

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a busy Term 4 it is time to celebrate your children and their learning. Throughout the term we have held many events including:

Bikeability for Year 6,

VR workshops for Years 4 and 5,

School visits for Year 3 and 6 to the Big Cat Sanctuary and the Natural History Museum,

Red nose day,

Cross Country event

World Book day

Draco's Birthday celebrations.



Throughout these, the children have learnt new things, laughed and participated in memorable moments. Our wider events are important to us all and they support children in their developing knowledge of the world around them. We do however recognise the part you as parents play in making these possible and thank you for your support.

**POWER  
DOWN**

DAY

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025



<b>Power Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outside Learning as much as possible (Do <i>not</i> do just PE)</li><li>• Be Creative</li><li>• Nostalgia (use our natural surroundings)</li></ul>	<b>Power down</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technology (Unless its necessary – register, CPOMS or Arbor)</li><li>• Artificial lights</li></ul>
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Other events which have been successful have included Welly Wednesday and Power down day. Both events were designed and thought of by Mr Day and Mrs Fosbraey, who have been working hard to achieve our OPAL award and Sustainability awards. In taking part, the children have not only raised money for OPAL, but also been taught about developing our school environment and the global footprint we leave behind. Our younger generation are keen to make the world a better place and at Grove Park we aim to help in anyway we can. Both events were extremely successful, children have all commented on the enriching lessons and the creativity they had throughout the day.

We also had our second parents' consultations of the year, seeing the majority of our families, which is great. Working in partnership with you is vital and your attendance during these times truly matters to us, so thank you. You may have noticed during your visit our science competition winner. We recently held a science photography competition which challenged the children to find "science around them." All classes took part, and the following winners were presented with their prize. Congratulations to them all.

Reindeer Class- Lillie, Sarina, Summer and Lara -Shadows

Ostrich Class- Toby – Gravity

Rhino Class- Kelbie and Jeff – Moon Buggy

Snow Leopard Class- Eva-Lilli – Pollination

Arctic Fox Class- Sunlight as energy

Zebra Class- Imogen and Millie- Water cycle

Elephant Class- Class trip finding the giant whale!

Narwhal Class- Finley H J – Forces

Lion Class- Jakub- Habitats

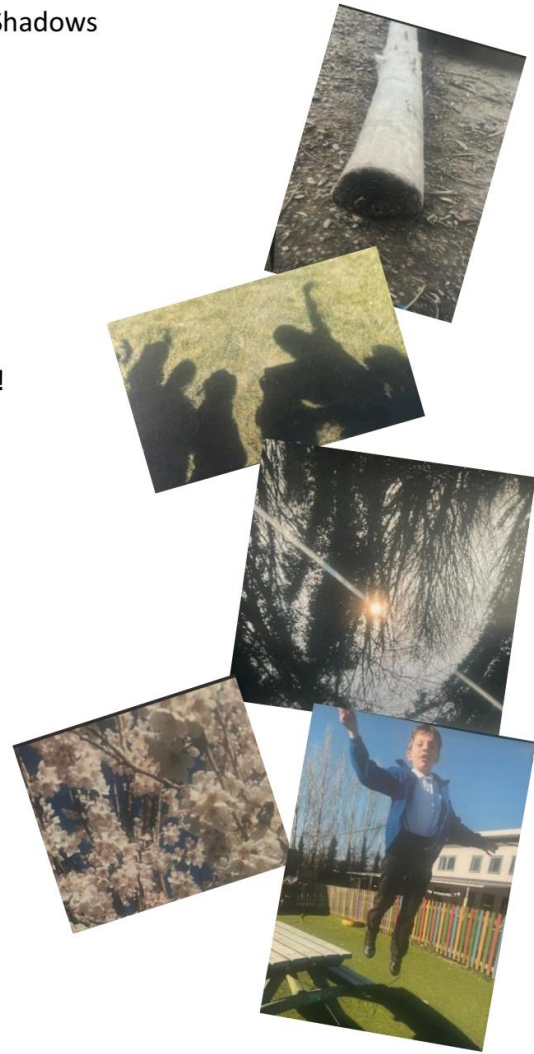
Snowy Owl – Ameerah – Age of a tree

Puffin Class- Tudor- Bees at work

Meerkat Class- Archie James and Roman –  
Materials

Giraffe Class- Francesca- Lights in the sky

Polar Bears Class- Harlie- Gravity



Finally, thanks to the hard work of the HSA, your children took part in a brilliant Easter egg hunt on the last day of term. This enabled older classes to link with younger children and explore the school grounds together. Establishing connections with different classes is something we do well at Grove Park and as a result we have strong bonds and friendships within all year groups. We hope your children enjoyed the experience and once again a big thank you to the HSA for their support.

**Further information:**

As you know attendance is a school priority and this includes punctuality. We know that children who arrive on time are settled and calm, they experience early morning work and feel secure in their classroom environment. Following a recent pupil voice, children expressed they find it hard to catch up when they are late or feel anxious walking into a room when others are in all. If you need support in this area, please contact our Family Liaison officer, Mrs Cornell, who will help develop ways forward with you.





# OPAL Newsletter

## Term 4



Opal's vision is that every child in every school has an amazing hour of high quality play every day—with no exceptions. We firmly believe in this vision, and our goal is to give every child at least one hour of excellent play each day. (<http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk>).

Wow! What a busy term! We have had our big event; Welly Wednesday, opening a new zone and reopening the Junior field, which the children are thrilled about!

## Welly Wednesday

The whole school was involved various activities outside like the Great British Mud Bake Off in the mud kitchen, mud target practice, stick tower competition, and wheelbarrow racing in the forest school, nature arts, sports games, and den building competition and finally The tough mudder obstacle course, which according children was the best part of the day. The day was a complete success and created a lot of mud being worn and laughter in the school community. £264 was raised, and the sandpit is now on it's way to be finished



## NEW!!

We have opened a new zone this term; Den building. The children got a sneaky go during Welly Wednesday, but they get play, create and build dens every lunchtime. Mr Day was worked tirelessly building pallet houses for children to play in and to use a base to build more. Thank you Mr Day! The children have loved this zone so far. Kiera (year 6) they are so fun and we don't get bored. What is also new is the reopening of the junior field so mini football matches resume and play around the bank area, which the children love!



## What's next?

As we travel on with our OPAL journey, there are lots more things planned like opening new zones; the long awaited sandpit, a water play zone and the newly decorated reading shed. Also to make an allotment and rewild areas to create calming areas and many more.

## How can you help?

If you are having a clear out over the Easter Holidays we would love to take them off your hands. We are looking for following things;

- Sandpit toys
- Crates
- Tarpaulin
- Lots of plant seeds
- Wooden Sleepers
- Tyres
- Dress up clothes
- Welly boots



## Term 4 in Polar Bear Class

We have caterpillars and are enjoying watching them grow into butterflies!



We have been focusing on our topic of Creatures! We have been learning about dinosaurs, minibeasts and animals!



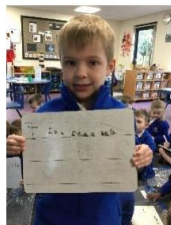
In Maths we have been matching amounts to the number, subitising, doubling and exploring odds and evens.



World Book Day was lots of fun, being able to be in a different class sharing our love for different stories.

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

We had an exciting Dinosaur Adventure day!



We have also took part in Science Week activities and Red Nose Day!



In Art we have been exploring clay and have designed and created our own animals.

We had a visit from David the Fireman who taught us all about fire safety.



In Science, we have been exploring where different animals live, what they eat and created mini bug hotels to start our big year group one.

We had a special visitor from Creepy Claws! We learnt lots about the different animals and were very brave.

In RWV we took part in making and tasting a traditional Sikh sweet dish - suji ka halwa.



# Puffin Class



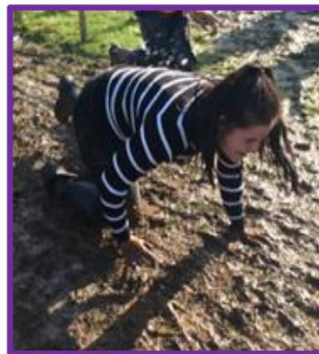
This term we have been learning about castles. We have read many traditional tales, including Jack and the Beanstalk and The Three Little Pigs. We have learnt about local castles and can name the main features of a castle and what they were used for.



In science, we have learnt more about materials. We have investigated the properties of different materials and which materials were used to build castles in the past. We investigated to see which material built the strongest house for the 3 pigs. We worked really well in teams to construct our houses and then had fun trying to blow them down!



In maths, we have been learning about numbers to 50. We have been making numbers using tens and ones and learning to count in 10's.



On Welly Wednesday, we had great fun getting muddy. Look at what we got up to!

In DT, we have designed and made our own castles from junk materials and have experimented with different ways of joining materials.



Congratulations to our school values certificate winners this term: Chester, Vivienne, Fuori, William and Olive.

# Term 4 in Snowy Owls

This term we have been having so much fun learning about the Victorians.

Our Value Champions this term were:

Alicia, Jake, Michelle, Reggie, Mateo

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



In maths this term we have been looking at height and measurement. We have looked at centimetres and metres.



We went for an adventure around the school to see what we could find and measure!



Welly Wednesday

The children had so much fun getting muddy.

The children had a great time in

the mud kitchen, sliding their way through the obstacle course and making dens.



In science this term, we have been looking at plants, looking closely at different types of plants and what they need to grow. We have been observing plants and also growing plants in different environments to see which goes best!



## Victorian Toys

The children researched Frank Hornby, who designed Meccano, in the Victorian times. We then during our DT lessons have made our own

Victorian Toy, the cup and ball. The children showed a lot of resilience making this but very much enjoyed playing with it once it was built!



## Victorian School Day



## Victorian Food Tasting!



Next term, we will be looking at Australia. We will be having a visitor working with us, using digeridoos! Towards the end of term we also have our trip to Chatham Dockyard, information can be found on Arbor.

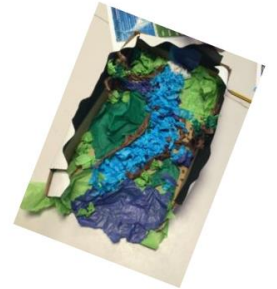


# Narwhal Class

This term our discovery topic was "Deep Deep Down"



The children were very excited at receiving a letter from 'David Attenborough' at the start of the term. They worked hard learning about the oceans, features of the rivers, and whales before writing a reply to him. They wrote a fantastic letter in reply to him, and we were very proud of their hard work. Receiving an email back from 'David Attenborough' was also very exciting so we have been working hard on creating a documentary to share all our learning this term.



We worked in groups and created models of rivers where we had to show the different features.



The whole class enjoyed their *Welly Wednesday* - they embraced being outside and getting muddy and wet!



*World Book Day* was another highlight of our term - luckily the weather was nice so we could read our favourite books outside on the playground.





One of the highlights of the term was our trip to the Natural History Museum. We enjoyed

seeing how big a blue whale is! We also enjoyed seeing the dinosaurs! The adults on our trip were impressed with our knowledge about the different layers of the ocean.



Well done to our values winners this term:  
Isobel R, Anika, Darcie Jack and Finley M

# YEAR 4 - ARCTIC FOX



This term, we have been exploring the fascinating topic of the 'Natural World'. We have enjoyed learning about volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters, discovering how they are formed and their impact on our planet! It's hard to believe we are over half way through Year 4 and entering our summer terms.



This term, we have combined our learning across subjects to explore the power of volcanoes! After researching how they are formed, we worked in groups to build our own volcanoes using mod-rock, newspaper, cardboard, and bottles, carefully shaping and painting them once they dried. The most exciting part was our science experiment - using vinegar, water, food coloring, washing-up liquid, and bicarbonate of soda, we made our volcanoes erupt in a thrilling explosion of fizz and foam!

In Writing and Discovery, we've brought natural disasters to life! We had a blast molding clay volcanoes, labeling their fiery parts, and shaking tables to simulate real earthquakes. Our thrilling earthquake drills made us feel like real scientists, and throughout the term, we've been crafting our own books to uncover the answer to an exciting question: What causes extreme events on Earth?



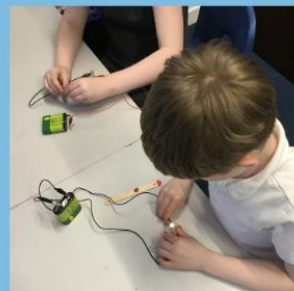
In Science, we have been exploring the fascinating world of electricity! We learned how it powers our everyday lives and had great fun creating our own circuits using wires, bulbs, batteries, and switches.

Through hands-on experiments, we discovered how circuits work and what happens when we add different components!



We had an amazing time during our Welly Wednesday, where we took part in exciting OPAL activities! Our favorite part was the Tough Mudder challenge.

We also had great fun in the mud kitchen, getting creative as we made our very own mud volcanoes!



In Computing, we have been exploring the world of animation! We have enjoyed animating volcanoes on the computer and we have made our own stop motion animations using modelling clay.

A huge congratulations to our class value winners for term 4:  
Ellis, Chris, David, Alex, Ruby S & Ellie

Next term, our topic will be 'The Egyptians'.



## Year 5 - Snow Leopards

Our topic this term has been about space. The children have enjoyed learning interesting facts about the many different planets. They have also learnt about the famous space race between the USA and USSR who were both competing to be the first countries to explore space. They have learnt about important astronauts such as Neil Armstrong and Chris Hadfield.

In our English writing topic, we have been learning about space. As part of this learning, the children have been producing written work and poems on the different planets. They have created a mnemonic to help them remember the order of the planets, a timeline of important space dates and written a wonderful piece on why you should visit space. They have also researched information on famous astronauts such as Neil Armstrong, Edwin

In our reading lessons, the children have been researching and then answering questions on the International Space Station (ISS) and space pioneers such as ISS astronaut Chris Hadfield.

Science - This term we have been investigating how the sun impacts on Earth's night and day. The children have also researched and built moon buggies. They researched the features their moon buggies would need to survive on the moon. After building the moon buggies, they tested how far the moon buggies travelled on surfaces with different resistances.

In RE, we explored the big question, "Christianity". As part of this learning, year 5 visited a Catholic church in Sittingbourne. They learnt the features of the church and how they were important to the Catholic faith. They have also learnt the many reasons why the Catholic faith changed and resulted in the many different branches of Christianity.

P.E - In our PE lessons, the children have been doing Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA). The children have been learning how to work as a team, communicating with each other to win games.



Groups with their moon buggies.

Maths - In maths, the children have continued their learning on fractions and decimals. They have confronted and overcome some very challenging maths problems, and we are very proud of them. 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.



# Year 6-Reindeer Class



This term, our topic was:  
Can We Save the Tiger?



We went to the Big Cat Sanctuary to learn about the conservation of nature and how this impacts the lives of tigers.

In maths this term, we have tackled algebra and decimals! We have used this time to also prepare ourselves for SATs next term.



During our Discovery lessons, we have learnt about the habitats, anatomy and life of a tiger. We have used this learning a lot in our written pieces. The learning from the school trip and our lessons has been used to discuss how we can help save the tigers and why this is important.

In PE, we have worked on our teamwork skills. We have all got involved with activities such as: capture the flag, bench missions and crack the code.

On World Book Day, we participated in fun activities based on our chosen book.

We all got stuck in and muddy on Welly Wednesday to raise money.



Some of our amazing term projects:



Next term, our topic is called 'Great Explorers'!



A huge well done to our value certificate winners this term: Riley, Lara, Noah, Betty, Sarina and James!

# Term 5 Events

Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Term 5 Starts Year R NHS Hearing Screening
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	RWV External visitor for Years 5 and 6 – Discuss Buddhist meditation and beliefs
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Rhino Class Swimming Lesson Group 3
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Arctic Fox class trip to The Beaney Museum
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 2 Digeridoo workshop
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Rhino Class Swimming Lesson Group 3
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	NHS Oral Health visitor for Years R,1,2,3 and 4
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Whole school Photographs VE Day
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Zebra class trip to The Beaney Museum Snow Leopard Swimming Lesson Groups 1,2 and 3
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATS
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Trust Picnic Rhino Swimming Lesson Groups 1 and 2
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Snow Leopard Swimming Lesson Groups 1,2 and 3
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Serengeti Community Sports Day Bike and Roll to school week
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Arctic Community Sports Day
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2 Lion class trip to Chatham Dockyard
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year R Superhero dress up day
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Last Day of Term Year 2 Snowy Owl class trip to Chatham Dockyard