Blog w.e. 28.02.20

Welcome back after the half term break – I hope that you all had a lovely restful week. All of the children have returned with their usual super attitudes and have settled back into their learning brilliantly.

We have noticed quite a few children wearing our new blazers and kilts with pride as we have returned from the break – they look amazing! Lots of people have remarked on how smart and grown up the uniform looks and we can’t wait until everyone is wearing it in September! Please be reminded that on return from half term we now expect all children to be wearing the new school tie and shirt and there should be no old jumpers or cardigans (all jumpers and cardigans must now have the updated purple logo). The vast majority of pupils are now wearing the correct uniform but there are still a few old jumpers and cardigans so can you please ensure that this is addressed as soon as possible. New uniform can be purchased from the National Schoolwear Centre in Hanley.

I have also noticed a few pupils who are wearing coloured braids and tinsel in their hair, these are strictly prohibited in our policy.

Year 3 have come back into school refreshed, ready and raring to learn. Upon their return, Monday morning saw them getting straight back into Maths where they continued their work on multiplication and division. However, this week, the staff here at Grove have challenged the children even further, asking them to solve two step problems using a combination of operations. The children have continued to use concrete resources to support them and as a result are beginning to make links between the times table groups and multiplication and division facts which is fantastic! At the start of the week Year 3 completed their Science unit, which began during last half term, by looking at the fossilisation process. The children looked at each stage in the process and answered comprehensive questions about fossil formation.  On Wednesday they began their new unit all about the Ancient Greeks. The children completed their pre-assessment grids and were eager to begin the topic when they found out what is in store for them over the next 6 weeks! In English the children have already made links to their History and Geography topic through the mythical creature - the Minotaur. The children listened to the famous Greek Myth: Theseus and the Minotaur and began to devise a word bank of nouns and adjectives they could use to describe the Minotaur’s appearance. The children will continue to build on their descriptive writing over the next couple of weeks and we are excited to see what they produce.

This week Year 4 have started their new topic of the Romans, where they learnt about what their journey was like when travelling to Britain. There are lots of interesting facts all about the Romans which the children are eager to learn all about – it is such an interesting topic and I am positive that they will really enjoy this learning. All of Year 4 are really looking forward to the trip to Chester next week to find out all about the Romans and how they lived! In English, they have been introduced to ‘The Roman Diary’ which is an interesting book about Iliona’s journey to Rome. They used drama to focus on her perspective of the journey and to further develop their writing. The children used expanded noun phrases and ‘show not tell’ to describe what Iliona would be seeing and feeling during her journey out of the Greek harbour. In Maths, they have completed their unit about area and used various methods to calculate the space covered by different shapes. They have now started their new unit on fractions where they are using practical apparatus to understand the concepts of tenths and hundredths.

Year 5 have had an excellent beginning to the new half-term. In English, the children have started their new class text ‘The Lorax’ by Dr Seuss. The children have been using their prediction and inference skills to try and work out what the book may be about from looking at the front cover, blurb and the first few pages. Additionally, the children have been looking at the imagery used in the book to try and infer the author’s intentions. In Maths, Ravenclaw have been continuing with their work on fractions and how they can find the lowest common denominator to support them when calculating with or simplifying fractions. The children can now recognise mixed number and improper fractions and covert one into the other to help them to compare and order different fractions. Ravenclaw’s new topic is ‘Why should the rainforests matter to all of us?’ and in Geography they have been discovering what rainforests look like and where they are located. The children have also been improving their atlas reading skills and how to correctly interpret a key. The children all seem really eager to learn about their new topic and are really enthusiastic about the coming term.

Year 6’s first week back has launched their new topic linked to the question ‘Why was Islamic Civilisation (around 900ad) known as the Golden Age?’ The children have delved into their new text ‘Tales from the Arabian Nights’ and have unpicked the characters of Scheherazade and Sultan Schahriar. They have already begun debating their key question and building their vocabulary bank. In Maths, the children have been looking at how to find percentages of amounts. Why not look out for discounts when shopping and ask your child to calculate the new prices? In art, year 6 will be looking at Islamic art and creating their own paper. Last half term, Year 6 planned an investigation into how mould can grow on food items in Science. This week they have looked at their results and completed their evaluations. The children were shocked to see which items grew the most mould: in particular the Stoke favourite - Oatcakes!

As I am sure you will agree there is already lots of super learning taking place as we come to the end of week 1 and we are all very excited to learn and find out more about the new topics as the term progresses.

We are continuing to develop our reading here at Grove and have made this one of our main priorities. There has been a lot of money spent on new reading books which will shortly be coming home with your children. More information will follow regarding this but we do ask that the books are treated with care so that all of the children get the chance to enjoy and learn from them.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Carrigan