Blog w.e. 02.03.18

Welcome back to a snowy weekly blog! It was lovely to see and hear the children back in school on Monday after the half term break; being bright and enthusiastic to learn (well, largely ☺). They have all settled back to work quickly and there was a buzz around school despite the wintery weather. May I thank-you for your understanding in relation to our school closures? Our decisions are always based on site and immediate surrounding area safety in line with our duties of care and safeguarding to our children. Although it has been a short week in school, a great start has been made on spring 2 learning in classrooms and I will share a glimpse with you now……

Year 3 Gryffindor have had a fabulous start back to our spring 2 half term. The children started their first day back with swimming; they are growing in confidence and staff are pretty sure that we have some potential future Olympic swimmers! All of Year 3 have worked extremely hard with their equivalent fractions too. They have shown fantastic MAGIC attitudes using their GUMPTION when they find new learning challenging and we are proud of them. Gryffindor have also begun their new topic on skeletons and are amazed to learn how many bones our bodies are made up from!

In Year 4 the children have been developing their understanding of apostrophes by looking at irregular plurals (for example: the children's bags) to show ownership – this is quite a tricky skill to grasp but they are MOTIVATED and will secure this learning. They have, in maths, been using factor pairs and commutativity to support problem solving in mental calculations. They have also been exposed to a range of problems and have had to work out the different ways to solve them using their times table understanding. This has really made them think and use their mathematical brains to recall facts quickly. As you know, times tables are incredibly important and we thank you all for your support in practising these with your child at home as it is the expectation that all children know their tables to 12x12 fluently by the end of Year 4. Do you know which your child still needs to work on? In creative lessons, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Roman art in the form of mosaics. They have discussed the types of patterns and designs which were common and have thought about how we can learn a lot about the Romans from them. This has also been linked to maths as the children looked for symmetry within the designs. The children are excited about designing and making their own mosaics next week and I look forward to seeing their finished work.

Ravenclaw have also had a very busy and productive first week back. The week started with a very important topic as part of their safety theme: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The children used their retrieving skills well in reading to identify factors behind CSE and how they can spot elements of this. They behaved in a mature and sensible manner towards this sensitive topic and could articulate wonderfully what to do if facing uncomfortable situations - well done Year 5! Year 5 also had a visit from our local PCSO to talk about the influences and impact of ‘gangs’. Once again, the children were very inquisitive when having the opportunity to question our PCSO - they expressed their views sensibly and showed great maturity. In Maths, the children have been learning division methods and have showcased their understanding with the use of practical equipment. They will extend on this moving into next week. There are some super maths wizards who are becoming increasingly able to explain their understanding of different concepts – excellent COMMUNICATION work!

For reading in Year 6, the focus has been on literal questioning. They have ‘unpicked’ a text, using key strategies needed, and are beginning to recognise the benefits of these. In maths, the children have been applying their understanding of the lowest common denominator in aiding their ability to compare and order unlike fractions. As for writing, the children have developed an understanding of passive verbs and prepositions through the immersion of a non-fiction text – they are becoming increasingly confident with all of the complex grammar terminology and I am very proud of how hard they are working! Year 6 have also been learning about ‘gang culture’, risks and personal choices. Their MAGIC learning attitudes were also praised by PCSO: Miss Chadwick. Well done Year 6 – I am proud of you!

French at Grove continues to be both fun and challenging with Madame Barratt. Year 3 Gryffindor are finding out how to say colours in French. This new vocabulary will allow them to go on to describe all sorts of things! I’m sure that they will be enthusiastic to tell you the French name for the colours of things at home! All children (and adults) living in France will be very familiar with the character Asterix. Soon, year 4 will be able to get to know him too. The Asterix stories all take place in the time of the Roman Empire, which is year 4's current topic so their French learning will be closely linked to their topic work. In Year 5 and 6 the children are learning the alphabet in French, which is really useful in lots of ways. It also gives them a chance to explore how the French alphabets look different than ours too. Madame Barratt also gets very excited about the different languages our amazing children at Grove can speak (22 in total)! She thoroughly enjoys encouraging the children to write on the board using different scripts, such as Arabic so that all children get the opportunity to see how different this is to the English language – what fabulous opportunities for the children!

Thank-you, as ever, for your home support with learning. Any additional spelling practise (lists can be highlighted off in communication diaries), times tables practise and reading practise will help your child in accessing and achieving in all areas of the curriculum.

Well – dare I say it? Hopefully, the ‘Beast from the East’ and ‘Storm Emma’ have done their worst and things will be back on track next week.

Wishing you a lovely restful weekend

Mrs Machin