

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this term's edition of our school newsletter! We are excited to share the wonderful things happening at Grove Park and keep you informed about upcoming events, important announcements, and highlights from all our classes. Your partnership in your child's education is invaluable, and we look forward to continuing our journey together in making this school year a success.



Reflection of Term 3

We have been working hard with our children and families to understand the importance of attendance and punctuality. Throughout our assemblies we have been learning about why coming to school is important, how it can help us for the future and what happens when we are not in. The children at Grove Park have also shared their views, stating that they find it hard arriving late as they don't like arriving in front of others who are settled and feel they have missed their learning so need support. To help us maintain a good level of attendance we have rolled out several fun events that celebrate improving attendance. We understand that illness can cause absence, and we have shared with the children that we do not expect them to be in if they are unwell. This is why we will celebrate classes improved attendance and not overall percentages for individuals. We have also shared with the children that as communities we are celebrating attendance, and this is linked to the flag flying each week outside the school. This competition involves Iwade and Bobbing communities, so you may see a flag representing Forest, Sky, Ocean or Castle which highlights the best overall attendance within the Trust. Please do support our children in these exciting opportunities and ask them about snakes and ladders and attendance games we are hosting.

This term we have also had visits from the Dogs Trust Charity who have spoken to all children about building a calm relationship with dogs in school and within the wider community. Phil, taught us how to approach calmly, read dog "body language" and what to do if we feel unsafe. The children have been brilliant listening to the tips given and we have tried a few out with Draco. Well done children and thank you for helping with his training this term.

DogsTrust

Are your children dog smart?
Use these top tips from Dogs Trust to teach your children how to be safe around dogs.

- 1 Never leave your child alone with a dog.
- 2 Don't approach a dog without an owner around.
- 3 Only stroke a dog when the owner says "Yes, you can..."
- 4 Get the dog to sniff your hand first, then stroke gently.
- 5 Strange dog approaching? Stand still, look away, cross your arms.

Share with #bedogsmart

For more information to help your child learn to 'Be Dog Smart', visit www.bedogsmart.org.uk

Be Dog Smart

In regard to fun curriculum activities, as a whole school Mrs Thakur planned a wonderful week celebrating World Religion Day. Here is some information that we would like to share about the special event:

World Religion Day, started in 1950 by the Bahai faith, is celebrated every January. The theme this year was celebrating the diversity and unity of human faiths and promoting understanding and peace between religions and worldviews.



To mark the event, we were lucky enough to have speakers from different faiths and worldviews: pupils from Borden came to visit children from Year 2-Year 6 and shared their worldviews with us as well as showing us a range of artefacts.



Professor Richard Norman, Imam Safer Khan, and Mrs. Thakur gave a short assembly to talk about what is important to them about their worldviews. They also all talked about a Golden Rule - Treating others as you wish to be treated - that is common to all their worldviews. We are also very grateful to the parents who came to talk to pupils in Year R, 1 and 2 - thank you!

Every class had the chance to explore and handle artefacts from the main faiths and worldviews Christianity, Hindu Dharma, Sikh, Buddhism, Judaism, Humanism and Islam.



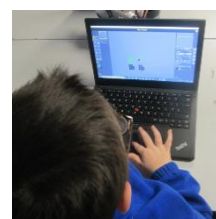
We would also like to share that this term, some Key Stage 2 children have been diving into the exciting world of coding at the after-school Jam Coding club!

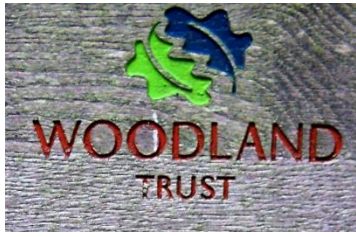


In the game-building workshop, the children have unleashed their creativity, learning to code and build their very own computer games. They've designed unique characters, crafted vibrant backgrounds, and added fun collectibles. The challenge of mastering new skills has been met with enthusiasm, resulting in some truly brilliant games! Over the past several weeks, their behaviour has been nothing short of amazing. They've shown great respect to the Jam Coding instructors and have worked together wonderfully.



Next term, we're thrilled to announce that we'll be running a workshop for our Key Stage 1 students. We can't wait to see their creativity and coding skills come to life.





Finally, you may have noticed some lovely Woodland Trust certificates at the main office. We have achieved these as a school through our efforts to reduce CO2 emissions. This has been done through recycling campaigns, children becoming tree champions, understanding woodlands and how trees support us to grow. We would like to thank Mrs Frosbraey and Mrs Day for their hard work in this area and look forward to sharing with you when we reach Platinum.

We wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to welcoming you back to Term 4 on Monday 24th February.

Reading Record Expectations

- All reading to be recorded in the child's reading record, by both staff at school and parents/guardians at home.
- Pupils are expected to read a minimum of 3 x a home with an adult.
- This should be recorded in their reading records as a form of evidence for the class teacher.
- Children must bring their reading records into school every day and will be given a dojo for this. Teachers will monitor this daily and track and acknowledge reading at home through a running tally and will mean higher chance of winning the termly class prize.
- Record: Date, Name of book and Comment on child's reading

Expectations:

- The child is reading to you, you are not reading to them. Although there may be words or phrases that you need to model.
- Encourage children to use reading strategies:
 - Use your phonics to decode this word.
 - This is a tricky word/high frequency word.
 - What word does this word look similar to?
 - Read around the word.
 - Refer to the pictures to support comprehension.

When reading you may ask key questions and link this to the reading domains as children should be able to retell their texts coherently and confidently to a parent/carer using book vocabulary and answer questions about what they are reading.

Examples of questions:

- Who is/are the key characters?
Who said _____?
 - Where is the story taking place?
 - When did _____ happen?
 - What happened to _____?
 - Why did _____ do _____?
- What does this tell you about him/her?
- What do you predict happens next? #

How do you know?

- Can you summarise what you have just read?
- What is another word for _____?
- Can you order the events in chronological order?

Reading at home and reading for pleasure

- Sharing a book together with your child gives you the opportunity to escape into another world and can be bonding and relaxing. Reading for pleasure will help develop your child's vocabulary, communication, empathy, imagination, and concentration.
- Whether this is sharing books by reading together (when children are in Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 this is crucial) or beginning to read more independently.
- Reading for just 20 minutes a day is 1.8 million words a year!

How we promote reading

- All pupils have a reading record so that they can record their reading at home and receive encouragement in school.
- All pupils are encouraged to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week.
- A variety of reading reward schemes take place termly to promote reading at home and successful quizzing.
- Use of Accelerated Reader to engage children to read and to improve acquisition of comprehension skills.
- We have special events through the school year with a focus on reading such as World Book Day
- All classes have a class book they share daily.
- All classes have dedicated book corners for choosing books and reading.
- All classes have weekly reading for pleasure sessions.
- All children have the opportunity to contribute to the class reading scrapbook to share their love for reading.
- Children read with an adult at school weekly.
- Children have access to a Library.



Term 3 in Giraffe Class

This term, we have had an incredible time learning all about space! From exploring the planets to understanding gravity, Giraffe class have been busy astronauts, discovering new and exciting things each day. Here's a look at what we've been up to...

We took a trip back in time in History to learn about the moon landing! We discovered why astronauts move so slowly in space (no gravity!) and even tried moving in different ways during our lessons. We had lots of fun pretending to be in space!



Creativity took off in DT as we designed, made and evaluated our own rockets. We used junk modelling to bring our rockets to life, focusing on different joining techniques like flanges, L braces, tabs and slots. The results were fantastic!

Our little scientists explored hot and cold planets. and we even conducted an exciting experiment to see what materials melt ice the fastest. The ice planets were so much fun to observe and test!



We have spent lots of time learning about teamwork, perseverance, and resilience. We worked together to build towers, practised grounding techniques, and learned that trying again and again helps us to achieve hard things. It was wonderful to see everybody encouraging each other!



Next term, we are excited to start our new topic all about different creatures! We can't wait to explore and learn about a variety of amazing animals, minibeasts and even dinosaurs! Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another term of exciting learning!



Meerkat Class- Year 1



This term, our topic was 'Africa', where we have been comparing Tanzania to the United Kingdom. We have learned facts about the continent of Africa (did you know there are 54 countries in Africa?) and we have looked carefully at some of animals and people who live there. We have enjoyed making African necklaces and Ndebele houses. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Wingham too!

We saw many animals from Africa.....Our favourite animal were the meerkats, of course!



In **Maths**, we have been looking at number to 20, comparing and ordering them, as well looking at addition and subtraction.

In **English** this term, we read 'The Lion Inside'. We have been writing sentences using 'and' as well as looking that the suffix -er and -est. We have learnt about question and exclamations marks, as well as writing some riddles about animals.

Can you guess what animal this is?

I have a trunk and
I am grey.
I have tusks.
What am I?

In **Science**, we have been looking at different animals and classifying them into groups. Were they mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles or birds? How did we know? We also looked at whether the animals were carnivores, omnivores or herbivores.

In **Computing**, we have been learning how to code. We understood what 'Algorithm' means and have been able to add different blocks of code to make fish move left to right, make bubbles pop as well as making a lion roar when it is clicked. Mr Matthews has been impressed with the class's attitude to their lessons.



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!

Olivia Lacie-Jane Sharae Joshua Dolly



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!!

Jake (respectful), **Penelope** (resourceful), **Miya** (resilient), **Axl** (respectful), **Archie** (responsible) and our Value Champion this term was **Grace** (all 4 values).

This term, Year 2's topic was 'Ice'. We can answer 'The BIG question'- **What is it like in the North and South Pole?** We created green screen videos to answer the question and could discuss the weather, temperatures, animals that live there!



In **Maths** we have been learning to multiply, understanding that 'x' means 'groups of'. We have also looked at money and can recognise coins and notes, add and subtract and make amounts.



In **English** this term, we have been looking at the book 'Jonty Gentoo'. He is a penguin who accidentally arrives at the North Pole! We made amazing leaflets about animals that live there and wrote letters home from Jonty describing the places he visited and characters he met.

In **Science**, we have been learning about habitats and microhabitats. Our visit to forest school was a big hit and we found many microhabitats to explore, even if we did get a bit muddy! We have learned about food chains and recalled what a carnivores, omnivores and herbivores eat.

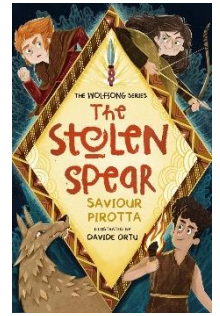


In **Art and DT** we have learned several skills this term. We have used pastels to create pictures of the northern lights, which were amazing! We have also learned to sketch a polar bear, following instructions to draw it part by part.

Elephant Class

In term 3, our topic has been "Stone Age-Iron Age".

The children have loved learning about what life was like for stone age people with hunters and gatherers. They have learnt about how they lived and key monuments. They have written about Skara Brae in a newspaper report, created their own pre-historic creatures and investigated Stonehenge.



The children have loved reading "The stolen spear" and undertaking reading activities linked to this book.

A particular highlight was the science learning this term, which was fossils and rocks. We looked at different rock types, investigated soil, and learnt about the fossilisation process.



Elephant class have learnt lots of scientific vocabulary, such as permeable impermeable, sedimentary, igneous, metamorphic and many more.

The class also got to spend another term in Forest school. During this time they have made clay fossils, stone age axes, whittling weapons and played hunter gatherer games.



Huge congratulations to our values champion this term:

Damian, Teddy, Jimmy and Arwen.

Thank you for the incredible stone henge monuments created for homework. These were incredible.



We hope you all have a fantastic break and look forward to a busy term ahead with our school trip planned to the Natural History Museum on Wednesday 26th March.

Next terms topic is "Deep Deep Down" A look into the oceans and the importance of them and how humans have impacted the oceans and animal life.



Zebra Class

Term 3 Newsletter



Here we are at the end of term 3 already. It's hard to believe we are already through the first half of the school year,

This term we have looked at the Dickensian Times. Our discovery topic has included George Stephenson, The Father of the Railways and Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

In our writing we have looked at Charles Dickens and his meeting with Queen Victoria. The children have written speech and diary entries around this meeting.

Our maths this term has been the continuation of our multiplication and division topic as well as perimeter. The children have been amazing with these topics and also in their Times table quizzes and TT Rockstars.

In science our topic was sound and we looked at the telephone and how sound travels. In art we have looked at tint and shade and the effect it has on paintings and in our DT lessons we have made bridges.

PE has been a mixture of tennis for our outdoor lessons and inclusive games in our indoor lessons. The children have shown great maturity in both topics.

Finally I would like to say congratulations to our values winners this term. Keep up your amazing attitude to school and learning.

Have a fantastic break and I look forward to seeing the children back for Term 4.



Year 5 - Rhinos

Our topic this term has been Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. The children have enjoyed learning about how the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings arrived in Britain, the impact of their arrival and the reasons they decided to remain. They have learnt about how these communities lived, how they governed and the consequences of breaking their laws! They also made Anglo-Saxon brooches during their art and DT lesson.

In our English writing topic, we have been learning about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. The children have been reading the famous Viking saga Beowulf. As part of this learning, the children have written playscripts, diary entries, conversations between characters and in-depth character and place descriptions. They have also written a fantastic newspaper article on the Viking attack on Lindisfarne in 793AD.

In our reading lessons, the children are reading Odd and the Frost Giants. In this book, they have learnt about the Vikings and Norse Mythology. The story is about a young boy called Odd whose father was killed on a Viking raid. During a trip to the forest, he meets creatures who turn out to be Loki, Odin and Thor.



Science - This term we have been investigating forces. The children have learnt the difference between contact and non-contact forces, gravity and conducted experiments on friction and how it impacts on the speed at which an object stops.

In RE, we explored the big question, "Why do people have to stand up for what they believe in?" For this question, we explored the meaning of prejudice and discrimination. The children have investigated religious texts and identified the impact of discrimination and how people have shown devotion to their beliefs.

P.E - In our outside PE lessons, the children have been learning the many different rules of touch rugby. During our inside PE lessons, we have continued developing gymnastic skills.

Maths - In maths, the children have continued their learning on fractions and adding and subtracting with mixed fractions. They have also practiced challenging fraction problems. In addition to this, they have also learnt multiplication in column form. They have all 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 3

As we reach the end of another busy and exciting term, we would like to share some of the fantastic learning that has taken place in Year 6. Our main topic this term has been Charles Dickens, which has provided wonderful opportunities for cross-curricular learning.

Our discovery lessons have focused on life in the Victorian era. We examined the harsh realities of workhouses, the difficult conditions for children working in factories and mines, and the contrasts between the rich and poor. We also explored crime and punishment during this time, comparing it to modern-day justice. The children were particularly fascinated by the differences in how people were treated based on their social class, which they presented in class.

In our writing lessons, we have been reading *Oliver Twist*, which has inspired us to write our own descriptive narratives and character studies. In reading lessons, we explored *Great Expectations*, developing our comprehension skills by analysing Dickens' use of language and character development. The children have really enjoyed discussing the themes of these classic novels and making connections to life in Victorian times.

In maths, we have tackled some challenging concepts, including dividing fractions by integers, converting metric measurements, and understanding ratio. The children have worked hard to apply these skills to problem-solving tasks and real-world scenarios.

In science this term, we started a brand-new topic on Evolution and Adaptation, with a focus on Charles Darwin. The children explored how animals and plants have adapted to their environments over time, linking their learning to Darwin's observations and the theory of natural selection.



A huge shoutout to this term's value certificate winners; Samuel, Sofia, Bella G and Darcy.

Also, well done to Toby for being this term's Dojo champion.



Next term, Year 6 will be asking the question, "Can we save the tiger?"



Term 4 Events

Monday 24 th February	Term 4 starts
Wednesday 26 th February	Year 5 VR Experience at Iwade
Monday 3 rd March	Year 6 (Reindeer class) trip to the Big Cat Sanctuary
Tuesday 4 th March	Kent Fire and Rescue visit - safety workshops for all classes
Wednesday 5 th March	Welly Wednesday - fun day of activities to raise money for OPAL
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Friday 7 th March	Start of Science Week
Friday 14 th March	HSA Quiz Evening
Thursday 20 th March	Year 6 Bikeability Group 1
Friday 21 st March	World Down Syndrome Day - wear odd socks Year 6 Bikeability Group 1
Tuesday 25 th March	EYFS Creepy Claws workshop
Wednesday 26 th March	Year 3 (Elephants class) trip to the Natural History Museum Year 6 (Ostrich class) trip to the Big Cat Sanctuary
Thursday 27 th March	Year 3 (Narwhal class) trip to the Natural History Museum Year 6 Bikeability Group 2
Friday 28 th March	Year 6 Bikeability Group 2 iRock Concert (iRock parents only)
Monday 31 st March	Year 6 Bikeability Group 3
Tuesday 1 st April	Year 6 Bikeability Group 3 Year 4 VR Experience at Iwade Parents Evening
Wednesday 2 nd April	Power Down Day
Thursday 3 rd April	Parents Evening
Friday 4 th April	Last day of Term 4
Tuesday 22 nd April	Start of Term 5