Blog w.e. 13.09.19

Welcome to my first blog of the new academic year! Wow, the end of week 2 already! What a fantastic fortnight it has been! It was fabulous to welcome all of the children back to school last week, including our new pupils in Year 3. All of the children have settled into their new classes brilliantly and I have to say that they all look absolutely fabulous in their new uniforms. Thank you so much parents/carers for making such a fantastic effort to have virtually all of the children in our new academy uniform – the children have all been commenting on how grown up they feel and we have received some lovely comments from neighbouring schools on how smart they all look. We are aware that there are some delays on jumpers and P.E. t-shirts – we apologise that this has been the case but hopefully it will be sorted very soon.

It is safe to say that all of the children in Gryffindor Year 3 have settled well into life here at Grove, they have all shown their true MAGIC potential and it is only week 2! The children started their Grove journey by helping the teachers devise their class rules and reviewing their own responsibilities and expectations for the academic year and they have continued to shine this week. In English, the children went on their own sound journey, through the school, after being inspired by last week’s ‘Sound Collector’ poem. They used their listening ears as they crept around school making notes of the different sounds that occur during the school day. The vocabulary they used was outstanding, all I could hear echoing from the Year 3 classrooms was a constant string of onomatopoeia; bang, rattle, scrape, drip, tick! However, their amazing work did not stop there, the children then used this knowledge to write their very own sound collector poem all about the sounds here at Grove. In Maths the children have continued to deepen their understanding of place value by looking at 3 digit numbers and how they are partitioned into hundreds, tens and ones.

Gryffindor have already totally immersed themselves into their topic question. At the beginning of the week the children used the research they had obtained, during previous lessons, to write their own fact files about nocturnal animals. On Wednesday, Year 3 started to look at how light is reflected and the influence the surface has on the direction of light rays. The children were fascinated by how light travelled and as a result made their own periscopes. It was lovely to see them exploring and investigating how they worked. I can’t wait to see what next week holds for our budding Year 3s!

This week the children in Year 4 Hufflepuff have worked incredibly hard in some rather challenging lessons. In Maths they have been working with larger numbers, using partitioning, visual representations, number lines and have even worked up to the number 10,000! Children have been solving the puzzle of number lines with missing jumps and representing a given number on that line – very tricky! I am sure that they will be keen to show their number skills off at home! In English, the children have been learning about subordination and the past tense. They have then used these skills to begin planning their story retell for next week. In Science, children have reflected on last week's chocolate experiment and can confidently explain why Henry, the character from The Incredible Book Eating Boy, would not have been able to digest the paper in the books. It has been a wonderful week of learning for our Year 4 students. Well done!

Another great week in Year 5 too as the children in Ravenclaw have continued to show great enthusiasm when learning all about the Earth, Moon and Sun. This week, they have also been learning all about how to use brackets to show parenthesis (which they have become very confident with) and have been producing brilliant non-chronological reports about the Moon and Earth’s orbits to demonstrate their understanding of this. Reading this week has focused upon using retrieval skills to find answers using non-fiction texts as stimulus. I’m sure your children would love to tell you all that they know about retrieval questions! In ‘Power Maths’, Year 5 have continued to develop their understanding of place value up to 1,000,000 including rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 and comparing and ordering numbers. Their concept of number is improving every day and I know children are enjoying using concrete apparatus to demonstrate their understanding in lessons.

In Year 6 this week the children have continued to write their explanation text about the circulatory system – fascinating learning I am sure that you will agree. This now includes particular details about the way that the heart works, heart conditions and the impact of exercise. I am sure we may have some budding doctors and surgeons in our midst! In Science, the children have planned and conducted an investigation into the impact of different forms of exercise on their heart rate and compared this to their resting pulse. They have used their skills in music to create a beat to show how the heart rate changes. In maths, the children have become confident in ordering and comparing numbers and have been rounding numbers up to 10 million! Wow! It is fantastic to see their progress and they are now able to use specific mathematical vocabulary to explain processes and apply this to a range of questions. Well done Year 6!

This week we have begun to use Northwood Stadium for our PE sessions which has been brilliant! The children have thoroughly enjoyed their athletics sessions, led by an Athletics UK coach. They are all very excited about working towards their Athletics 365 awards. I heard that lots of children were very worn out but thoroughly enjoyed their lessons. If your child has not yet been down to the stadium do not worry as we are working on a 2 week rolling programme – everyone will get a chance at this great opportunity. Next week our swimming sessions begin for Year 3 and this will be their PE focus for this term.

I am sure that you will agree that the first 2 weeks have been very busy and filled with exciting new learning opportunities for the children. I have had the privilege of visiting each and every class and I am truly proud of the fantastic children that we have here at Grove. Their attitudes to learning and excellent behaviour have been an absolute credit to both the academy and yourselves – I am very excited about the year ahead and cannot wait to share in another exciting learning journey here at Grove.

Many thanks for your ongoing support. Please continue to ensure that you support your children at home with their reading, spelling and times tables as it really does make a difference.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, looks like the weather is going to be very kind to us!

Mrs Carrigan