Blog w.e. 20.09.19

Welcome to my weekly blog once again. It has been another fantastic week here at Grove for all year groups with lots of exciting learning opportunities taking place. We have had the Bikeability team in school this week teaching Year 4 and Year 5 children all about how to stay safe on their bikes. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this and I am sure that they have learned many new skills.

This week in Year 3 the children have begun to explore their new class text; ‘Orion and the Dark’. As the week has progressed the children have delved deeper and deeper into each element of the story. They began by reading the text with intonation and answering some comprehension questions, the children then went on to explore the punctuation and spellings in the text. The children have shown off their knowledge and understanding of the story as they became the main character themselves. They took turns becoming Orion, thinking about his body language, his voice, his facial expressions and answering questions as though they were Orion himself. They haven’t even read half of the story yet! I can’t wait to see what they have in store next week! In maths the children have challenged their place value knowledge even further by looking at 1, 10 and 100 more/less than a given three digit number. I was terrified when I went into the year 3 classes because the room was filled with snapping crocodiles - the children were quick to reassure me that they were only representing mathematical symbols and had not in fact all turned into reptiles! After they completed their periscopes from last week I found Year 3 creeping around the school to explore how they worked. The children were looking around corners, over gates and under various outside equipment. I even caught them trying to spy on me in my office! Science quickly took a turn in a whole new direction when one of the children spotted their shadow whilst walking back in after break. Taking full advantage of the sunshine, Year 3 quickly rushed back outside to explore their shadows and the different shapes they could make. This then led to the question why does the Sun move? As a result the children began to make models to help develop their understanding of the relationship between the Sun, Moon and Earth.

This week Hufflepuff and our leadership team have had a very exciting week, with some of the children being taught by either myself, Mrs. Morrall or Mrs. Blackhurst on Wednesday. They have been using their best detective work in Maths to 'crack the code' and use Roman Numerals. They learnt the patterns and rules and so have been able to identify some Roman numbers all the way up to 100!  The children have also worked using regular numbers to find 10, 100 and 1000 more or less than any given number. They have been amazing mathematicians and we have all been very impressed with their knowledge.

In English this week, Hufflepuff have been writing their final drafts of their narrative retelling and have been working to improve their language choices and punctuation through editing. Proof reading and editing is a tricky skill to grasp but they have made a super start. In Science, the children have looked in more detail at individual parts of the digestive system and started to discuss the jobs that each part does.  The children have now all had their first PE lesson down at Northwood Stadium and have thoroughly enjoyed the activities and using the facilities down there.  Great stuff, Hufflepuff!

The children in Year 5 have had a great week overall! In English, the children have been working on suspense using ‘show don’t tell’ techniques to improve their narrative writing and have been learning all about subordination. Ravenclaw HC and HW have loved going to Northwood Stadium this Thursday for their PE session – they were practising their running skills and learnt how important posture is when running. Some more budding athletes for the future I am sure! In Maths, children have now progressed to using place value up to one million and are reading, writing and rounding these numbers brilliantly – well done Year 5! They also thoroughly enjoyed a lesson this week using Roman numerals and we’re confident your children will impress you with their knowledge! Across the wider curriculum, year 5 have been learning all about the other planets in the solar system and have been creating Top Trump cards to compare these. They can’t wait to update you next week when they will be finding out who won the prize in our class text, ‘Cosmic’ by Frank Cottrell Boyce.

This week in year 6, the children have been applying the skills of explanation writing when exploring the role of a white blood cell. They have sequenced paragraphs to include appropriate information and have then turned this into a fantastic write. The children are thoroughly enjoying their new topic and amazing me with their new knowledge about blood and the heart. In Science the children have taken this one step further by creating a humorous comic strip about ' a day in the life of a white blood cell'. Why not ask them to explain it to you at home – I am sure that they will be more than willing to impart their knowledge upon you! In Maths, the children have begun their topic on the four operations. It has been great to see the children finding different mental and written strategies to solve a range of problems – well done Year 6. The year 6 PE sessions at Northwood stadium have been a huge success with the children completing a range of athletic based activities.

I am sure that you will agree that it has been another action packed week! It has been a great privilege this week to spend some time teaching in Year 4 and I know that myself, Mrs Morrall and Mrs Blackhurst all had a great day teaching and spending time with the children, whilst Mrs. Qayum was teaching in Year 5.

Next Thursday is our ‘settling in’ parents evening and we look forward to seeing you all on the evening where you can find out all about how your child has settled in to their new class, their areas of strength and what they need to work on to be even better. If you haven’t yet made an appointment please ensure that you contact your child’s teacher.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Mrs Carrigan