Blog w.e. 29.06.18

Welcome to what has turned out to be an extremely summery week! It has been beautiful weather this week and it has been lovely to see so much outdoor learning taking place from all year groups.

On a very serious note, please do ensure that you talk to your children about staying safe when playing outside in this hot weather. As lovely as it is to be outside in the sunshine we also need to ensure that our precious families are keeping safe. I am sure that you will all be aware of the terrible tragedy at Westport Lake this week – our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Ryan at this extremely sad and difficult time. We have spoken to the children in school about the dangers of swimming in open water but please do reinforce this to ensure that they understand how to keep themselves safe.

This week has also been our rescheduled Sports Day. The children had a fantastic time showing great sportsmanship as they took part in the competitive and energetic event. It was great to see so many of you there supporting and encouraging our children so a huge thank you to all who managed to attend. All children were cheering on their peers from start to finish; well done everyone!

Some of our Year 6 girls and their parents/carers have visited the JCB Academy this week as part of the promotion of careers for girls in Engineering. They had a great time and came away inspired with a good insight into what opportunities there are for them in this line of work – well done girls and let’s hope we have some young Engineers of the future in our midst.

This week has seen the start of our ‘One Book, One School’ project, following the launch a few weeks ago. All year groups are studying a different part of ‘The Twits’ by Roald Dahl and all learning for the next 3 weeks will be focussed around this. So far, I have heard lots of exciting feedback and the children are all really enjoying finding out all about the hilarious and intriguing lives of Mr and Mrs Twit! The children absolutely loved dressing up as Mr and Mrs Twit and quickly became engrossed in the funny story of the terrible two - it was as though the real Twits were in school! Apologies for the short notice about dressing up. We have listened to your feedback (thank-you for expressing your opinions in an appropriate and solution focussed way) and will ensure that you have more notice moving forwards ☺.

Year 3 Gryffindor have had a super exciting week this week! They have enjoyed learning about Roald Dahl's life and have written some fantastic biographies about him. They have also used their art skills to create triples of Mrs Twit's beady eye - they are very creepy! The children can't wait to find out what tricks Mr and Mrs Twit play on each other as they read some more of the book. In Maths Year 3 have been creating 2D shapes in the sunshine using their bodies – it was amazing to see the children working as teams to create the perfect shape!

In Year 4 Hufflepuff, the children have also begun their learning through immersion in the Twits. In writing, they have planned out a set of instructions to bake an alternative pie for the Twits - who wants bird pie anyway? They then watched a cookery demonstration and made precise notes so that they are able to make their own pie crust next week. I am sure that this will be a great fun learning experience, although I’m not sure that I will be wanting to sample any of their creations for my lunch! In maths, the children have been discussing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes such as sides, edges, vertices and angles. They will then use this knowledge, applying their skills to design and create appropriate packaging for their pie. More engineering at Grove!

A fantastically fun week had by all in Year 5 this week with plenty of highlights to look back on. It's fair to say that Ravenclaw's trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town was nothing short of amazing as the children became immersed in their Victorian topic. The children visited real-life and restored Victorian buildings. These included everything from the Grocers and Blacksmiths to a Candle Maker's. There was even a fully functional Lloyds Bank, where children had the chance to exchange modern day currency to genuine Victorian shillings and pence. I heard they had a cheeky visit to an old, traditional sweet shop too! After a few mint humbugs, all children were able take part in dressing up as traditional Victorian children (looking ever so vintage!) as they participated in a real-life Victorian lesson at a school. It's safe to say our children much prefer attending Grove Academy in modern day England! Back in Northwood, the children have completed their persuasive radio adverts which are of an extremely high-quality – well done Year 5! In Maths, Ravenclaw have continued their work on measuring and drawing angles and have enjoyed using equipment and practical activities.

Another productive week in Year 6 as the children have continued to develop their sustained pieces of writing. All of the year 6 pupils have finalised their diary entries based on the text of 'Holes' and the experiences of the main character, Stanley Yelnats. Again, this week, the children have shown improvements in their swimming skills and are growing in confidence. I know that we all agree with the importance of securing these skills as children transition to high school. In addition to this, Year 6 have enjoyed participating in their PE lessons with Miss Woolridge and have enjoyed the beautiful weather in doing so! The children are now looking forward to their final few weeks here at Grove and will soon begin to practise their leavers' assembly – I cannot believe that the end of the year is approaching so quickly! The children are all starting to get ready for high school and are excited for the next chapter of their learning journey. Indeed, many of our children attended their first transition day at Birches Head Academy this week, where they did themselves proud and were an absolute credit to you and our school once again!

This week in PE with Miss Woolridge, all year groups have continued to further develop their skills and teamwork in Rounders. Year 3 and year 4 have been developing their fielding skills, looking at accuracy and consistency when throwing to posts both close and far. Their main focus has been on how to successfully stump out the batting team. Year 5 and Year 6 have focused on the batting technique and how to be successful in a game situation. They have worked in small groups to ensure all pupils have lots of opportunity to practise their batting skills. When transferring it into a game situation, we have looked at where to aim for in order to score maximum points.

As I am sure that you will agree, this has been another action packed week for everyone and as we move towards the end of the school year there are many more fantastic things for the children to still look forward to.

Enjoy your weekend all!

Mrs Machin