

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 very 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 organized this and to Miss 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 organizing 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 very 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 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 into school.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

## Term 2 in Giraffe Class

As we reach the end of another amazing term, we are excited to share with you all the wonderful learning adventures we have enjoyed. Our topic this term was 'festivals', and we explored lots of different celebrations from different cultures and countries around the world. We were excited by firework night, Diwali, the magic of Christmas, and the fun of La Tomatina in Spain (where people throw tomatoes at each other!) and we had lots of fun making fireworks and sparklers, rangoli patterns and goggles to protect our eyes from tomatoes!



We have worked incredibly hard on our phonics this term. We now recognize lots of sounds and have started reading and writing simple words, sentences, labels, and lists!

We are also so confident with numbers up to 5 now that we've started learning our number bonds within 5!



Our art, science, and ICT sessions have been full of hands-on learning and creativity. In art, we explored abstract and figurative styles, painted to music, and created beautiful collages inspired by Megan Coyle. In science, we investigated sound, experimenting with vibrations and discovering how sound moves. In ICT, the children had a blast programming Beebots to move around the classroom and learning basic coding concepts through this interactive activity.



We ended the term with lots of Christmassy activities, bringing festive cheer to our classroom. We made Christmas cards, decorated baubles, and even built Santa's sleigh outside. The highlight was undoubtedly our nativity performance. We worked so hard to learn our lines, songs, and actions.

Despite our nerves, we performed brilliantly, making our teachers so incredibly proud of us.

We wish all our children and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We can't wait to see you all next term and look forward to the amazing learning adventures that 2025 will bring!

## Meenkat Class- Year 1



This term, Year 1's topic was 'The Three Queens'. The children have absolutely loved learning about Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Victoria, and Queen Elizabeth I. We've been so impressed with their knowledge of each monarch. They knew that Queen Victoria was married to Prince Albert and had nine children and forty grandchildren. They also learned why she wore black for most of her life. The children had a fun lesson learning about Elizabeth I, as they used pastels to colour in a portrait of her, including her red hair and white face. And, of course, they've been fascinated by Queen Elizabeth II, who ruled for more than 70 years before passing the throne to her son, our new King Charles III.



In **English** we read a book called 'Katie in London'. We were able to learn about lots of famous landmarks in London, such as Tower Bridge, The London Eye and Buckingham Palace.

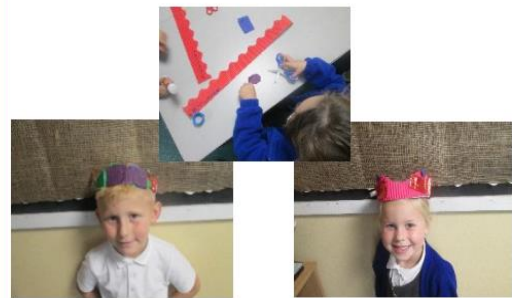
The children wrote about their favourite landmark, using the facts that they had learnt.

Also, we pretended to go on a bus tour, and had to say the different landmarks we would see. We worked in groups and performed these to the class.

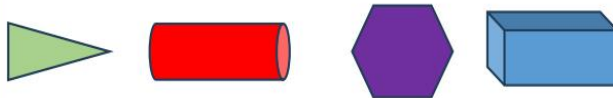


### Making crowns in DT

We designed and made our own crowns in DT. Don't we look fabulous!



In **Maths**, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We can name them and discuss how many sides, corners and faces they have.



In **Science**, we have been looking at materials. We have named lots of them as well as talking about their properties.

Also, we completed some investigations linked to finding out what materials are absorbent and waterproof.



### 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!

Albie Ginevra Archie-James  
Sharae Krystal-Rose Rowan



# Lion Class- Year 2



**Respect Responsible Resilience Resourceful**

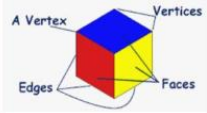
This term we have celebrated the following members of Lion Class for showing how responsible, resourceful, resilient and respectful they can be. Well done!!

**Ted** (responsible), **Thomas** (respectful), **Gideon** (resourceful), **Bella** (resilient), **Jessie** (respectful), and our Value Champion this term was **Eric** (all 4 values).

This term, Year 2's topic was 'The Great Fire of London'. We can answer the questions 'How?' 'Where?' and 'When?' it started and can give reasons why it spread so far and so fast. We enjoyed being detectives and used clues from historical sources to find the answers.



In **Maths** we have been looking at 2d and 3d shapes. We have counted the number of sides and vertices and have searched for 2d shapes on 3d faces. We have also practised column addition and subtraction.



3D SHAPES	
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	1

In **English** this term, we have been looking at the book 'The Great Fire of London'. We have written a non-chronological report using all the facts we have learned in history and added labels and captions. We have been working hard on our punctuation too!

In **Science**, we have been naming different materials and discussing their properties. We have also talked about why particular materials are used for certain purposes. We had great fun using a spinning wheel to create some silly ideas- why don't we have chocolate teapots or glass slippers?



In **Art and DT** we have learned several skills this term. We have been sewing using needles and running stitch to create a present for our family. We have planned and then used pinching, rolling, shaping and joining skills to create clay tiles depicting a Tudor style house. In art we have created silhouette pictures of the great fire using paint and paper.

# Elephant Class

In term 2, our topic has been "Window to Europe".

The children have loved learning about different countries in Europe. We have had some incredible homework tasks showcasing their knowledge. We have used the book "Zeraffa Giraffa" for writing based tasks. They ended the term writing their own story inspired by the story.



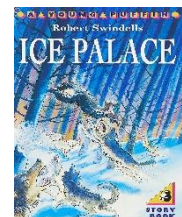
The children participated in a remembrance service marking respect to this historic event.



A particular highlight was the work they have achieved on the computer. They loved designing and making nets for their Christmas box and building them. We have used watercolours to make Christmas cards and practiced our painting skills.



The class have been able to go to cuddle corner to spend time with the Guinee pigs and rabbits, which they thoroughly enjoy.



In reading, we have learnt reading skills through looking at the book "Ice Palace" and in Science they have gained a better understand of light and reflection.

Huge congratulations to our values champion this term:

Toby, Zosia, Karija, Aiden and Elliot

We look forward to welcoming you back after the Christmas break. It is forest school on the first day back and appropriate clothing must be worn to participate. It is likely to be very cold.



Next terms topic is "Stone Age to Iron Age" A great chance to immerse ourselves into the hunter gatherer lifestyle during the stone age!

Have a fantastic Christmas!



## Zebra Class

### Term 2

What an amazing and busy term!

We have looked at the Amazon Rainforest and the Mayans in our discovery topic which also links to our English and science topics. This included lots of discussions regarding changes in our local area and the effect it has on the habitats of living things. The children were very engaged and had plenty of ideas about what is happening in our local area today.

In November for Remembrance day the whole school came together to pay our respects to the fallen heroes. We made a wreath and a child from each class was selected to hold the wreath in front of the whole school. I was very proud of Zebra class as they represented us in an incredibly mature and respectful way.

In PE this term we have continued with gymnastics in our indoor lessons. In our outdoor lessons we have been braving the cold to look at hockey. The children have worked very hard on their skills and there has been some good passing and team work.

We have also made Christmas cards using watercolours. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and produced some beautiful cards. We made tree decorations, for our school tree.

Congratulations to Nancy, Hayden, Zephan, Ayo and Alexis our values champions this term.

I would just like to finish by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone back and refreshed in term 3.

**Merry  
Christmas**





## Year 5 - Rhinos

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 been reading *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. They wrote about the men's experience with Cyclops' Island including a fantastic description of the Cyclops' cave and their encounter with Polyphemus. They also wrote about Odysseus' encounter with Circe the witch, and the thoughts and feelings of the crew as their ship was surrounded by the deadly Sirens.

In our English reading, the children learnt about Leo and *The Gorgon's Curse*. They 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.



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.

RE - In RE, we 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.

P.E - In our outside PE lessons, the children have been learning how to play netball. Inside PE has involved learning the many different rules of gymnastics.

Maths - In maths, the children have been learning multiples of numbers, common factors, squared numbers, prime numbers, and cube numbers. We have recently started learning about fractions and how to produce equivalent fractions and change improper fractions to mixed numbers. The children have demonstrated fantastic resilience when faced with some challenging work. The children have also continued with their mastering number, and we have been amazed by their reasoning of mathematical concepts and connections seen between numbers.



# Ostrich Class



Term 2

Merry Christmas from all of us here in Ostrich class. The children have been working really hard this term and should be incredibly proud of themselves. This term, our topic has been "The Windrush" with a focus on the Windrush generation

In discovery this term the children have been learning about the Windrush generation. We have been looking at the Atlantic slave trade and the harsh conditions some black people were forced into.

They have been looking at how World War Two had a negative impact on the England and how England managed to rebuild itself by inviting people from the Caribbean to relocate and move here.

The children have also been looking at key historical figures during the civil rights movement such as Floella Benjamin and Olaudah Equiano.



The children also created some amazing home projects which they presented in class.



In writing the children have been learning how to use parenthesis to add extra detail into their writing, how modal verbs change or affect other verbs in a sentence, and how we use adverbs of probability to show how certain we are about something. We have been reading "The place for me: Stories about the Windrush Generation".

In the maths this terms the children have been developing their knowledge around fractions. We have been learning to add and subtract fractions, times two fractions together, times a fraction by a whole number, and learning the difference between a unit fraction, improper fraction and mixed number. The children have also learned how to convert a mixed number into an improper fraction and vice versa. Next term, the children will continue to develop their knowledge around fractions before moving onto measurements.

A huge shoutout to this terms value certificate winners; Wynne, Alyssia, Darcy, Bella and Olly. A special shout out to the STEAM captains and vice-captains for being excellent tours guides during the school's 50th anniversary celebrations.



Next term, Year 6 will be learning all about Charles Dickens.





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



## 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](http://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.