

A decorative border of holly leaves and red berries surrounds the text. The border is composed of repeating holly sprigs with green leaves and small red berries, arranged in a continuous line around the perimeter of the page.

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





Giraffe Class Newsletter T2



This term in Giraffe Class has been super-busy! We have been learning all about Festivals and looking at a different one each week. We have also been continuing to settle into school life, achieving lots of Dojos and moving our names up the learning ladder

Diwali

We loved learning about the festival of Diwali. We created our own rangoli patterns, enjoyed the story of Rama and Sita and even made our own Diwa Lamp!

I like the rangoli patterns! - Ember

I love all of the bright colours! - Bronwyn



Remembrance Day

We also learnt about Remembrance Day and spoke about the importance of it. We made poppies, labelled soldiers and took part in a Remembrance Service as part of the whole school.

Louis - poppies grew in the field after the war.



Our very first Nativity!

We were so brave and took part in our first Nativity, telling the Christmas story. Each child went up on the stage, sang the songs and wore a costume.

A big thank you to everybody who was able to come and watch and support your child!

DT

In DT we have been learning about healthy eating. We made fruit kebabs and soup. We learnt how to be safe using knives, how to be hygienic around food and the importance of eating healthily.





Term 2 in Meerkat Class

What a wonderful and busy term it has been! The children have shown fantastic curiosity, enthusiasm and teamwork in all areas of learning. We are so proud of the effort they have put into their work and the confidence they have gained along the way.



This term we have loved learning all about the Three Queens: Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II. We have learned so many fascinating facts and have enjoyed comparing their reigns and placing them on a timeline. We even acted out Queen Elizabeth II's coronation! We then confidently used our new vocabulary and historical knowledge to create wonderful stories about our own imaginary queens.



In Art and DT, we explored creativity and design linked to our history topic. In DT, we researched traditional afternoon teas and designed our own cucumber sandwiches, which we then made and proudly took home to eat. In Art, we experimented with weaving using shoebox looms and wool, inspired by artist Cecilia Vicuña, creating our own wrapped



Christmas ornaments.



Our Science focus has been materials. We learned key vocabulary such as transparent, opaque, waterproof, shiny and dull. We even carried out investigations to find out which materials would make the best curtains and which were most effective at keeping a toy dry. We made excellent predictions and enjoyed testing our ideas.



We have been busy with lots of festive activities. The highlight of our term was our Nativity performance. We worked so hard to learn our lines and actions and showed great bravery practising in front of everyone. Our performance for parents and carers was fantastic – all of our grown ups were all incredibly proud.



We're excited for all the learning to come next term, when our new topic will be Africa! We can't wait to explore its landscapes, animals, cultures and stories together.

Thank you for your continued support this term. We hope you have a wonderful, restful break, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for more learning in the new year!



Lion Class- Year 2



Respectful Responsible Resilient 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!! **Hudson** (responsible), **Rowan** (respectful), **Olivia** (resourceful), **Jackson** (resilient), **Lacie-Jane** (respectful), **Hameedah** (Respectful), **Albie** (Resilient) and our Value Champion this term was **Sharaë** (all 4 values).

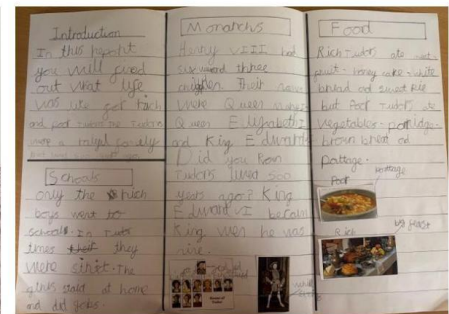
A huge well done to all the class who took part in our **Christmas performance** 'A Wriggly Nativity'. You were fantastic!



This term, Year 2's topic was '**The Tudors**'. We can answer 'The BIG question'- **What was life like for rich and poor Tudors?** We can compare the foods they ate, the clothes they wore and the houses they lived in. We learned about the Royal Family and looked at Tudor schools.

In **English** this term, we have been looking at features of non-fiction texts and used this knowledge to write a non-chronological report about The Tudors. We made sure we had a heading, subheadings, facts and labelled pictures. We also included fun 'Did you know...?' questions too! Did you know King Henry VIII spoke 4 languages and wrote his own poetry?

In **Art** this term, we have been looking at shapes in pictures and using this to create a portrait on King Henry VIII. We studied a portrait of Henry by Hans Holbein and used our learning about shapes to look carefully at his face. We then used this to draw each feature carefully.



In **Maths** we have been adding and subtracting using different methods such as a number line and using our knowledge of place value to add ones and tens. We have been learning about 2d and 3d shapes as well- how many sides, vertices and faces.

In **Science**, we have been learning about materials and their properties. We have discussed why different materials are used for different things (such as glass for windows) and described them using scientific language- transparent, flexible, rigid and so on.

Year 3 - Elephant Class - Term 2 - Window to Europe

This term, Elephant Class has embarked on an exciting journey across Europe! We've explored fascinating countries such as France, Italy, Russia, and Greece, discovering their unique cultures and traditions along the way. After completing lots of research about each country, the class set to work creating their very own travel guides. These guides are packed with brilliant writing techniques, including persuasive language, rhetorical questions, and powerful superlatives designed to entice readers to visit these incredible destinations!

In Science this term, we have been investigating the exciting topic of *Light*. We've explored different light sources, discovered how reflections work and learned that light travels in straight lines. The children also experimented with shadows, observing how their size and shape change depending on the position of the light source.



Earlier in the term, we came together as a whole school to pay our respects for Remembrance Day. Here is a photo of our class wreath.



In Computing this term, we have become expert route planners! We've learned how to give precise instructions using turns and angles, then programmed routes for characters and objects to follow. The children practised writing, testing, and debugging their own programs to make sure everything worked perfectly. Well done, Elephants - fantastic problem-solving and logical thinking!

Well done to the whole class for their amazing singing during our Christmas Carol Concert earlier this month! The children showed fantastic dedication in learning all the songs and performed with confidence and enthusiasm. Their hard work and beautiful singing made truly special.





Value Champions - Well done to the following children for demonstrating one of the school values this term:

Aria-Lily Jessie Joey-Lee Ted Asl Jessica & Remy



Zebra Class



Term 2

What an amazing and busy term!

We have looked at the Rainforests and the Mayans in our discovery topic which also links to our English and science topics. This included lots of discussions regarding changes in our local area and the effect it has on the habitats of living things. The children were very engaged and had plenty of ideas about what is happening in our local area today.

In November for Remembrance day the whole school came together to pay our respects to the fallen heroes. We made a wreath and a child from each class was selected to hold the wreath in front of the whole school. I was very proud of Zebra class as they represented us in an incredibly mature and respectful way.

In PE this term we have continued with gymnastics in our indoor lessons. In our outdoor lessons we have been braving the cold to look at hockey. The children have worked very hard on their skills and there has been some good passing and team work.

We have also made Christmas cards using watercolours. The children thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Kent life and were very excited to take part in the workshops as well as our tractor ride and visit to the lamas.

Congratulations to all of our values certificate winners this term.

I would just like to finish by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone back and refreshed in term 3.

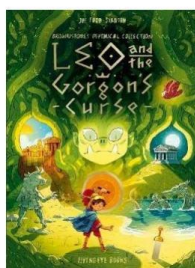
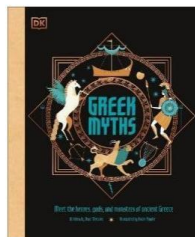


**Merry
Christmas**

TERM 2 IN RHINO CLASS!

Our topic this term has been ANCIENT GREECE, and we have been learning about the adventures of Odysseus and the history of the Ancient Greeks!

In our **Writing**, we have been reading about the many daring adventures of the legendary Odysseus in 'the Odyssey', learning and writing about the Cyclops, Sirens and witch Circe. We have looked at creating scary atmospheres in our writing and used it to help write our own Greek Myths!



In our **Reading**, we have been looking at 'Leo and the Gorgon's Curse', learning about some of the most fearsome Greek monsters and what it means to be a hero! This has helped us in our writing, where the children loved writing about monsters!

In **Art**, we used our chalk and charcoal skills to draw amazing Ancient Greek columns!

We have had an exciting time in **DT** this term! Through our topic, we have learned lots about Ancient Greece and their way of life. This led to us making Greek salads later in the term, where we all got to help cut up and mix the veg!

Science has also been really fun! We have done lots of experiments, looking at melting, dissolving and separating materials!

We have had an awesome term in **Maths**, focusing on fractions recently! We have worked hard on our skills, learning to add and subtract, and turn them into mixed numbers and improper fractions!

We have done loads in **PE** this term! We've been playing basketball, netball and doing gymnastics! We also had an amazing time in Forest School!



Congratulations to Eris, Alice, Penny, Alexis, Emelia and Evie for being our values certificate winners this term!

Next term we are looking at Space!

Term 2 - Ostrich



What a busy and exciting term it has been in Year 6 as we have continued our learning and begun preparing for the festive season! The children have worked incredibly hard and shown brilliant focus, teamwork, and creativity. Here's what we've been up to:

Our topic this term had been The Windrush, which has been explored through discovery, reading and writing.

The class have investigated who the Windrush Generation were and why they travelled to Britain. We have learnt how it shaped British culture and contributed to life in the UK today. The topic sparked thoughtful discussion and a real understanding of identify and belonging. Inspiring us to create our own journey stories based on the key events from The Windrush.



In Maths, we have been practicing our fraction skills. The children have demonstrated great resilience in mastering tricky concepts!



In art, we studied the contemporary artist Lubaina Himid, known for her unique style and use of vibrant colours telling stories of identity, culture and history. The children created artwork inspired by her technique, linking to our Windrush topic.

Our science learning focused on evolution and inheritance. We have explored how characteristics are passed from parents to offspring, how animals adapt to their environment and Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, investigating how different species change over time.

In RWV, we have explored what different religions look like around the world. We learned how belief systems vary and what influences people's values, traditions and choices.



This term we sadly said goodbye to Mrs Wraight. Ostrich class will miss you!



A massive well done to our certificate winners this term:
Isabelle, Sidney, Ruby, Jaks, Amelia, Tommy and Sophie.

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!