

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 not 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, OPNMS 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.



We would also like to share the findings from our recent club survey. Thank you to the parents who shared their views, it shows that 70% feel we offer enough clubs but feel more clubs could be offered that are tailored to interest of key children and this would be boost the provision further. Considering this we asked if parents would be happy with an external provider for example a gymnastic coach or a sports coach. From this 83% felt this would be a good idea and as a result staff have started to contact various companies, who may be able to offer this and further information will follow soon.

**Upcoming events:**

Next term we will host a range of events, please refer to the term dates for key events that your children will be involved with. We would like to draw your attention to 2 key dates:

Year 6 SATs testing week starts 12<sup>th</sup> May, for 4 days. Please ensure your children are in school on time and prepared to sit the tests each morning. We plan our days so that children have lots of breaks and creative afternoons. If your child is worried about this time, please let us know so that we can support them individually and ensure they feel calm and ready. We wish them luck during this time, we know they'll be brilliant.



We will be celebrating VE day throughout this term. Grove Park have been working closely with Bobbing Parish Council and our children will be supporting the community events on 8<sup>th</sup> May, such as raising the flag at Bobbing Village Hall. We will also be hosting a pupil picnic on 15<sup>th</sup> May to commemorate the event. We have also been asked to support a community fun day on 8<sup>th</sup> June at Bobbing Village Hall, this includes show casing work and sharing videos.

**Special event time!**



If you know a relative who has experience of war and conflict, we ask that your children do a short interview with them to find out what it was like, what memories

they have and ask them to share their stories. These can be filmed on your mobile devices and sent to our [events@ba-mat.org.uk](mailto:events@ba-mat.org.uk) email. They will also be shared during the Community event - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Please send your videos by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.



We wish you all a happy Easter and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.





# 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 in 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 now they get to play, create and build dens every lunchtime. Mr Day has worked tirelessly building pallet houses for children to play in and to use as a base to build more. Thank you Mr Day! The children have loved this zone so far. Kiera (year 6) said "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 the following items off your hands or anything else you may have. ;

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





# Term 4 in Giraffe Class



This term in Giraffe Class, we've been learning about creatures! From dinosaurs and minibeasts to a variety of animals, it has been an exciting and science-focused term. We've explored the world of creatures in depth, learning about their habitats, life cycles, and characteristics. It's been a fun adventure as we've connected science, art, and imagination in all of our activities!

We've had lots of fun this term, including dressing up in PJs for World Book Day, Dinosaur Adventure Day on Welly Wednesday, a visit from a firefighter, and celebrating Red Nose Day. It's been a term full of excitement and special



moments!

In Science, we've been watching our own caterpillars grow! They started as tiny caterpillars and are now in cocoons, preparing to become butterflies. During Science Week, we also went on a nature walk to find signs of spring, spotting trees starting to blossom and other exciting changes in nature.

In Art, our little sculptors explored the work of artist Julie Wilson and her beautiful animal sculptures. Inspired by her designs, the children are creating their own clay animal sculptures. We cannot wait to see what the finished models will look like!



One of the most exciting parts of the term was our visit from Michael at Creepy Claws! The children were absolutely thrilled to meet some weird and wonderful creatures up close. Michael brought in a tenrec, scorpion, lizards, a skinny pig, and even a tarantula. He was so informative sharing fascinating facts about each creature. The children were so engaged as he explained the unique features that help each animal thrive. Many of the children were brave enough to touch or hold some of these creatures, and they loved asking questions about their habits and habitats. It was an experience they won't forget!

We're excited for another term of learning and can't wait to continue our journey in Giraffe Class as we explore even more fascinating topics and have fun together!



# Meerkat Class- Year 1



This term, Year 1's topic was 'Towers, Turrets and Tiaras'. We looked at castles in different castles in our local area, looked at the features of castles and then designed and built our own out of recyclable materials. We had a great time making them and added battlements, thick walls and turrets to make them as real as possible.



In **English** this term, we have enjoyed learning about different traditional tales. We have focussed on Jack and the Beanstalk and The Three Little Pigs. We completed some wonderful pieces of writing based on these stories, including describing the giant. We tried hard to use full stops and capital letters, as well as using the word 'and' in our sentences.

We also used Purple Mash, to create our own traditional tale character.



In **Maths**, we have been learning to add and subtract and can use practical objects, a part-part-whole model and number lines to help us. We have also been counting to 50 and thinking about how many 10s and 1s in two digit numbers.

This term, we have loved going to Forest School. We learnt how to care for the environment, follow the rules to keep safe whilst on the site, as well as many creative activities such as making our own 'Stick Men' on World Book Day, using tools, measuring a worm and using the wheelbarrows to move sticks to make a natural fence.



Mrs Day has loved working with Meerkat class this term and is very proud of their achievements and behaviour.



In **Science**, we have revisited our learning about materials. We looked at the materials that were used to make a castle, as well as Three Little Pig's Houses.

## 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!

Arabella

Krystal-Rose

Tommy

Seraphina

Hameedah



Tea party  
faces v gruel  
tasting faces!



## Lion Class Term 4- a term in photos...

What a term it's been. We have been learning about Victorians this term. We have looked at life in Victorian times and our learning has been hands on and practical. We've had so much fun... although maybe not so much when we learned about punishments in Victorian schools! We have dressed up in Victorian clothes, used household items from Victorian times, designed and made Victorian toys and even had a tea party. The Victoria sponge cake was tasty but the gruel was disgusting!

We have also celebrated 'Welly Wednesday' this term. Mud cakes, obstacle courses and outdoor art made for a fantastic day!



Welly  
Wednesday!  
We did get  
muddy!



Exploring,  
making and  
designing  
Victorian toys.



Victorian school day... behave or there will be punishments! Sit in rows, stand when an adult enters and do not talk!  
We much prefer school today!

# Elephant Class

In term 4, our topic has been "Deep Deep Down".

The children have loved learning about what the oceans and exploring the different zones. They have learnt facts from the different layers, can name them and know animals within the zones.

The children read "The morning I met a whale" during our terms reading sessions and undertaken a variety of reading activities linked to this book.

The highlight of the term has to be the school trip to the Natural History Museum. The class were incredible, and we are extremely proud of them. They represented Grove Park school in such a positive light. We endured a long journey to London and back home, walked around the museum, had an interactive submarine experience and saw various fossils and exhibits. We found a full-scale whale and elephant on our travels and couldn't resist a photo opportunity.



Huge congratulations to our values champion this term:

Mia, Charlie, Tania, Kiki, Ifemi, Eniola and Aiden.



We hope you all have a fantastic break and look forward to Term 5 on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Next terms topic is "Rise of the Romans" A look into the Roman Empire and their impact on Britain.



## Zebra Class



### Term 4

Here we are at the end of another busy term and it's hard to believe we are already over half way through year 4.

The children have certainly had lots of fun days, including World Book Day and Red Nose day as well as Welly Wednesday and Power down day. It was lovely to see them all dressed up and taking part in all the fun activities



One of the highlights of our term was our visit to Iwade School for our VR workshop on volcanoes. The children were really engaged in their learning and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

In our day to day learning we have looked at fractions and decimals in maths, electricity in science and Natural disasters in our discovery topic. In PE we have been practicing our tennis and dodgeball skills they have been put through their paces with circuit training.

It was lovely to see so many of you at parents evening. I hope you enjoyed seeing your children's amazing work.

Congratulations to all of our values winners and I would like to say how proud I am of the children's continued effort in their learning. Well done Zebra Class, keep up the amazing work.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and raring to go in term 5.





## 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.

PE - 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 4

We have come to the end of Term 4, and we would like to share some of the fantastic learning that has taken place in Year 6. This term, our main topic has been Can We Save the Tigers?, which has sparked curiosity and inspired meaningful cross-curricular learning. From exploring the habitats and threats faced by these magnificent creatures to understanding the importance of conservation, our students have engaged in a wide range of thought-provoking activities.

In maths this term, Ostrich class have looked at algebra and decimals. We have also been preparing for SATs

In PE, we have worked on our teamwork skills. We have all participated in activities such as; capture the flag, bench missions



During our discovery lessons, we have learnt about the habitats, anatomy and life of a tiger. We have used this learning to help with our writing pieces.

This term we have had a number of special activities days. We raised money for the schools new sand pit on Welly Wednesday. The children participated in World Book Day. And as always, we had our Task Master activity.

This term, Ostrich class took a trip to The Big Cat Sanctuary. We had an amazing day learning about the big cats, finding out and understanding the importance of conservation, and watching the big cats in their habitats.



A huge shoutout to this terms value certificate winners; Amber, Louie, Hetti, Jemaima, and Darcy!

Also, well done to Louie for being this terms Dojo champion.



Next term, Year 6 will be looking at Explorers and Adventurers!

