

Dear Parents and Carers,

THANK YOU!

As we reach the end of Term 2, I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the kind gifts that you and your children have given to the staff, Draco, and myself. Your thoughtfulness is genuinely appreciated, and we are so incredibly grateful to you all.

This term has been nothing short of busy, and we are incredibly proud of all the children for their outstanding performances and nativities. These festive events truly make December a special time in schools, and your support in attending these events, as well as providing costumes, has been invaluable. Thank you for making it all possible and magical moments to cherish.



On reflection of Term 2, we also had the pleasure of hosting a successful school reunion, where former pupils of Grove Park returned to share their stories with our current pupils. It was a wonderful occasion that allowed us to reconnect with many members of our school community. To commemorate this milestone, each child received a special 50th pin badge and we welcome them to celebrate their part in the school's history. A special thank you to the staff who helped organise this and to Mrs Beards for collating the history book, showing

how Grove Park has developed over the years.



A huge thank you also goes to the HSA for organising a fantastic Christmas Fete this year. This event is hugely popular and plays a significant role in benefiting our school. The time and effort the volunteers put into arranging everything is immense, and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment. If you would like to be part of this team, please contact the main school office and we will help set you up as a member.

Throughout the term, we have also hosted several important events, such as Road Safety Week and Anti-bullying Week. Both themes are integral to our community, and we will continue to revisit the "Choose Respect" theme in the remaining terms to foster a positive and supportive environment for all our pupils.



The children at Grove Park are fantastic at showing others kindness and respect and we use events such as Anti-Bullying week to highlight true friendship within our school communities.

As we approach the festive season, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a wonderful break. School will recommence on **Tuesday, 7th January**, when we look forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Thank you once again for your continued support.



Merry Christmas!

We on the Grove Park OPAL Team wish you happy holidays and a fantastic New Year! As you may have noticed, 2024 has brought a number of new additions to the playground as part of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), such as our new wooden play area, mud kitchen, pallet houses and a variety of other pieces of equipment which the children enjoy and use every break and lunch. We've been working as hard as possible to not only engage children on the playgrounds during these times, but provide them with playtime opportunities that they have not had the chance to experience before. However, this is just the beginning, and we are hoping to make significant additions to our playgrounds and fields in 2025. First though, we need your help!

In order to carry out some of our plans, we are in need of materials and equipment, and any donations would contribute greatly to these, and will help provide greater opportunities for your children during playtime. With that in mind, we are kindly asking for any of the following if you can provide them:

- **Wellies** One of our earliest targets is to have our children back on the fields and playing in the mud kitchen amongst other things, and we need wellies of all sizes (children's sizes of course).
- **Tires** Den building is one of the most anticipated additions to our playtimes, and in order to build dens, we need tires (which work perfectly when stacked). We're not picky either, tires of all sizes are greatly appreciated!
- **Pallets** Like tires, pallets will be a major part of den building, and the more the merrier. Ideally, we are looking for newer pallets in good condition, as they are safer for the children to use and last longer.
- **Tarpaulins** Tarpaulins are key to den building, as they can be used as roofing, walls or flooring. All tarpaulins are great, no matter the size. And even better, if you have camouflage netting that you are looking to get rid of, that would be amazing!
- **Costumes** For a long time, we have had a stage on our main playground, but rarely has it been used to its potential. We are really hoping to turn it into a theatre for children to use, and for that we need costumes for the 'actors' to wear! So if you have any fancy dress that's perhaps too small for your children or you're getting rid of, we will gladly accept them.

We appreciate all the support and any donations you are able to provide, as they go a long way in ensuring the success of OPAL within Grove Park, and of course ensure that children are having the best playtimes possible. If you are able and willing to donate any of the things above, there will be designated areas for you to drop things off.

Wellies, tarps and costumes can be placed outside Snow Leopard and Reindeer class (there will be signs that you will see as you walk onto the main playground, you won't miss them!). We kindly ask that if you are donating pallets or tires, please place them next to the red clothes bin by the car park.

Thank you very much!

Mr Day, Mrs Mannering & Mrs Fosbraey

Term 2 in Polar Bear Class

We have been focusing on Festivals this term. We have enjoyed looking at Halloween, Diwali, La Tomatina, and of course, Christmas!



In Maths we have been learning about numbers that make 5, saying our number sums and matching amounts to numerals.

In Art we enjoyed listening to music and painting alongside, exploring fast and slow movements with the paintbrushes.



During RWV we have been learning about Diwali and the Nativity Story. We have enjoyed making Diya lamps and creating rangoli patterns on the interactive whiteboard.

As a reward for us all getting onto the recognition board, we got to use the new play equipment!

We have been busy using our phonics knowledge to help us segment to read and write words. We have been writing simple sentences, lists and labels.



We had to practise lines, songs and where to go on the stage to perform our very first Nativity! The grown ups are super proud of us, it definitely got us all in the Christmas mood! We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!





Puffin Class

This term, we have been learning about 'The Three Queens.' The children have really impressed us with their knowledge of Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. We used pastels to colour Queen Elizabeth's portrait.



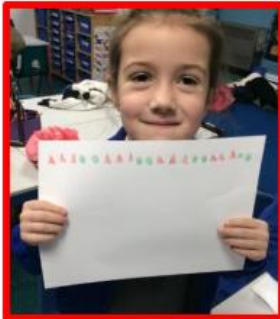
The children have become very knowledgeable about London and its famous landmarks. They thoroughly enjoyed the story of 'Katie in London.' They have drawn, built and written about their favourite landmarks.



In science, we have been learning about materials. We have sorted materials according to their different properties and found objects in the classroom made from different materials.. We carried out investigations to see which materials are the most waterproof and which are the most



In maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We have described their properties and made repeating patterns.



Well done to everyone for a fantastic Christmas performance of 'Born in a Bomi.' We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Congratulations to our school values certificate winners this term: Archie-Ray, Isabelle D, Alaia, Amelia, Heba and Delilah.

Term 2 in Snowy Owls

This term has been all things Great Fire of London and Christmas!

Our Value Champions this term were:

Harper, Jake, Kady, Emily, Shaye and Isla.

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



WE WON DEREK THE DOJO!

We had the most dojos in week 5 so we welcomed Derek in our class for the week.

Well done Snowy Owls!

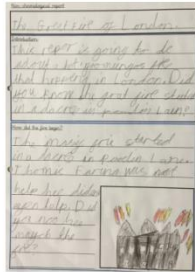
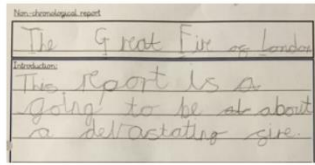


The homework this term has been very creative, thank you for all of your hard work at home!



The children enjoyed sharing what they had made and spoke confidently about what they had been up to!

In our writing this term, we have been working towards writing a non-chronological report. The children used the knowledge from our discovery lessons to create a fantastic piece of non-fiction writing.



Great Fire of London Artwork

The children have been using watercolours throughout the term, practising the skill of blending the colours together. They then added silhouettes of Tudor Houses to create an effective piece of art.



CHRISTMAS!

The children did a fantastic job in their nativity! We also were able to add our decorations to the big tree in the hall to get us in the festive spirit! We wish you all a wonderful Christmas!



In DT this term, we have been sewing our own Christmas decorations. The children were then able to decorate them. We hope they look great on your trees at home! We also have been working with clay, we started by making



a pinch pot and then used those skills and tools to create a Tudor House.

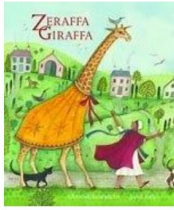


It has been another amazing term, well done to all of the children. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and half term resting. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.



Narwhal Class

This term our discovery topic was "A window to Europe"



This term the children have been looking at countries in Europe, mountain ranges and rivers in Europe as well as looking at Zeraffa's journey through France where we have written diary entries and letters looking at our writing skills.

We have continued our gymnastics topic this term looking at rotations where the children have been perfecting their pencil rolls, egg rolls, teddy bear rolls and they have learnt to work on forward rolls, backward rolls and cartwheels. We have been proud of them showing resilience in learning these skills.



Science has involved us looking at light and how shadows are formed, where we have completed some investigations.

We also enjoyed our catch-up forest school session where we talked about our environment and how we can keep it clean. We couldn't believe how much rubbish we collected from our fields at school!



The end of the term has seen us practising our singing skills ready for our Christmas concert to you all. The children have loved "Last Christmas" adding in the dance moves as well. The

children had a Christmas Experience where they learnt about the Christmas story.

Well done to our values winners this term:

Callum, Isobel, Layton, Isobelle, Emilia, Lily
Raiyah and Tariq



Year 4 - Arctic Fox



Term 2 has been filled with festivities and fun. This term our Discovery topic has been 'Mayans and the Rainforest'.

Our writing text this term was '100 Facts: Rainforests' by Miles Kelly and 'Where the forest meets the sea' by Jeannie Baker. We put on our best David Attenborough impressions and created voiceovers for animal clips, making sure we used exciting vocabulary. We have also written scene descriptions of where the forest meets the sea. Our reading text was 'The Great Kapok Tree'. We really enjoyed creating persuasive arguments against deforestation.

Within our Discovery lessons, we have learnt about how the Mayan's settled into the rainforest. We've compared how the Mayan's lived to how we live now. We discovered some artifacts that were found in Mayan temples around Central America and decided to make our own! We made rattles, bowls, and jewellery.



This term in science, our focus has been on 'Animals including Humans'. We have enjoyed learning about the different animals that we find in our local area.

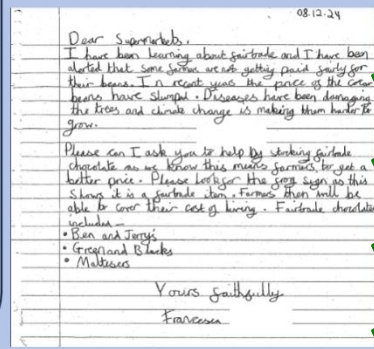
In Computing this term, Year 4 have been using a programmable circuit board called a Microbit. They have been learning how to code instructions for them using Purple Mash. They have made a digital name badge, a step counter and a rock, paper, scissors game! If you'd like to learn more about Microbits, visit microbit.org



We made our own decorations and hung them on the Christmas tree!



We really enjoyed showing all our home learning projects for our topic this term. We created exciting quizzes to test each other's knowledge of the Mayan's and we have written to supermarkets to encourage them to sell more fair trade products.



A huge congratulations to our class value winners for term 2: Emily, Lilly-Mae, Brianna, Hudson, Shahir, Aaliyah & Amari.

Next term, our topic will be 'Dickensian Times'.



Snow Leopards

Our topic this term has been Ancient Greece. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about how the ancient Greeks lived and how they still influence modern day. For example, their impact on medicine, the Olympics games and of course, democracy.



In our English writing topic, we have read *The Odyssey* which tells of the adventure of the Greek hero Odysseus. The children wrote many detailed accounts of the thoughts and feelings of Odysseus and his men as they encountered many obstacles on their way home to Ithaca. We have enjoyed writing about the men's experience with Cyclops' Island, including a fantastic description of the Cyclops' cave and their encounter with Polyphemus. We also wrote about Odysseus' encounter with Circe the witch and enjoyed their largest piece of writing yet - Odysseus and the song of the Sirens. We are so proud of the children's progress in their writing. They are truly amazing!



In our English reading, we read *Leo and The Gorgon's Curse*, by Joe Todd-Stanton. We read about the many different mythical creatures encountered by Leo, and how he defeated them whilst also adhering to the strict family motto of not hurting a mythical creature.

In maths, we have thought about multiples of numbers, common factors, squared numbers, prime numbers, and cube numbers. We have also learnt about equivalent, mixed and improper fractions.

Term 2 Forest School

We had a fantastic time at forest school this term. We can't wait for Term 5 when we get to go for another term!



Science - This term we have been investigating the properties of materials. The children have conducted many experiments such as which material is the best insulator and which items are magnetic.



In RE, we have explored the big question, "What makes some texts sacred?" For this question, we explored different religious texts and learnt about the similarities between world religions. This involved lots of discussions and debates which the children enjoyed.

Respect Responsible
Resilience Resourceful



Congratulations to Harrison, Ava F, Aamaal, Jaxon, Logan, Nikola and Riccardo for being our values champions this term.



Year 6-Reindeer Class



This term, our topic was:
Windrush.



This term we have been reading *The Place for Me* by K. N. Chimbiri. We looked into what life was like during the Windrush era and how it was impacted by World War 2. Lots of amazing projects were brought in, which were then presented to the rest of the class!



In maths this term, we have covered fractions and practiced our arithmetic skills.



This term, we all visited cuddle corner to see the guinea pigs and rabbits!



We used watercolour paints to create our own art pieces, inspired by Lubaina Himid.



We performed in the Arctic Community Christmas Concert. We had fun coming up with actions for our class song: Merry Xmas Everybody by Slade.

In PE, we created our own gymnastic routines and learnt the basic skills for handball.

Next term, we will be learning about Charles Dickens!
We wish you all a Merry Christmas!



A huge well done to our value certificate winners this term: William, Keira T, Lillie, Henry, Betty, Callum and Sara!



Winter Mini Reading Challenge



Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Children read at least three books of their choice between 1 December and 20 February 2025 and add them to their online profile at wintermini.org.uk. Reaching their reading goal will unlock rewards including a new online badge and a Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep when they have finished.

Kent libraries will be featuring a run of social media posts throughout the challenge to maintain awareness and interest and will have a linked webpage to their catalogue as a useful tool where everyone can find information about the Winter Mini Challenge and other related information.

The wonderful thing is that the Winter Mini Challenge is absolutely free, and children can either read their own books or pop onto their closest library and choose from a huge selection of books, all free of charge.

Please feel free to share this information and promote wherever you can. Let's keep children reading and make this year's Winter Mini Challenge a fantastic success.