Blog w.e. 19.10.18

Welcome to my penultimate blog of this half term! Time has flown by this half term and it’s hard to believe that we only have 4 more school days until the half term break – just a reminder that we finish on Thursday of next week (25.10.18 - usual end of day finish time).

This week has been another busy one, especially for our Year 3 superstars as they gave an outstanding performance in their gorgeous Harvest Assembly. The children spoke and sang beautifully and it was lovely to see so many of you in attendance to watch your special small people in their first Grove performance showing how truly fantastic each and every one of them are. Thank you again for your support with their amazing costumes.

Gryffindor have had a fantastic week of learning! They have continued to work on addition in Mathematics this week and introduced the bridging skill. This has been a challenging task for many children but their determination has been second to none. They have really showed off their magic attitudes and resilience! Ask them to explain what bridging is at home and I am sure that they will love explaining their new learning. The children have revisited some of the Y3/4 curriculum spellings this week which has shown how much the children have been using their home learning to support their achievements. In reading, they have learned about making predictions and how they are influenced by our prior knowledge and our previous reading.

It has been an exciting week in Hufflepuff as the children have been taking part in fun learning activities by mummifying each other using the ancient Egyptian processes! It was very quiet when they were all wrapped up!! Luckily, all of them were de-mummified before the end of the day!! In Maths, children have been consolidating their learning with negative numbers and been using these in real life situations – they all did very well and are developing a good understanding of this concept. Strangely, a mysterious cat has been on the loose at Grove Academy this week! The children have only found this out because there have been some strange posters appearing each day. Children have been challenged to write their wanted posters and there have been some extreme rewards for Ka's return; we're not too sure where the children are going to get these lump sums from! Children and staff alike are also super excited for the trip to Birmingham Museum next Tuesday and Thursday to further enhance their knowledge of our topic – they cannot wait!

Year 5 have also had an enjoyable week with the culmination of their final narrative write based on the opening scene of the class text: Beowulf. The children are incredibly proud of their body of work which has been several weeks in the making and their teachers are very impressed with the range of figurative language displayed! In English they have now moved on to developing the tricky skill of using hyphens! They have started to develop their knowledge well - have a look out for hyphenated words out of school and ask your children to report their findings! In Maths, Year 5 have moved on to rounding and learned about the value of this skill in real life. The children have been working hard all week on rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000 and 10,000 so please feel free to test their knowledge at home! In Reading, Year 5 continue to develop their inference skills as they read a variety of challenging texts during their guided reading sessions. Their competitive edges have started to show during "hit the button" times table sessions! Can you beat their score at home?

In Year 6 Slytherin this week, the children have delved into how suspense can be created in writing – a difficult skill to acquire but one which they have worked extremely hard on. They have then applied this into their own stories with great effect. I cannot wait to read some of these and see how amazing their writing skills are becoming. In maths, the children have continued to apply their understanding of more complex negative numbers into a range of contexts. They have also completed their practice SATs baseline testing in maths and SPaG which will allow us to clearly identify any gaps in their learning. This has also been a great opportunity to ease the children into test scenarios in order to help them feel most comfortable and get used to the way in which questions are presented. We are all very proud of how excellent their attitudes have been throughout the tests. Well done Year 6!

Please continue to support your children at home with their reading, spellings and times tables. These are extremely important skills and knowledge for them to master. Hopefully the sunshine will continue for a few days!

Have a relaxing and restful weekend,

Mrs Carrigan