has been very difficult to choose!

John-Paul Jessica G Evie Jessie W  
Rosie Jake



# Term 5 in Lion Class



Our Value Champions this term were:

Toby B, Eniola, Charlie, Aiden, Jimmy, and Sofia.

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



We had an amazing day at the Tower of London. We went to the White Tower and saw some ravens. We also had a workshop all about the Great Fire of London. This taught us the story and why it spread so quickly! The children were beautifully behaved, they did great listening and made us all feel extremely proud!



We have written some great pieces of writing all to do with pirates. We have written rules for pirates, a letter to the council. We've been lucky as the weather has got much nicer, we have managed to do some of our writing outside! We have also read 'The Pirates Next Door' and 'The Pirates of Scurvy Sands', we have practised our comprehension skills when reading these too!



In computing the children have been making a quiz all about pirates. They look amazing!



During our position and direction unit this term in maths, we managed to go outside, work in teams in order to follow and give directions using the language that had been taught. This was so fun to watch and see them all have a go at this.



When learning about time, this is something that the children showed huge resilience around as using an analogue clock can be unusual for children, in the digital world that we now live in! We will continue this learning into term 6.



## Pirate Day!

This term we decided to have a day where we dressed and acted like a pirate. We learnt how to speak like a pirate, made some compasses and even had a treasure hunt!



In DT this term we made sea creatures, the objective of this lesson was to try and make them move. We used split pins and every child was successful in meeting the objective.

Again, this shows huge resilience as it was rather fiddly! So, a HUGE well done Lion class!



Next term our topic is all about The Great Fire of London! A few reminders, we have Sports Day on the 11th June (9:30-12). This term we will also be doing our last set of assessments (SATs.) ready for Year 3!

JUST ONE TERM LEFT

# Elephant Class Term 5

Geography has been the focus for this term's topic 'A Window to Europe'. We have used maps to locate the major rivers, mountain ranges and the capital cities of our neighbouring countries. Major cities and landmarks have been looked at and fact files on France and Germany were compiled. To compliment our topic, we have read and used 'Nadia- the girl who could not sit still' as a stimulus for our writing. As this fact filled story is based on Nadia Comaneci (a Romanian gymnast), we have used pictorial evidence to study the differences between life in Romania and Sittingbourne.



As part of our English work, we have read 'The Noisy Paintbox' which describes the life of Vasya Kandinsky, the famous Russian artist. The children have enjoyed finding out about his work and trying our own abstract drawing. As part of our DT work, we have been learning how to use slotting, folding and rolling techniques to create large abstract 3D structures. This has involved great resilience and co-operation.

Our Science topic this term was the study of Plants. We have studied why and how seeds were dispersed from their parent plants and used our observational skills to draw detailed drawings of root systems. We have set up a variety of experiments to understand the factors required for healthy growth in plants and even grown mustard seeds of our own.



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

Week 1- Respect- Isla  
Week 2-Resilience- Austin  
Week 3-Responsibility- Harry  
Week 4-Resourceful- Nancy  
Week 5-Respect- Blake

Our PE sessions have been great fun. We have been learning and practising many athletic events leading to our sports day event. In games, our class have learnt how to exchange batons with our fellow teammates, improve our javelin throwing and understand how pacing is important in long distance running. We have even increased our long jump distances.



## Zebra Class Term 5 Newsletter



Term 5



Another busy and rewarding term.

Our topic this term and next is Ancient Egyptians and we have been looking at the way the people lived their lives and why the River Nile was so important to them. The children have been practicing making scrolls using coffee and pastels in our art lessons. They have started to practice cross stitch and applique in DT.

In our maths lessons we continued with fractions and have now moved on to decimals and the children are doing really well.

In English we have been using information about Ancient Egyptians that the children have researched and written a non chronological report about different aspects of their lives.

In science we have been looking at states of matter and in particular the water cycle.

PE has been around athletics this term and the children have learned about different techniques of running, jumping and throwing. They have really enjoyed these lessons although there have been some very tired legs after the running sessions.

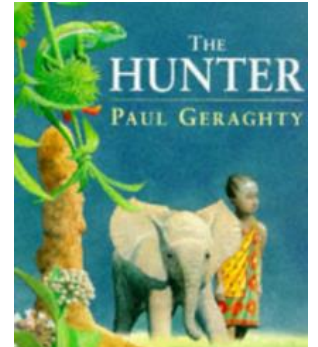
Well done to Amelia, Sidney, Sophie and Jaks for representing Zebra class in the swimming gala and a huge well done to our values winners so far this term: Babatunde, Amelia, Mia, Kaya & Willow.

Have a lovely break and I look forward to seeing you back in term 6.



# Rhino Class

In term 5, our topic has been "Vanishing Elephants". The children have loved learning about elephants and how we can protect them. We have produced interesting writing based around the book "The Hunter" by Paul Geraghty.



The children have been fully immersed in this term's topic, with reading, writing, geography, history, art, and D+T all linking in some way to elephants. The most impressive and favourite part of the term for the children has been the Dioramas.



The children had to make clay elephants - using many new skills to form, shape and join. We practiced these before they went on to create their clay elephants.

We wanted the children to attempt installation art, which is artwork display in a certain location, constructed in mixed media or from everyday objects. The brief was making a piece that could be displayed in the Tate Modern. The class produced amazing Dioramas designed and created by the children. They explored the outside for resources to create a realistic habitat for the creatures and achieved the brief.



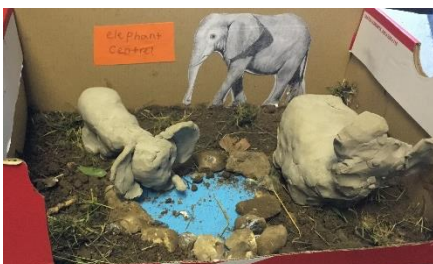
Huge congratulations to our values champions this term:

Sofia, Amber, Ben, Bella G, Charlie and Teddy.



We look forward to welcoming you back after the break. Somehow, we are in the final term in year 5, before the summer holiday and transitioning to year 6.

Next term's topic is "Ancient Greece"





# Year 6 - Ostrich Class



This term, Ostrich class has started a new topic titled 'Adventurers'. We have been exploring the great feats of a range of explorers that broke new records and accomplished some outstanding achievements.

In English, our writing focus has been on a book called 'Manfish', which is all about the life of Jacques Cousteau the underwater explorer. We were introduced to the phenomenal invention of the aqualung, which allowed Jacques to explore extensive greater depths of the sea. Tying in with our adventurer topic our reading has surrounded looking at many different kinds of explorers including more deep-sea explorers, astronauts, cyclists and rowers.

In our discovery lessons we have been looking at the key differences of an explorer and navigator and what both roles consist of, the challenges they might face and how much of an impact the environment has on each and every expedition or adventure. To really get to understand just how deep the explorers like Jacques Cousteau, Jacques Piccard and Sylvia Earle went we looked at the different layers of the ocean and explored what creatures may be found at each level and how they might survive, this really put into perspective the enormity of each adventure. To show this we created a piece of artwork depicting the levels and creatures, charting each explorer's depth that they reached.

A massive well done to our value certificate winners this term:  
Izzy, Alfie, Jason, Leah T and Maja

During term 5, the children have been working hard in maths on ratio, proportion, geometry and statistics. We have also been revising to get ready for SATS by looking at areas that we felt we needed some more practice on.

In PSHE we have been focusing on human rights and prejudice and discrimination exploring how this impacts our own lives but also the lives of the explorers in our topic.

In PE, we have been practising an array of skills getting ready for Sports Day in term 6. Some of the class represented our school completing a cross-country competition, well done to all those who took part.



It was indeed SATS this term and the whole of Ostrich class team want to say a MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS to everyone for showing great resilience and resourcefulness this week when completing your tests. You should all be super proud of yourselves!

To complete SATS week, we all enjoyed a celebratory breakfast!

