



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, we have so much to celebrate and share with you!

Wonderful Nativities and Performances

First, this month sees our children truly shine and set the festive tone! The nativities and festive performances from Reception, Years 1 and 2, and Carol concerts for Key Stage 2 were nothing short of magical. During one performance the children spoke about what makes Christmas special to them; they recalled special moments and shared funny tales. For me, Christmas means seeing the magic and excitement through the children, watching them spread joy and singing Christmas songs. The corridors have been a hive of backstage activity over the last couple of weeks, and we thank you all the staff and families who supported these events – your encouragement makes these moments so special.

A Big Thank You to the HSA

We are incredibly grateful to our HSA for funding Father Christmas presents for the children. Your generosity, coupled with a visit from Father Christmas, brought so much joy and excitement to our pupils – thank you for making this possible!

Farewell to Mrs. Stickells

After joining us in 2017, our much-loved Speech and Language Lead, Mrs Stickells, has decided that retirement is calling. We will miss her expertise, kindness, and dedication to our children. Mrs Stickells has worked with many children during her career, which has enabled them to succeed in the classroom and in later life. Her sparkly personality and positive outlook will be missed dearly. Please join us in wishing her the very best for this exciting new chapter.

Exciting News

We are delighted to announce that Eloise, our play therapist, has welcomed the arrival of her beautiful daughter. Congratulations to Eloise and her family on this wonderful news! Play therapy sessions will resume as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we work to ensure continuity of this important support.

Mayor's Christmas Card Competition

A huge well done to all the children who entered the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition! We were thrilled to welcome Madame Mayor to our celebration assembly, where she awarded prizes to the following talented children:



Abigail- Giraffe Class

Winner for Mayors Card



Nikola- Reindeer Class

Chief Executive's Card



Deborah- Rhino Class

Leader's Card

Highly Commended awards



Archie- Ray



Sofia



Elsie



Alex

On behalf of all staff at Grove Park School, thank you for your kind gifts and thoughtful well wishes. We wish you all a joyful holiday season and look forward to an exciting new year ahead!

Warm regards,

Mrs Flain



This term has been all about Festivals! We have learnt about Diwali, Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night, Winter and of course Christmas!

Term 2 in Polar Bear Class

In Literacy we have continued to embed our phonics knowledge to write labels and short sentences. We are starting to use tricky words in our writing too.

In Maths we have been consolidating our learning of numbers to 5 and extending this within 10. We have been exploring more and less, adding and how parts make a whole.



We made fruit kebabs.

We have also taken part in Children in Need and Anti-Bullying week.



We looked at where we live, where our school is and drew



We made diya lamps from clay.



We planned, cooked and tasted our own vegetable soup.



For Black History Month we read about Mae Jemison.



Our very first Nativity! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! Have a wonderful Christmas!



Snowy Owl Class



Term 2 has been a full and exciting term with plenty of learning taking place. This term, we have been learning about the Tudors and exploring the differences between the lives of rich and poor people during that time. We have written non-chronological reports about Tudor times, trying to include conjunctions and commas in a list!



The children had great fun experimenting with lines, shapes, and shading as they recreated portraits of Henry VIII in the style of the artist Hans Holbein.




In maths, we have been learning more about place value to 100 and adding and subtracting with tens and ones.



This term, we have been exploring the meaning of candles in different religions, including Hindu, Jewish, and Christian traditions. The children had great fun collaborating to make Advent wreaths and Christingles.



The highlight of the term had to be our Christmas Nativity play! Congratulations to all the children, who looked amazing in their costumes and showed great bravery on stage. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2026! 

Congratulations to our school values certificate winners this term: Alaia, Archie, Isabella, Isabelle D, Musa, Nina & Tudor.

Narwhal Class

This term our discovery topic was 'A Window to Europe'

Narwhal have had a very busy term learning about Europe, rivers and mountains and they have looked at many different countries across Europe then written a travel brochure about all the things they have learnt including all the features of imperative verbs, exaggeration, and superlatives. There are some examples of their writing below.



In science we have looked at light looking at how it can travel through objects and learning scientific words for this as well as doing an investigation about shadows.

In our art lessons we have looked at 3D sculptures taking inspiration from 2 artists we have looked at, Anthony Caro and Ruth Asawa.

The children loved making their 3d structures based on a European landmark they learnt about in Geography using techniques of rolling, folding, balancing and hanging, slotting card together and flaps.



They have put lots of effort in to singing our songs for the Christmas concert especially our class song of 'Last Christmas' where they put some lovely actions in. They hope you enjoyed watching them.

Again, we have had some great home learning come in. The children really put lots of effort into this and are very creative. We look forward to seeing next terms creations.



The Narwhal team would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and we look forward to seeing the children in Term 3 where we have forest school next term.



Well done to our values winners this term as well as those who achieved their reading targets to get in the draw for a token for the vending machine.



ARCTIC FOX

Term 2

In Term 2, we have really settled into our routines and enjoyed many fun and exciting days. We loved our school trip to Kent Life for our very own Mayan Day. The children had great fun learning about Mayan life and exploring their fascinating creations. We also enjoyed taking part in our Christmas carol concert and the children did a fantastic job singing with confidence and enthusiasm, particularly those with solos!



Discovery

In Discovery, we have been learning all about the Ancient Maya and their way of life. We especially enjoyed learning about the food they grew and ate and created our own Mayan menus to show this. The children also explored different Mayan artefacts by taking part in a scavenger hunt and then wrote postcards about their found artefact.



Writing

In Writing, we have been creating our very own Mayan adventure stories. The children used their imagination to develop exciting settings, characters, and plots inspired by Ancient Maya life. Throughout the term, the children have been developing their skills by using fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, possessive apostrophes and organising their writing into clear paragraphs.

PE

In PE, we have been loving our gymnastics unit this term. The children have enjoyed practising partner balances and, in our final lessons, had lots of fun using the gymnastics equipment to create and perform sequences.

Celebration

Well done to the winners of our Values Certificates:
Freddie, Amayah, Isobel, Jack, Molly & Anika

Next Term

Next term, our topic will be Dickensian Times and the children will be learning all about life in this exciting historical period. Miss Bagnall will be teaching next term while I am on my alternative placement, but I will be back with the class in Term 4.



Year 5 - Snow Leopards



ANCIENT GREECE



We have had a very busy and exciting term leading up to Christmas!

This term we have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to complete Forest School sessions learning many new skills along the way!



We have had many different activities throughout this term in our discovery learning considering what legacy Ancient Greeks left, through architecture, philosophers, sport, medicine and many more. We started early with a class debate between Athens and Sparta, sharing our views whilst respecting others on life in those times. We explored one of our British values, democracy, considering how this has influenced us today considering it started in Ancient Greek times. We have made links from the Romans and Greeks to compare the similarities and differences. We had great fun using Minecraft Education to support with this learning, exploring a Roman city and then creating our own Greek inspired buildings.



As part of our DT cooking and nutrition learning this term we created Greek Salads. We have also completed many art pieces such as Greek columns using chalk and charcoal as well as water paintings for Christmas cards and many more!



Linking to our topic, in writing we have been reading our book 'Greek Myths'. We have focused on 'Odysseus' Voyage' and what challenges he faces along the way in his journey with his warriors. We have worked hard on expanded noun phrases, speech, apostrophes and descriptions (character, setting & atmosphere). We also created some amazing drama role play which we recorded to retell the story.

Our final piece we then created our own Greek myth of Odysseus and his warriors facing a new mythical creature and how they overcome the challenge!

In Pathways to Read we read 'Leo and the Gorgon's Curse'. We explored this text as a class, and all thoroughly enjoyed the engaging mythical story. We made good predictions along the way, discussed vocabulary and made inferences from text.



In science, we have been learning about properties and changes of materials. We have learnt about how some materials can be separated and others that cannot after they dissolve. We completed an investigation by dissolving sugar in different water temperatures to see how this impacted the speed it dissolved and made conclusions from this.

In maths, we have been working hard on arithmetic practice daily as well as our maths units of multiplication and division, as well as lots of work on fractions!



Other topics that the children in Year 5 have been studying this term:

- Why doesn't Christianity look the same? (RE) - visit to the Catholic Church
- Opinions and Food (French)
- Families and Relationships & Health and wellbeing (PSHE)
 - No Outsiders - Rosa Blanche story (PSHE)
- Database (Computing) & Minecraft Education, cross-curricular to Discovery
 - Basketball, Netball & Gymnastics (PE)
 - Christmas Carol Concert Songs (Music)



This term we also looked into Arthur Wharton as part of our Black History Month learning at the end of October - to see our work across the school visit the school website under Curriculum & History.

A huge congratulations to Ellis, Aaliyah, Sammy, David, Ellie and Ruby S for being our value certificate winners this term!

We are looking forward to making many more memories with your children in Term 3 moving onto our Space topic and sharing this all with you.



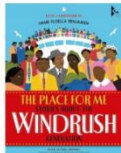
Year 6—Reindeer Class



This term, our topic was:
Windrush.



This term, we have been reading *The Place for Me* by K. N. Chimbiri. We looked into what life was like during the Windrush era. Lots of amazing projects were brought in, which were then presented to the rest of the class!



In maths this term, we have absolutely smashed it in our fractions and improving on our arithmetic skills.

In writing, we recapped parenthesis, expanded noun phrases, semi-colons and modal verbs. We applied these skills to our end of term writing – a journey story.

During Anti-Bullying week, this year's theme was "Power for Good," which encouraged everyone to recognise the positive influence we each have to speak up, support others and stand against bullying wherever we see it. Throughout the week, we took part in activities; reminding us all that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference!

We completed an artist study on Lubaina Himid and created inspired art pieces using watercolours and oil pastels!

We performed in the Arctic Community Christmas Concert. We had fun coming up with actions for our class song: Merry Xmas Everybody by Slade.

In PE, we created our own gymnastic routines and learnt the basic skills for handball. In preparation for next term, we have also started to use the gymnastics apparatus!

Next term, we will be learning about Charles Dickens!
We wish you all a Merry Christmas!



A huge well done to our value certificate winners this term: Oliver, Daisy, Hayley, Riccardo, Jaxon, Scarlett, Harper and Ernest!

Bramble Wood Forest School & OPAL Are on a *Treasure Hunt!*



(A.K.A. 'Help us turn random stuff into wild learning adventures!')



Dear lovely families, friends, and secret hoarders of useful things:

We're building up our stash of outdoor wonder and imaginative play gear – and you might just have the perfect item hiding in your garage, shed, attic, or back garden.

If you're clearing out this holiday or keen to contribute, we'd be * wildly grateful for any of the following:

Bramble Wood Forest School Needs...

- Wooden Planters
- Hemp rope
- Lengths of decking or scaffolding boards
- Gardening gloves (mud happens)
- Pallets / crates
- Rockery rocks /slate
- Logs & Big branches
- Nails and hammers
- Bags of compost & topsoil
- Butlers sink
- Children's garden rakes

Thank you for helping us build a world of mud pies, mini beasts, wild imagination and outdoor joy. We promise your old junk will be deeply loved and possibly turned into a prop.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Needs...

- Gardening trowels
- Seeds (we love a mystery sprout)
- Gardening gloves
- Garden games
- Hard hats / high vis jackets (Construction chic)
- Tarpaulin (tents, slides, ninja targets you name it)
- Large crates
- Scooters / buggies
- Pine cones & acorns (nature's finest currency)
- Superheroes
- Old Sink
- Salt bins
- Doll house
- Shoe pegs (from retail stores)

Where to drop your treasures: Please bring any donations to the OPAL crate (near the large red bin). Got something bulky? Let us know and we'll help!