

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 Safeer 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, Sikhi, Buddhism, Judaism, Humanism and Islam.



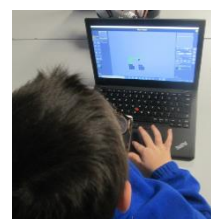
We would also like to share that this term, some Key Stage 2 children have been diving into the exciting world of coding at the after-school Jam Coding club!

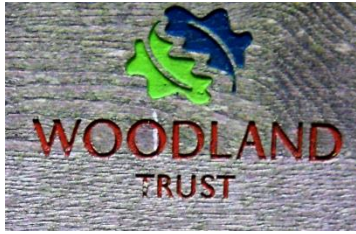


In the game-building workshop, the children have unleashed their creativity, learning to code and build their very own computer games. They've designed unique characters, crafted vibrant backgrounds, and added fun collectibles. The challenge of mastering new skills has been met with enthusiasm, resulting 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.

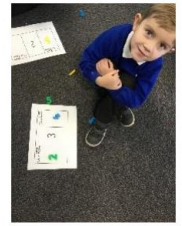
Term 3 in Polar Bear Class

We have been focusing on our topic of Space! We have been reading some great stories - Whatever Next, Aliens love Underpants and You Choose in Space.

In French, we have really enjoyed learning the colours.



In Maths we have been matching amounts to the number, ordering, subitising and talking about more and less.



In Science, we have been exploring materials and how to melt ice.



In DT, we designed our own rocket and used junk modelling to make them! We learnt how to make flaps, flanges and joins.

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.



During RWV we have been learning about special places. We celebrated World Religion Day and even had a special visitor!

We have been recapping our previous learning about seasons, feelings and festivals.



Puffin Class



This term we have been learning about Africa. We have read the book 'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright and Jim Field. It is a lovely story about a timid mouse finding his voice and building his self-esteem.



In science, we have continued to learn about animals and which categories they belong to. We can identify mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles. We have learnt about lots of African animals and whether they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. We had a great time on our trip to Wingham Wildlife Park and saw lots of African animals.

Did you know that a giraffe has 7 bones in its neck, the same as humans?

In maths, we have been learning about numbers to 20. We have been counting on using a number line and using tens frames to solve problems.



In our discovery work, we have been learning about Africa and have compared Tanzania with Sittingbourne.



In art, we have been learning about colour mixing. We painted African sunsets and then added animal silhouettes.



Congratulations to our school values certificate winners this term: Harry M, Tudor, Ruby and Isabella.

Term 3 in Snowy Owls

This term we have been having so much fun learning about Ice and the Arctic and Antarctic.

Our Value Champions this term were:

Oscar F, Willow, Freddie, Trey, Ameerah, Faisal

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

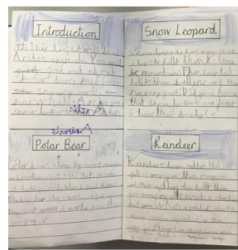


We started the term looking at money in maths. We created our own shop and used coins to buy things. We have recently moved onto our multiplication and division unit and the children have made a great start. A big well done to those children who have been doing TT rockstars at home!



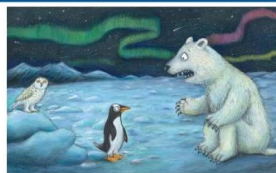
Another amazing term for fantastic homework! Thank you for bringing them in, the children have loved showing their friends what they have been busy making!

In our writing this term, we have made leaflets all about the Arctic animals in our school community. These have been really impressive and the children have remembered so many interesting facts!



The Aurora

We took inspiration from our book, Jonty Gentoo, and created our very own version of the Aurora!



This term we also had a Dog's Trust visitor come in to teach us all about being safe and kind to animals.

Now we have Draco in school, it is important for us to know how we can be kind to him.



PE

This term our indoor PE lessons have been dance, and in particular looking at moving to the beat.

The children had great fun moving to the beat as different types of animals! Jack and Freddie did such a great job they moved up to GOLD!



Great job!



Over half way! Next term, we will be looking at the Victorians. We will be looking at the schools, clothes and the food they ate. Have a lovely well deserved half term!

Narwhal Class

This term our discovery topic was "Stone Age to Iron Age"



This term we have been historians! We have been looking back at how people lived during the Stone Age to the Iron Age eras. To start off our learning we had to tell people about an event from our Christmas holidays using only pictures - just like the Stone Age cave paintings!



We looked at how lives of the people changed during these periods of times. We spent some time learning about Skara Brae and what the remains of the settlement told us about life in Neolithic times - we then wrote a newspaper report about the discovery of such an important artefact.

In English we wrote a set of instructions on how to make Stone Age stew. We had to be gatherers to collect the fruit from our environment in order to make our stew. We then used time conjunctions and imperative verbs to create a great set of instructions.



During our science lessons we became geologists! We have studied the different types of rocks and their properties. We enjoyed testing whether rocks were permeable or impermeable! We also learnt about how fossils are formed.



We really enjoyed our Forest School sessions this term, even if it was very cold out there! We carried out a whole range of different activities, including Stone Age paintings, creating stick axes and building shelters for Forest Bear.



Well done to our values winners this term:

Lottie, Marco, Freddie, Molly and Zelda



YEAR 4 - ARCTIC FOX

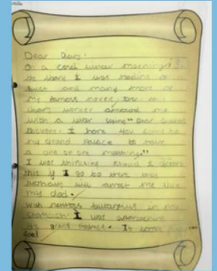
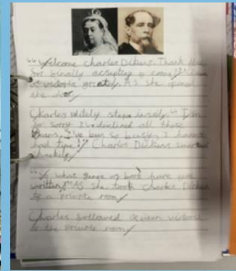
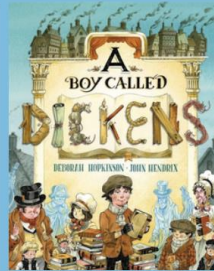


This term, our discovery topic has been 'Dickensian Times', where we've learned about Charles Dickens, George Stephenson, and Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We've explored their work and how they shaped the Victorian era!

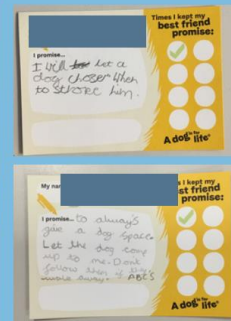


In science, we have been exploring 'sound' and how it travels through different materials. We conducted experiments to test which materials are best for soundproofing, helping us understand how sound can be absorbed or blocked. We also made cup phones and explored how sound can travel along a string.

In our reading and writing lessons, we have enjoyed *A Boy Called Dickens* and learned more about Charles Dickens' life. We wrote diary entries imagining what he might have said to the Queen when they met and created newspaper reports about George Stephenson's famous locomotive.



We had a wonderful visit from Dogs Trust, where we learned how to be respectful and safe around dogs. They also taught us the best ways to care for dogs and keep them happy and healthy!



For RWV Day, we explored the Golden Rule and how it is understood in different religions. We also visited the school library, where we had the chance to see and learn about a variety of religious objects.

In Computing, we have been coding our own games and writing algorithms. Scan the QR code to see our games!



A huge congratulations to our class value winners for term 3:
David, Francesca, Hudson, Sammy, Harley & Lily

Next term, our topic will be 'The Natural World'.



Snow Leopards

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.

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.

Maths - In maths, the children have continued their learning of fractions, adding and subtracting with mixed fractions. 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.

P.E - In PE we have been learning the many different rules of touch rugby. During our inside PE lessons, we have continued developing gymnastic skills, focussing on body managements - controlling our movements.

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.



Respect Responsible Resilience
Resourceful



Congratulations to Sophie, Michaela,
Eva-Lili, Azalea, Daisy and Ollie
for being our values champions this
term.

Year 5 had the amazing opportunity to work with Don Rae and produce a pantomime in one day. Everyone had a part to play, and the children had a fantastic day!



Year 6—Reindeer Class



This term, our topic was:
The Impact of Charles Dickens.



During our Discovery and Writing lessons, we have written informative fact files (on topics such as workhouses and Charles Dickens) and a monologue, which we performed to the class! We have been reading *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations* to support our learning!

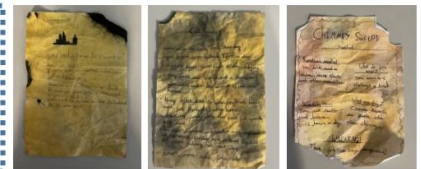
In maths this term, we have absolutely smashed it in our fractions, measurement and ratio topics!

Father Arbo visited us, to talk about the different denominations of Christianity.



In PE, we have improved our gymnastic routines from last term and learnt more challenging balances. This term we have also started to learn how to play 'Quidditch' from Harry Potter!

We used watercolour paints and our learning of children at work during the Victorian era to make our own job adverts.



On World Religion Day, some boys from Borden Grammar School visited us to discuss their different faiths and beliefs.



A huge well done to our value certificate winners this term: Flo, Aaliyah, Isobel, Summer, Lacey and Keira M!

Next term, our topic is called 'Can we save the tigers?'

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