Blog w.e. 15.02.19

Welcome to the final blog of this half term! Half way through the academic year already! It has been another very busy week here at Grove and I am sure that you are all looking forward to the half term break. The children have worked very hard for the whole half term and we are all very proud of how they demonstrate their MAGIC attitudes and behaviour for learning – well done everyone! I know that the teachers are also looking forward to a well- earned break and a chance to recharge their batteries before the excitement of the second half of the Spring term.

Year 3 pupils have become poets and they didn't even know it this week! From building rhyming strings to experimenting and playing with vocabulary, the children have thoroughly enjoyed writing poetry all about the 'things' in the dump based on their class text 'Stig of the Dump'. They also began learning some homophones to help them think about sounds that are the same and also began to think about rhyming words. The children have developed some fantastic ways to remember the difference between the spellings and meanings of these words such as 'Weeping Lashes' when you baWL and 'Eat A Kitkat' when you take a brEAK. In Maths, Year 3 children have moved on to multiplying a 2 digit number by a 1 digit number. This has proven to be particularly tricky, although the children have really impressed us with their perseverance and gumption. They have used a range of maths equipment such as Dienes apparatus, cubes and counters to represent these calculations and to help them to solve problems. In Science this week, Year 3 have learned and retold the interesting story of how Roger Rock needed to change his name to Simon Soil. I'm sure you are intrigued. Ask your child all about this! The Year 3 teachers and I are very proud of them all!

Hufflepuff have had yet another amazing week to round of this half term. The children have certainly earned their week off! This week, Y4 have been completing their final writes for their non-chronological reports about Roman jewellery - these look beautiful and have been a delight to read. As well as this, in Maths, the children have been working hard to multiply more than 2 numbers which has been a tricky skill to learn! The children have shown great resilience and have learned that it doesn't matter which way round the numbers go, you still get the same answer as multiplication calculations are commutative (get them to explain how commutativity works!). In creative, children have been translating town names back to their Roman origin names, they've explored ancient maps of Ostia and have had the opportunity to create their own Roman towns using a criteria. Hufflepuffs' topic books look beautiful with the addition of all of this week’s work! Well done Year 4!

The final week in Year 5 has seen much excitement with the launch of a new class text: Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland'. The children have loved delving into this mysterious but fascinating text as they have begun to understand the main character (Alice). Children have made some intriguing predictions using the front cover and the blurb of the book whilst they have also been making inferences about the character’s personality and thoughts.  The children have loved the text and have hardly wanted to put it down. We look forward to developing a narrative based on 'Alice in Wonderland' next term. In Maths, Ravenclaw have begun to develop their knowledge of area and perimeter of irregular and non-composite shapes – please challenge them at home to explain this to you. In Science, reversible and irreversible changes have been a hot topic of discussion through the use of sorting and separating mixtures. Finally, a big well done to all classes in PE who have enjoyed some enthralling and competitive games of Bench ball.

Mock SATs have arrived in Year 6 this week. It has been fantastic to see the children responding to this in such a positive and confident manner and I am very proud of their maturity as are all of the Year 6 staff. This will be very informative for the teachers as they are able to identify the gaps in learning which they need to focus upon over the coming half term. Alongside this, the children have read and discussed the poem ‘The charge of the Light Brigade’ by Lord Alfred Tennyson. After reading and unpicking the poem, they have produced excellent descriptive writing by ‘exploding a moment’ within and looking at what this would look like in a narrative format – I am sure that they will tell you all about this technique at home! In Maths, the children have been solving addition and subtraction of fractions problems where they have had to draw on addition knowledge such as mass, length and money. Well done Year 6 it is brilliant to see you applying your maths skills across different contexts.

I wish you a lovely, restful half term and send my sincere thanks for your continued support towards Grove. Please continue to support your children to practise their reading, spelling and times tables over the break as it is crucial that we stay focussed on securing this learning. Enjoy your family time together, let’s hope we have some good weather!

Best wishes,

Mrs Carrigan