Blog w/e 09.11.18

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term which promises to be another busy and fun filled time! I hope that you all had a lovely break – it has been great to see all of the children back in school telling us all about what they have been up to during the break. I have had the privilege of observing lessons across the school this week and it has been amazing to see the excellent behaviour and positive learning attitudes of all of our pupils – they are a credit to you all. All of the children have been able to talk confidently about their learning and seeing them engage and be excited about their learning has been delightful.

Thank you to all of those that joined us for our lovely Remembrance assembly this week – this was a very thought provoking, poignant and respectful recognition of this important historical time which the children in Year 5 delivered beautifully (and a very important part of our celebration of British Values). The children had worked really hard on what was a very moving performance and we are so proud of them for their efforts. Also a huge thank you to all parents and children who helped to support the poppy making to decorate our magnificent stage.

Gryffindor (Y3) have had a fantastic first week back and have shown real enthusiasm towards their work. The children have been engaged this week with their new maths topic on subtraction. They have looked at varied ways to calculate answers as well as which mathematical equipment can be used to support their understanding. The children have worked hard to explain their thinking using mathematical language. In writing they have been focussing on non-chronological reports, looking at their features and what information can be conveyed within them. In Science they have started our new topic of light. The children have been learning to recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark occurs due to the absence of light. Well done Gryffindor – a great start to the second half of the term!

Y4 Hufflepuff have also had a fantastic week to begin the new half term. Children and staff alike are very excited for this half term and are ready to work as hard as they can! Hufflepuff have been busy comparing and ordering numbers beyond a thousand and have been using objects and pictures to do this before moving on to the amounts written in numerals. They have all been using their excellent maths brains to explain their thinking. Also, children were very excited to receive a postcard from Mrs Blackhurst telling them all about her travels to Egypt - they have been set the mission of writing to a magazine (which shall remain unnamed) to say thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime. Mrs Blackhurst has sent the children's imaginations wild with her fantastic photographs- especially the one on a camel’s back. I’m sure that the children will love telling you all about these and the great things that Mrs Blackhurst has been up to!

The children in Ravenclaw (Y5) have returned from the half term break showing wonderful enthusiasm for their learning. In English this week, they have been very busy preparing for their writing assessment based on Michael Morpurgo's Beowulf. The children have used some remarkable language to describe Grendel's journey out of his eerie ravine, into the gloomy forest and over the misty moorlands towards the cursed Mead-hall. Year 5 have really embraced this topic and, as a result, have produced some fantastic writing. Well done Ravenclaw - super start to the Autumn 2 term. In Maths, children have consolidated their understanding of square numbers from the previous term and have also developed their understanding of square roots using a range of equipment and strategies. It's been brilliant to hear the children use a wide range of mathematical language during this topic including commutativity, inverse, squared and indices – ask them if they can give you definitions for all of these words!

This week the Year 6 Slytherin children have been successfully applying their understanding of the writing skills needed to create a haunting setting description using all of their understanding from the class texts that they have read. The children have created some great examples of sinister settings: creating suspense and tension! I am really looking forward to reading some of these but am hoping that they are not too scary! In maths, the children have developed their understanding of calculation using the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). They have demonstrated their understanding through some excellent collaborative working using a range of visual and written strategies. The children have also begun their science topic looking at space and beyond our world. This will help support their understanding ready for their trip to Jodrell bank next week which they are all excited about.

As I am sure that you will agree the children have had a fantastic first week back and we all look forward to what the weeks ahead bring. Please continue to support your children at home with their reading, spelling and times tables in particular – it really does make a difference.

Wishing you a restful weekend

Mrs Carrigan