

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a successful start to the year at Grove Park, and there is much to share with you.

Firstly, I am delighted to announce the appointment of our new Heads of Community. Children in Year 6 applied for this special position, writing manifestos, and taking part in an interview process. This is outstanding achievement now means each community has a representative who will speak on behalf of the pupils in our school and help with strategic plans as we move forward. We are excited to see the positive impact they will have on our school community and congratulate them on their new role!



Aaliyah,  
Francesca,  
Class

I would like to  
heartfelt thanks



Ostrich Class  
Reindeer


extend my  
to all the

parents who completed the recent parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable, and it is heartening to hear that you feel Grove Park is a happy and welcoming school where your children can learn and thrive. We acknowledge your suggestions for improvement, particularly concerning the condensing of communication. We understand that the current volume of emails can be overwhelming, and we will work on streamlining our communications. Additionally, we will ensure that you receive more regular updates about your child's progress throughout the year, outside of the allocated parents evening times.

A special thank you to all who attended our recent parents' evening. Your support is crucial to your child's educational journey, and it allows us to work in harmony with each pupil. If you were unable to attend and would like to discuss any matters with your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to reach out, and we will be more than happy to arrange a convenient time for you.

I would also like to time this time to commend all the Year 6 children who sat the Kent Test this term. Your hard work and dedication to learning truly shone through, and we are incredibly proud of each one of you.

On a delightful note, our Year 3 students have commenced their Forest School sessions, which have already brought much enjoyment, albeit with plenty of mud! During these sessions, the children are learning valuable skills in risk-taking, teamwork, and



understanding the natural world. Forest School is an integral part of our curriculum for Years 1, 3, and 5, promoting experiential learning in a natural setting. We hope all children enjoy these sessions in the future.

Lastly, I am thrilled to report that our new playground equipment has been installed ahead of schedule! It has been wonderful to see the children's excitement as they enjoy this new addition to our school environment, and we are hoping they all now explore the equipment and use it to its full potential. Please note that during morning drop off time, children need to head straight into class so that we can register them for the day, they will then get a chance throughout the day to play on the equipment.

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable time. We look forward to welcoming you back in November, ready for another exciting term ahead.

Warm regards,

The Grove Park Team



## Term 1 in Giraffe Class

What an exciting start to the year we've had in Giraffe Class! We've settled into our new environment beautifully, getting to know our friends and teachers while establishing our routines. Our exploration of the *Zones of Regulation* has helped us recognize and manage our emotions, and we've been singing the days of the week to kick off our learning.

Our termly topic, *The Gingerbread Man*, has been a delightful adventure; we've enjoyed reading the story, acting it out, and even building traps and bridges!

In Maths, we've started using Numberblocks to explore numbers 1-4, focusing on ordering and comparing amounts.



In History, we've learned about how we have changed over time, using our own baby photos to help us. Our Art sessions have inspired us through the works of Frida Kahlo, where we have created our own autumn-themed self-portraits in her style. In Geography, we have explored our local area using Google Earth, identifying important places like our school, the library and where we live. Science lessons have led us to understand the seasons and observe autumn changes outdoors while learning about scientist Inez Fung. We have also loved learning the seasons song!

During PE, we've been enjoying Storycize, enhancing our movement skills through imaginative storytelling, and our RWV lessons have celebrated our diversity and uniqueness, highlighted by our favourite 'I Am Special' song.



One of the highlights has been our Drawing Club, where creativity flourishes! Each session, we draw characters and settings inspired by stories, and then we write a 'secret code' that brings our illustrations to life. Whether its characters getting stuck in bubblegum, transforming into rainbows, or even making it snow in our sceneries, the children are thriving on using their imaginations. It's wonderful to see their ideas come to life on paper! We can't wait to see what the next term brings!



## Year 1 - Meerkat Class

### Term 1

This term in Year 1, we have been learning about planet Earth. We have enjoyed reading the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. We learnt where we live and the physical/human features in our local area. We went on a walk to see these things too!

We have learnt about the 4 countries that make the United Kingdom, recognising the flags as well as naming the capital cities for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our Geography learning continued as we learnt about the 7 continents and the 5 oceans of the world.

A huge well done to the class for their brilliant learning this term!

At the beginning of term, we found an alien spaceship that had crash landed under the tree.

We then completed some brilliant writing, including a description of what we saw, as well as a postcard telling them more about Earth.



In Science, we have been learning about our human bodies and senses. We completed some investigations around these. We also have learnt the names of 5 animal groups.

The class loved playing the game of "What animal am I?".

In Computing, Mr Matthews has been really impressed with the class, as they have been learning how to use a laptop/computer to log on, finding the letters on the keyboard and navigating a website called Purple Mash.

Value Champions - Well done to the following children for demonstrating one of the school values this term:

Rhyleigh    Dolly    Layla    Arabella    Grace    Ariana



## Lion Class- Year 2

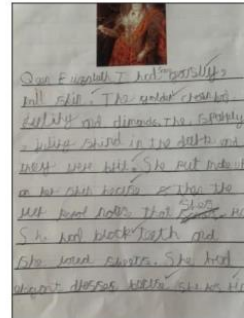


### Respect Responsible Resilience Resourceful

This term we have celebrated the following members of Lion Class for showing how responsible, resourceful, resilient and respectful they can be. Well done!!

**John-Paul** (responsible), **Scarlett** (respectful), **Gideon** (resourceful), **Erin** (resilient), **Esmée** (respectful), **Jakub** (resilient) and our Value Champion this term was **Evie** (all 4 values).

This term, Year 2's topic was 'Tudors'. We have been learning all about King Henry VIII, his six wives, his early life and how Tudor people lived and dressed. We have had great fun learning songs and rhymes about his wives and acting out what happened to them! We created a timeline in History and a family tree as well. The Spanish Armada created lots of interest in class and we could discuss how they were defeated.



In **Maths** we have been thinking about the value of digits in a number- how many tens and ones- and using this to start column addition and subtraction (without exchanging). We have looked at ways to add and subtract using our knowledge of number bonds as well.



In **English** this term, we have been looking at the book 'The Tudors: Kings, Queens, Scribes and Ferrets!' by Marcia Williams. We have focused on creating **expanded noun phrases** to describe and clarify by looking at objects/people/places (nouns) and thinking of describing words we can use for them (adjectives). Put together, they create noun phrases. We used some fabulous vocabulary!



In **Science**, we have been looking at 'animals including humans'. We have looked at life cycles of humans, frogs and butterflies and thought about what animals need to survive. We have linked our science learning to PSHE and DT and thought about a healthy diet. We had great fun making wraps and then eating them!



In **PE** this term, we have been focusing on team work. We have had a great time completing team games such as 'Cross the river' (without being eaten by the crocodile!), Human knots (can we untie ourselves without letting go of our hands?), 'Hoops' (can we pass the hoops around the circle and help each other get through them?) and 'Caterpillars' (Let's all move like caterpillars and not leave our team mates behind!). What we have learned from this is we need to talk and (most importantly) listen to each other and encouraging each other is better than becoming frustrated!

# Elephant Class

In term 1, our topic has been "Coming to England". We have learnt about the Windrush Generation and the story of Floella Benjamin.

We have looked at a book "Coming to England" which looked at the journey for Floella from Trinidad to England. Elephant class showed their writing skills writing diaries and letters.



This term in PE, the children have looked at sending and receiving skills and gymnastics. The children in Elephant class have attempted this with enthusiasm, showing and learning individual and partner balances. (Polite reminder - PE kits should be in school every day and earring out on PE days)



The big "WOW" of term 1 has to be the experience of beginning Forest school! The children have had a great time exploring nature and creating things from the environment. The children always come back with huge smiles on their faces and mud on the carpet! Science has been a particular highlight this term - exploring magnets in many experiments. Another fun experience was in D+T, creating a working hydraulic boat lift. Elephant class worked well in their teams with great success.



Huge congratulations to our values champion this term: Ellie, Zoey, Piper, Ifemi, Sean, Eniola.

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 daily. We hope you have a wonderful restful break and look forward to seeing the children back after half term.



Our new topic will be - A Window to Europe



## Zebra Class



### Term 1

This term in Zebra Class we have been looking at Rainforests and gorillas in our Discovery topic. This also links into our writing and science topics.

In maths we have been investigating place value and rounding to the nearest 10's, 100's and 1000's. We have also been focusing on using the column method for adding and

Subtracting.

Our art and DT has included Grey parrots to link with our Discovery topic. The children drew gorillas and used shading skills to make them more realistic.

In our writing we have looked at fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and adding speech in writing, as well as remembering the basics such as capital letters and punctuation.

In PE the children have been looking at gymnastics in our indoor lessons and invasion games such as hockey netball and frisbee in our outdoor lessons.

Thank you to Mrs Day for taking the children to cuddle corner they really enjoyed spending time with the animals.

It has been an amazing first term and the children should be very proud of how well they have settled into year 4.

Congratulations to Penny, Millie, Isla, Nancy and Elsie for being the first children of the year to receive certificates for our school values of respect, resilience, responsibility and resourcefulness.

It just leaves me to wish you all a restful half term. See you in term 2.



## Year 5 - Rhinos

Our topic this term has been Inspirational Women. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the many inspirational women and their legacies, how they inspired change and changed history.

In our English writing topic, we have been reading *Queen of the Falls*. This is a true story based on Annie Edson Taylor, a lady, who despite the risks to her own life, went over the Niagara Falls in a wooden barrel. The children thoroughly enjoyed the book as they learnt about the reasoning behind Annie's daredevil feat, the many problems she had to overcome and what happened after she carried out the stunt. The children used the information in the book to write fabulous diary entries, first-hand accounts and newspaper articles about the fearless Annie Edson Taylor.



In our English reading, the children looked at many inspirational women including political activists, writers, famous sports women, and many ordinary women doing many different jobs such as doctors and fashion designers.

DT - This term, the children enjoyed learning about Amelia Earhart and the voyages she made in her plane which she affectionately referred to as the "Yellow Canary". In DT, they created their own planes using wooden pegs, decorated them in their own bright colours and evaluated whether or not it would fly.

Art - In art, they learnt the techniques used for drawing facial portraits and created some lovely sketches of another famous and inspirational lady, Evita Peron, First lady of Argentina.

RE - In RE, we explored the big question, "What makes us human?" For this question, we explored what the soul is and what it means to us. We also had discussions on spirituality and what activities we do to help us become spiritually well.

P.E - In our PE lessons, we are learning how to become effective sports leaders. The children are creating their own games and then teaching their games to other groups. They are learning how to manage feedback and using this to improve their games.



Maths - In maths, the children have been learning place value up to 6 digits. They have also learnt that by partitioning numbers, they are able to add and subtract mentally. The children have demonstrated fantastic resilience when faced with some challenging work.

The children have also begun to deepen their understanding of multiplication through Mastering Number at KS2. We have been amazed by their reasoning of mathematical concepts and connections seen between numbers.



# Ostrich Class



Term 1

We have hit the ground running in our first term as Year 6 Ostrich class. Everyone has worked extremely hard and should be incredibly proud of themselves. This term, our topic has been "World at War" with a focus on World War 2.

In maths this term, we have been looking at place value and using the four operations. We started by adding and subtracting numbers up to one million, using a place value grid to help us. We then looked at using the four operations to solve complicated problems. We learned how to use long division, the "bus stop" method and how to use long multiplication to multiply a number with two or more digits. The children worked really hard to understand this. We will be moving onto fractions next term.



In DT this term we learned about rationing in WW2 and how food needed to be made by using the least amount of ingredients as possible. Therefore we created rock buns using a WW2 recipe. In art, we looked at recreating the Blitz using paint and black card to create the silhouette of London during the bombings.



This term in English, we have been reading "Friend or Foe" by Michael Morpurgo which has linked to our topic this term. The children have had the opportunity to put themselves in the shoes of a World War 2 evacuee and write a diary from the perspective of a character in the story. We have been focusing on fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and writing in the first person.



This term in science, we have been learning about light. We have learned how light travels, the features of an eye, and how shadows are created. The children conducted an experiment to see what factors effects the size of a shadow.

A huge shoutout to this terms value certificate winners; Dylan, Mia, Aaliyah, Ollie, Annabelle and Zane. Also, a massive shout out to Aaliyah for being nominated as this years Head Pupil for the Serengeti community, I know you are going to be amazing in the role.



Next term, Year 6 will be learning about The Windrush in our discovery lessons.

