Blog w.e. 06.12.19

It’s getting more and more Christmassy here at Grove as the sounds and scenes of the festive season begin to fill the air! Our choir have been busy practising songs for their upcoming concert at the Victoria Hall next week – as a senior leadership team we are really looking forward to this as it always helps to put us in the mood for Christmas. In school children are practising carols and well known songs in preparation for our ‘Carols in the Community’ event on 19th December where we are really excited for you all to join us in some festive cheer. Also, Year 5 are well underway with their ‘Bah Humbug’ rehearsals ready for their concerts on 18th December.

We are delighted that, on Thursday last week, eight of our Year 6 boys represented the academy in the EFL Kid’s Cup football tournament at Power League. The children were amazing and played their legs off! They won all of their group matches and their quarter final (out of 32 schools)! We are all very proud of them and look forward to more sporting events as we move through the year.

Last week we also celebrated ‘Stars in our Schools’ where we thank our amazing support staff for all that they do for the academy and our pupils. I know that they are all very grateful for this little notion of recognition and we hope that they all enjoyed being spoiled on their special day.

Even though we are all looking forward to the exciting few weeks ahead, teaching and learning is business as usual and the children are still working hard to continue to make progress right to the end of term!

This week Year 3 have continued to build on their skills for their narrative about Skara Brae. Again they have left staff in awe of their acting ability as they confidently and effortlessly demonstrated the dialogue between two of the main characters. Building on this they began to write up their conversation using the correct punctuation. After meticulous planning the children began to create their stories on Friday. I can’t wait to see what our creative writers devise! In Maths they have continued with their unit on multiplication and division. The children have particularly focused on the 3 and 4 times tables and how they can use the inverse of these facts to solve division questions. To add a greater challenge they have had to apply this knowledge to different contexts such as money and length. Topic has led to the Year 3 pupils moving further along the time line to look at the Bronze Age and finding out what similarities and differences there are between the two periods in history. When I saw them I was fascinated by the depth of their knowledge and understanding. The Year 3s also had their final week at swimming this week! After all their effort and hard work a number of the children even managed to achieve their beginners or length certificate. We can’t wait to celebrate their achievements next week!

It has been another busy week in Year 4 this week where children have been travelling back in time in history! They began the week looking at hieroglyphics and how they can tell us so much about how people lived in Ancient Egypt. The children created their own cartouches and then designed and created ancient scrolls with secret messages. They wrote their final versions of the Pharaoh Amasis’ journey across the desert and River Nile in search of the maiden whose foot would fit in the magnificent slipper that he found – I can’t wait to read them! Year 4 have now begun to research holiday brochures and persuasive language. In Maths, Year 4 have started to use multiplication and division and this will be the learning focus over the next few weeks. It would really help if you could challenge your children on their times tables at home as this is really crucial learning for them. During art sessions children have been designing and making Egyptian death masks, based on their learning about Ancient Egypt.

This week in Ravenclaw, the children have read the third and final story in this term’s text ‘Beowulf’ and have discovered that he sadly meets an unfortunate end. They have been beginning to look at the features of newspaper articles in preparation to write their own article about the Geatish king’s death. In Maths, the children have been continuing their multiplication and division unit and have this week looked at multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000. The children have enjoyed using our maths resources to aid them in completing problem solving tasks. With this week seeing the start of December, excitement to perform the Christmas production in a couple of weeks is growing increasingly amongst the children. They have been working incredibly hard practising their lines, lyrics and choreography for the production. Staff are busily collecting costumes ready for the concert so please ensure that you check what your child needs to bring in. if you are unsure please send a message in the communication diary.

In Year 6 this week, the children have been getting stuck in to their fractions unit of work. Using technical vocabulary, the children are becoming more and more confident in explaining how to simplify, order and compare fractions. Why not ask your child to show you? In English this week, the children have been finalising their battle scene based on the Charge of the Light Brigade. All of the teachers have been so impressed with what the children have produced. They have then started to look at the characters within their class text 'Viking Boy'. In preparation for writing an essay on the two characters Gunnar and Skuli, the children have been making inferences about their thoughts, feelings and motives.  Next, they will be exploring how they can make their language choices more formal in order to write a detailed essay. Our topic learning has been culminated this week into a non-chronological report based on the Vikings. Each child has had the opportunity to gather all of their learning into a plan before drafting and publishing their report. They have certainly learned a lot from the topic and have shown that they have a strong understanding of the Viking way of life. Keep up the hard work, year 6!

As I am sure you are all aware we are no longer able to use the stadium at Northwood for PE from next week until the roof repairs on the sports hall are completed. We are obviously disappointed about this but will do our best to ensure that our PE provision is still of a high standard. The coach who supports us at the stadium has kindly offered to come in to school to continue working with the children which is great news. Obviously, with our restricted space we do have some limitations so please bear with us as we do our best to maintain standards.

Please be reminded that next Thursday, 12th December, the academy is closed to children due to the Election Day. School will be open on Friday 13th December as normal.

Have a lovely restful weekend

Mrs Carrigan