w.e. 14.09.18

Welcome to my second blog of the term – I cannot believe that we are already at the end of week 2! There is a lovely busy buzz around school as all of the children are getting their teeth into their new topics and working hard in their new classes. It is lovely to see the children so enthused in their new learning as I move around school.

The Year 3 Gryffindor team, have been astounded by the continued enthusiasm the children have shown again this week. Not only have they applied themselves to all tasks put before them but they have shown huge gumption when tackling more difficult challenges. In Maths they have continued to develop their understanding of place value through learning about the values of digits in larger whole numbers. In English the children have been using their organisational devices to structure their own prospectus for Hogwarts. They have developed their understanding of why these devices are used to enhance reading experiences. In Science, Year 3 have continued to look at forces this week through creating their own pin-wheel windmills to investigate how forces react on different materials – I am sure that they would love to make one at home to show you what they have been investigating.

Hufflepuff Year 4 have had another exciting week of learning ranging from challenges in place value to writing fabulous character descriptions. In English this week the children have been focussing on applying their nouns and pronouns skills to help them write a character description for Ka (the cat from our class text). In class, children have even practiced moving like cats so they could really get the feel for Ka! Hufflepuff have worked super hard in Maths too where they have continued to embed their place value skills by applying them to some tricky challenges set by the teachers, who could not catch the children out! Also this week, children have begun to look at the Egyptians and have started to order the timeline of events which bought lots of conversation to their carpet time – ask them all about it as I am sure that they will be excited to tell you all about it!

Wow, what another fantastic week in Ravenclaw. This week has seen the introduction of their superb class text by the author Michael Morpurgo: 'Beowulf'. The text is set in Viking times and follows the hero, Beowulf, as he tries to rescue the people of Herot from "the evil that stalks out there in the darkness and beyond". Feeling enthralled, the children have become completely immersed in the story and have been developing their own ideas about characters from the book including the sinister and evil demon: Grendel. He is on the loose and children will be appealing for his capture via a "Wanted poster" which they will be designing next week. In Maths, Year 5 have continued to deepen their knowledge of place value by ordering and comparing numbers up to 1,000, 000 – I’m sure that they can show off their skills to you! In Science children have been astonished by the power of Friction - who thought paper text books could be so powerful!? Ask the children to perform the "friction test" at home!

This week in Year 6, the children have continued with their work on the text 'Dracula' by Bram Stoker. The children have been introduced to the latest character, Van Helsing, who they hope to persuade to come to the rescue. When writing, the children are looking at how to use precise nouns and verbs to clarify meaning as this is something that they need to develop a good understanding of in order to be working towards the expectations of the Year 6 curriculum. This has also linked into the children's creative work where they have looked at the key locations from the book, on a map of the world, and studied the Victorian mannerisms, which can help to build an understanding of the characters and how their life would have been during these times.  Year 6 Maths sessions have been focussed on ordering and comparing numbers where children have been justifying their answers using clear place value knowledge. It is crucial that children have a solid understanding of these key concepts in order to tackle the mathematical challenges of the curriculum.

As I am sure that you will agree from reading the above, there is a great deal of exciting learning taking place here at Grove. Please continue to learn spellings, share a book and practise times tables at home as we cannot express enough how much this can support your child’s learning.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Mrs Carrigan