Blog w.e. 09.10.20

It’s been another busy but brilliant week here at Grove! The children all continue to amaze us all with their super attitudes and hard work. This week we have celebrated World Teacher Day in school where the children have thanked all of their wonderful teachers for all their hard work. The teachers all received a lovely certificate with comments from the children and a small thank you gift for them to enjoy. We held our first virtual assembly to celebrate and thank the teaching staff which was different but lovely.

Myself and Mrs Moran had the pleasure of carrying out a ‘learning walk’ this week where we visited all classes to take a look at the learning taking place. It was an absolute privilege to see all the children hard at work and really engaging in their learning. I continue to be blown away by how well they have adapted to this new normal, and am so proud of my staff for all their efforts in making it work.

We have released our virtual Multiplication Tables Check parent’s meeting for Year 4 this week. Please take time to watch the video and read the Powerpoint as this is very important information that you need to be aware of. We have also released our Year 6 SATs video and Powerpoint which we want to bring to the attention of all Year 6 parents/carers as it contains vital information that you need to be aware of, particularly the dates of the assessments as we need you to ensure that holidays are not taken during this time.

Next week our Year 3 children will be leading our Harvest celebration which we will share with you virtually to enjoy. We are sad that we can’t invite you in to share this with us but at the moment it is so important that we do all we can to keep everyone as safe as possible. We will still be collecting donations of food to share with the Stoke on Trent Foodbank – please check the letter regarding this carefully to see what foods they are allowed to accept. All donations need to be sent into school on Monday 12th October and they will then be quarantined before being collected and shared with others in need. We appreciate that times are difficult for many at the moment but please support us in helping our local community if you are able to.

This week, year 3 have been using all their wonderful new vocabulary to describe the mysterious figure of the Iron Man. They have looked closely at his appearance and how gigantic he is. They have been continuing their learning on place value in maths, starting to look at how to represent different numbers including hundreds and use these in a range of contexts. In science, children have started their new topic of forces and magnets which will be linked to their class text story and their writing in English. Year 3 have also been learning about Harvest Festivals around the world and celebrating the many things we have to be thankful for. It has been so lovely to hear about all the wonderful things we have to celebrate and be grateful for in all of the children’s lives! The children and staff look forward to sharing their virtual Harvest celebration with you very soon!

It has been a busy week in Year 4 as children are beginning to complete a working model of the digestive system in Art. This continues to be a source of great excitement as the young scientists become more expert at explaining how the digestive system works using the correct scientific vocabulary. The children are now becoming more proficient at recalling their 2s, 4s and 8 times tables using a range of fun games! Please support them with learning their times tables at home as this is very important learning that will be a great help in maths. In English they are writing their explanation texts and looking at editing and improving skills whilst ensuring that they use the correct features. PE as always was full of fun as children practise their tennis skills. We’re certain to have a future Andy Murray or Johanna Konte in our midst!

Year 5 have had a super week, this week, too! Continuing with the Space themed topic, our lovely year 5s have been doing lots of investigations to find out more about the Earth, Sun and Moon and now know that there are 8 planets in the solar system (along with 5 dwarf planets, too). Why not ask your children the acronym they learnt to remember the planets in order of distance from the Sun? Their use of Scientific vocabulary has been impressing their teachers and it is great to see the children so immersed in their new topic! In English, Year 5 amazed their teachers with their beautiful completed descriptions using adjectives, similes, prepositions and adverbs. They are now starting a new text type - explanations! In Maths and times tables, Year 5 have continued to apply their knowledge of place value in a range of reasoning problems and have been practising the 4 and 8 times tables and learning all the different tricks to remember their tables. In French, the children loved learning about how to greet others both informally and formally - I can’t wait to hear them practising throughout the next week!

It's been another learning packed week this week in Year 6! The children have used the dialogue skills they learnt last week to write a narrative based on their topic text 'Pig Heart Boy'. They have been recounting the first meet between Cameron and Dr Bryce and the teachers have been blown away by the language that the children have used! It is clear that the children understand the characters well and have been able to show the character's thoughts and feelings through the 'show, don't tell' technique! In Maths, there has been a focus on negative numbers and the children are now confidently able to explain what a negative number is and what happens as numbers get further away from zero. Why don't you ask your child to explain their understanding? In Science, the children have explored the respiratory system and discovered how this is linked to the heart and circulatory system. Teachers have been amazed at how well the children have engaged with the circulatory system topic and we are sure that there may be some budding doctors within the year group!

Children are all becoming more settled in school week by week as routines become more and more embedded and their learning continues. I know that I have already said it but we are all so proud of how well the children have adapted and shown that they understand the rules – they truly are fantastic!

Your child/ren will shortly be receiving a letter detailing how we will move forwards with homework. This will contain details of their logins to the different learning platforms that we use in school so please do make use of these to support learning at home.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Have a lovely, safe weekend.

Mrs Carrigan