Blog w.e. 10.01.2020

Happy New Year and welcome back to what promises to be a super 2020 here at Grove! I sincerely hope that you all had a fantastic Christmas break and had a great time with loved ones. The children have returned to school eager and ready to learn and have all quickly settled back into the routine. It has been a real treat catching up with them as they have excitedly been telling me all about what they have been up to! All classes have begun new, exciting topics – please make sure that you check the termly newsletters for each year group on the website to find out all about what your children will be learning this term.

Year 3 have started the year as Grove’s very own mini ‘Isaac Newtons’ during their two explorative days of Science. They have been learning about forces and magnets along with developing their scientific thinking and vocabulary through various experiments and investigations. The children have investigated the impact friction has on a moving vehicle, explored how magnets work and what materials are magnetic. They then wrote up their findings and used them to form their conclusions explaining how it either proved or disproved their hypothesis. In English, Year 3 have begun to look at their new text; the ‘Iron Giant’. To engage the children’s enthusiasm a scenario was created where the children had to use their inference skills to draw the character being described. They then used similes to help improve their own description of the Iron Giant. In Maths the children are beginning their final unit on multiplication and division. They have been reviewing previous vocabulary as well as beginning to look at furthering their knowledge through new strategies and the use of bar modelling to support their comprehension of the questions being asked. If you are unsure what bar modelling looks like please ask your child as I am sure that they would be able to explain it to you brilliantly!

Year 4 have also had a fantastic start to the spring term and are in full swing with their new learning adventure. This week they have begun their new topic ‘Why is the music made by Ed Sheeren enjoyed by so many?’ Our question this week ‘What made that racket?’ helped us to discover sounds we love and sounds we don’t like as well as thinking about why some sounds are important. We learnt about the parts of the ear and labelled a diagram to show our understanding. During English, we have started to read our class text for this term ‘The Pied Piper of Hamelin’. We made predictions from pictures of the rats invading the town and have investigated vocabulary that we can use in our own writing. In maths we have carried on with the multiplication and division unit. This week we have been looking at multiplication and addition. We have used arrays and ‘part whole’ models to help us.

Year 5 staff have enjoyed welcoming the children back this week after the Christmas holidays! They have been discussing their learning question for this half term – ‘Does everything that goes up always come down?’ Staff have heard some very interesting responses! In Maths, they have briefly recapped on area and perimeter and have also started their learning around multiplication and division. Children have had the opportunity to manipulate counters and other equipment to deepen and support their understanding. In English, they have looked at their new text ‘The Man Who Walked Between the Towers’ and are truly fascinated to find out that it is a true story! They explored Phillippe’s thoughts and feelings at different stages of his plan to walk between the towers. During the afternoons, they have discussed what forces are and explored how air resistance affects falling objects. The highlight of the week has been making their very own parachutes and thinking about how to make sure that their testing of these was fair. Why not discuss with your children real life examples of air resistance this weekend? They’ll love to share all they have learnt with you!

Year 6’s first week back has been a super start to the year. The children have come back filled with enthusiasm for their new text ‘The Spider and the Fly’ and their new topic on classification of living things. The children have begun to develop their understanding of their class text through sequencing events and summarising the key points. They have looked at the two main characters and started to discuss their thoughts and motives. In Science, the children have been tasked with sorting a variety of images into different groups. This is their baseline assessment for the topic and staff are very happy with some of their knowledge retained from Year 4. Next, they will begin to look at how life can be classified in more detail. In Maths, Year 6 have been problem solving with fractions and have learnt different methods to apply to different problems. Their vocabulary is very impressive: why not ask them what they can share with you at home? In addition to this, the children have started their design & technology project where they will look at the construction of the Spider’s parlour from the text. They have researched and investigated how structural engineers design and make buildings and they very much enjoyed testing the strength of structures using marshmallows and cocktail sticks.

I am sure that you will agree that the children have all made a super start to the term. There are lots of exciting learning opportunities planned over the coming weeks so please check through our diary dates, which will be released shortly, to ensure that you know what is coming up.

Please ensure that you continue to support your children at home by reading each night with them and supporting with times tables – this is particularly crucial for Year 4 pupils in preparation for their multiplication tables check in the summer term.

Many thanks

Mrs Carrigan