

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,
Ostrich Class




Francesca,
Reindeer Class

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks 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 take 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 Polar Bear Class

We have been reading *The Gingerbread Man*.

We have been retelling the story, acting out, drawing story maps, identifying sounds, building bridges and traps.



We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our school, teachers and making friends.



We have been introduced to the Zones of Regulation which is helping us identifying our feelings and ways to help overcome these.



We had our first PE lesson and loved it!



The Numberblocks have been helping us to learn our numbers 1-4. We have been comparing amounts, counting, ordering and drawing to match amounts.



We have started Drawing Club! We are enjoying being imaginative and using special codes!



During RWV we have been learning about different stories about although we are all different, we are all special.



We have started having French lessons with Mrs Pastor and are really enjoying it.

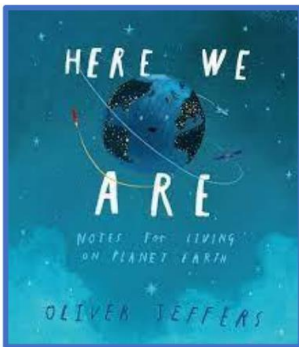


In Art we met the artist Friedha Kahlo. We did observational drawings of leaves and then a self-portrait.

Year 1 Puffin Class



Aliens crashed into a tree at Grove Park! We found a letter from them asking all about the planet they had landed on. We have been reading the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers and we thought about what our world would look like to an alien. We have been writing simple sentences remembering to use finger spaces!



In science, we have been learning about animals and how they can be grouped. We have also learnt about which animals are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We had fun labelling the parts of the body on a skeleton.



In geography, we have been learning about the 4 countries that make up the UK and their capital cities. We also had great fun on a walk around our local area looking at human and physical features.



In maths, we have been learning about the part-whole model.



Our Value Certificate winners this term were: Archie, Faith, Nina, Alfie, Caleb and Lacey. Well done to all of you!



Term 1 in Snowy Owls

This term has been very busy getting to know each other and learning all about the Tudors!

Our Value Champions this term were:

Sophie, Zaylen, Millie, Jack, Faisal, Oscar S, Kayla and Eli!

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



We have been looking at different ways to add and subtract in maths this term. Finding ways we learn best and successfully answer questions. The children have shown fantastic resilience and it has been great to see them succeed!

In our writing this term, we have looked at stories about King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I. Looking closely at remembering our capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We have also added more detail into our writing with noun phrases and some of us have even used commas!



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Our Tudor Roses



Harvest Art!

We have used a range of mixed media to create some pieces of art for harvest. We discussed the use of warm and cold colours and what would be best for this piece.



In science this term, our learning related back to Henry VIII and his diet. We spoke about what is needed to create a balanced meal and have an understanding as to why it is important.

Our investigation was all about our energy levels before and after lunch.



PE - Gymnastics

In our indoor PE lessons we have been understanding different balances. The children have worked hard to hold their balance for 5 seconds. The children progressed this learning by working with others to create mirror balances.



It has been a great start to the year and I look forward to welcoming them back in term 2, to learn all about the Stuarts and the Great Fire of London!

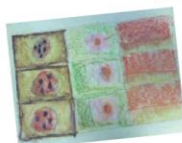
Narwhal Class



We have looked at the Coming to England text by Floella Benjamin which we linked with our discovery topic looking at the Windrush Generation and where in the world the Caribbean is.



This term the children have been visiting Forest school with Mrs Day where they have been exploring the environment, making waterproof dens and enjoying stories in the wooden structure. We have looked at Aletha McNish, a significant person from the Windrush Generation and the influence she had in England then reproduced some art in her style.

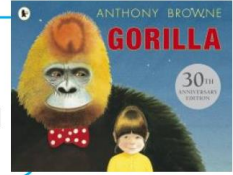
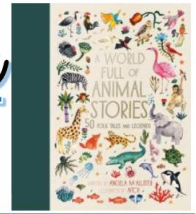


Well done to our values winners this term: Harrison, Hope, Gabriel, Finley HJ, Callum and Raiyah

In our gymnastic module for PE we have been looking at balances and working in pairs putting a sequence of partnered and single balances together.



Year 4 - Arctic Fox



Term 1 has been certainly been busy while we have settled into being in Year 4! This term our Discovery topic has been 'Rainforests and Gorillas'.

Our writing text this term was 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne. We have written fact files about gorillas, diary entries for Hannah and acted out a conversation between Hannah and the Gorilla. Our reading text was 'A World Full of Animal Stories' and we have loved reading different legends and stories about animals from all around the world!

In maths, we have been learning about place value. We have been specifically looking at 4-digit numbers and how to round to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000! We have enjoyed using place value counters to help us visualise the numbers.

Within our Discovery lessons, we have deepened our understanding of the different animals that live in rainforests. We've compared rainforests to different biomes around the world, and explored how different animals have adapted to these environments. We've also learnt about the anatomy of gorilla's and enjoyed using our artistic skills to make parrots out of paper plates and sketch our own gorillas.



This term in science, our focus has been on 'Animals including Humans'. We have experimented to see how different drinks affect our teeth, putting chewing gum in different liquids, and looked at how the digestive system works!

We have also participated in a sponsored Olympic day. We had an Olympic athlete come in to take us through some Olympic circuit exercises. We enjoyed warming up our bodies and seeing how long we could complete the exercises.



This term it was Year 4's turn to go to cuddle corner. Every Wednesday we go with Mrs Day and learnt how to take care of animals. We enjoyed all the strokes and fluffy cuddles!



A huge congratulations to our class value winners for term 1: Ruby, Cora, Jayden, Poppy, Daisy, Phoebe and Ava.

Next terms, our topic will be 'Rainforests and the Mayans'.

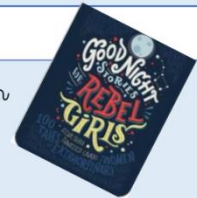


Snow Leopards

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 have 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.



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.

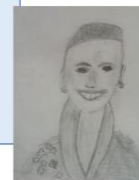


DT - This term, the children enjoyed learning about Amelia Earhart and the voyages she made in her plane which she affectionately referred to as the "Yellow Canary". In DT, they created their own planes using wooden pegs, decorated them in their own bright colours and evaluated whether or not it would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

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.

PE - 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.

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



Respect Responsible
Resilience Resourceful
Congratulations to Hayley,
Ella, Ava, Alfie, Oliver,
Jenson and Ernest for
being our values
champions this term.





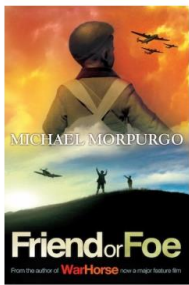
Year 6-Reindeer Class



This term, our topic was:
World War II.



During our Pathways to Write sessions, we have been reading Friend



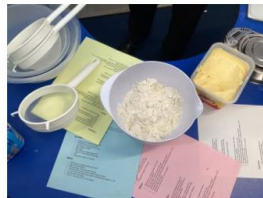
or Foe by Michael Morpurgo. We have made our own diary covers, which hold the diary entries we have written across the term.

In maths this term, we have covered place value and the different methods used for the four operations.

We had a visitor come in this term, to talk to us about what life is like as a humanist!



We have used lots of roleplay to showcase our learning!



We baked some rock buns, just like the ones from World War 2!

From acting out scenarios on showing respect in RWV, to the major turning points of WW2 in Discovery.



We also made some lovely Harvest festival art.



In PE, we have all worked on our leadership skills, by designing an activity.

Next term, we will be learning about the Windrush!

A huge well done to our value certificate winners this term: Bella, Poppy, Elliott, Isobel, Aaliyah, Reggie and Ivy!