Blog w.e. 14.06.19

What a wet week it has been! So much for it being the summer term! Let’s hope that the weather soon picks up and we can all enjoy some sunshine. It has been a busy week here at Grove as always with lots of exciting learning opportunities taking place.

This week, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed continuing with learning all about fractions. They have been exploring equivalent fractions by folding paper, using number lines, drawing fraction walls and generally just searching for patterns and clues to help them. By the end of the week, Year 3 were thrilled to have discovered a faster, more efficient way to find equivalent fractions! Why not ask your child to show you how they would find equivalent fractions for ½ - I’m sure you’ll be amazed at their knowledge. In English, Gryffindor children have been reading a range of persuasive letters and identifying the layout and language features found in this genre of writing. They have been so excited to write their own persuasive texts, persuading the school kitchen to only purchase Fairtrade products! From forming their arguments in the form of a friendly debate, to planning out their key arguments, they have made a superb start in this unit of work and I can’t wait to read some of their letters next week! In Design and Technology, the children have been researching the design criteria used for chocolate bar wrappers, focusing specifically on Fairtrade chocolate bars. They identified which wrappers were fit for purpose and best reached their target audience and then used this information to design their own wrapper! I was amazed by their creativity and their excellent, innovative designs.

Hufflepuff have also had yet another phenomenal week of learning. From persuading the judge to set them free from jail early to finding tenths and hundredths in decimal form - just wow! The vocabulary the children have explored this week to help their argument to be freed early has blown the teachers away - it was amazing to see that children not only came up with vocabulary but then decided they would uplevel these word banks by using a thesaurus to find even better language – well done Year 4! Tenths and hundredths can be a confusing old topic, but the children have worked extremely hard with exploring different equipment and methods to divide by both 10 and 100. This knowledge will be extremely useful to them and is a key area of mathematical understanding. Geography this week was extremely interesting as children were exploring habitats of different animals. As a year group they uncovered some interesting facts - especially the animals that can be found in Europe, lots of which the children didn’t expect. It is so amazing to see the awe and wonder of new and surprising learning!

The children in Ravenclaw have settled well into their last term of Year 5 and it's been full steam ahead as they have moved on from writing newspapers to begin to learn about poetry. Mythical Greek creatures have remained a hot topic in Year 5 as all classes have researched some mysterious figures such as the barbaric and tribal 'Centaur', the ferocious 'Ceberus' and his fierce sister 'Chimerea' and the dastardly, snake-haired: Medusa. As well as developing their reading skills by retrieving key facts and traits around these mythical brutes, the children have started to explore language about these characters in preparation to develop ideas around poetry. In Maths, Year 5 have shown great success in their understanding of the very complex subtraction of fractions – this is always a tricky topic and one which always presents challenges. In D & T, Ravenclaw have started to learn about Greek cuisine and their food culture - we are so excited to taste some Greek foods next week! Finally, in PE, as the Cricket World Cup is taking place, cricket is the new focus as children have been developing their fielding skills through short and long barriers. Howzat!!!!

In year 6 this week, the children have completed their persuasive leaflet for Camp Green Lake. Using a range of persuasive devices along with high level vocabulary, they have produced some excellent results and it has been delightful to read their writing. Following on from this they have begun to write a letter to one of the camper's parents; they have had to ensure that they 'twist the truth' as they recount Stanley's experience at the camp. Glow Sports was a real highlight of the week and a treat for the children doing so well during SATs week: they played neon dodge ball and 'freezers and melters', all under the UV lights. They had an amazing time alongside developing their ball skills. In swimming, we have again seen a growth in confidence as the children learn to complete lengths using different strokes.

I am sure that you will agree that it has clearly been an action packed week!

This week we have had a Teaching Learning Review carried out by an external inspector – Andy Reid. We have requested this review to help us to assess the progress we are making towards improving outcomes at Grove and to identify our next areas for improvement. I will write to parents shortly with the feedback from this review, as our feedback is not until Friday evening.

On Sunday, as we celebrate Father’s Day, I sincerely hope that you all have a lovely day celebrating the special men in your lives. I hope that you treasure the wonderful cards that the children have made.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Carrigan