



# Grove Junior School

Turner Street, Northwood, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST1 2NL

Telephone:(01782)234550 Fax:(01782)236404 Email:office@grovejunior.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Moran - Head of School: Mrs S Machin

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Blackhurst and Mrs L Morrall

Link Governor for Child Protection: Miss Michelle Chadwick

## *Where Every Child Does Matter*

Dear Parents/Carers,

In response to your feedback, I am writing to you again to share and update you on learning and priorities in school. We have had another couple of busy and exciting weeks at Grove! I am proud and impressed with my children and staff and was really pleased that most children's MAGIC attitudes towards their work and behaviour was recognised during a visit from our School Improvement Officer last week. The rapid pace of improvement at Grove was also recognised and is expected to continue this year. I would like to thank you, as partners in your child's education and care, for working with us to ensure that Grove's high expectations impact on the very best outcomes for every child in school.

As you know, we celebrated 'Good to be me' last week and it was lovely to hear the children explain about why their choice of outfits made them feel good (there was debate between the children wearing different football strips as you can imagine). During the day, the children also learned about disabilities and researched our focus area: diabetes. Ask them what they now know – you will be wowed!

Y3 Gryffindor have been applying their magical learning again! They have been practising using fronted adverbials based around the scene of the sorting hat from their key text and film and have been learning how to use inverted commas for direct speech too. In maths, they have been comparing and ordering 3 and 4 digit numbers and writing numerals in words and vice versa. Magical musical learning has also been evident from the 'wonderful' sounds coming from the year 3 classrooms this week! The children have been playing instruments that represent and re-create the sounds from their current text focus and topic links; music to my ears!

Knowing all of the multiplication tables is key learning for children in Hufflepuff (Year 4). They have been focussed on their 7 times tables, learning a song to sing to help them and have investigated multiples of 9 where they have noticed and used a sneaky pattern. They are getting much quicker at rapid recall of these multiplication facts through using these fun approaches. Ask them to show you! Interestingly, they've been learning to use fronted adverbials in their writing in Hufflepuff. As quick as a flash, they made their writing far more interesting for the reader! The children tell me that they are enjoying learning about Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs and have been set fun learning tasks as 'code breakers' by their teachers.

They have also been learning all about the social hierarchy of Ancient Egypt, with the fascinating pharaohs at the top and the pitiful peasants and sombre slaves at the bottom. They have thoroughly enjoyed presenting their research to the rest of our classes and creating 3D social pyramids to put on display. Wait until you see them!

Year 5 Ravenclaw have started to use figurative language in a range of exciting ways to draft, edit and re-draft their narrative openings based on their class text: Beowulf. This is a lengthy but effective process in teaching and improving writing application that we implement across the school. You will be able to see this for yourselves on parents' evening soon. In Maths, children have begun to explore their understanding of negative numbers which can be a very tough concept to grasp for even the best mathematicians. The children and teachers would appreciate you working on this at home too, I'm sure. Ravenclaw have also started their Year 5 swimming lessons where they will build on their skills and stamina from previous years. There are a couple of future Olympians that we have our eye on!





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Year 6 have looked at rounding in mathematics; wait for it..... not just 100s and 1000s – numbers up to ten million! Ask them to explain and justify their rounding to you. In English, they have been writing a descriptive setting for the story, Dracula, focusing on using expanded noun phrases. They have also been developing the use of commas in their writing to avoid ambiguity and are now beginning to write their own examples. Year 6 have also finalised their Mary Celeste newspaper writing and are moving onto developing art skills in their topic work over the next few weeks. It is fair to say that, even though the children have enjoyed all of the fore mentioned, they have most enjoyed telling me lots of facts about the digestive system and how it works. It's fair to say that they were slightly amused to find out where food ended up...

As well as all of the exciting news shared with you today, we need to share a thank-you and goodbye to one of our valued members of staff at Grove. Mr Hill has been successful in gaining a position with the Local Authority, where he will be signposting community partners to advice and support services. This is an area of particular interest to Mr Hill and we know that you will join us in thanking him for his loyalty to you, as parents and carers of Grove Academy.

As you would expect, safeguarding is a priority for us as a school and one of our exciting developments is that we are building a family focused, community inclusion/safeguarding team across our community Multi Academy Trust: Esprit. We are delighted that Mrs Oaks (a familiar face from Hamilton for many of you) will be working with us at Grove, as our community safeguarding lead. She will be increasing capacity and re-addressing priorities to ensure that all staff at Grove hear and respond to the voice of the child and champion their safety and wellbeing.

And finally for now, I would like to thank you all for reading with your children at home. Most children are now reading every night and this will most certainly impact positively on progress and give the children the best possible chance of meeting/exceeding age related expectations at Grove. I look forward to sharing your support with other areas of homework throughout this term too.

Have a wonderful, well-deserved, relaxing weekend everybody.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Machin  
Academy Principal

