Blog w.e. 11.10.19

The end of week 6 of the half term already! Harvest rehearsals are well underway this week for Year 3. The stage is currently being transformed ready for next week’s dress rehearsals and the children are working hard learning all their lines and the array of seasonal songs. We can’t wait for you to join us on Friday to see the children shine on stage.

This week we have celebrated our Mental Health Awareness Day where the children came to school wearing something yellow to show their support. The children looked fantastic and all thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and workshops that took place throughout the day. There were lots of strategies and ideas shared and discussed around helping to keep ourselves healthy both mentally and physically including meditation and the power of positivity. We sincerely hope that the children took a great deal from this and will use some of their learning to support themselves and others.

In Year 3 this week in English the children have been editing and improving their big writes from last week. They have been focusing on spellings and the structure of their sentences, thriving on the opportunity to up level their work and seeing how their writing can develop further. However by the end of the week they read the next part of their class text: ‘Orion and the Dark’ and found there was a shocking twist to the tale, taking the story in a whole new direction. This has enabled the children to advance to a new level with their vocabulary, helping them really embed their understanding of word classes and the impact they have on how each sentence is composed. I have no doubt Year 3 will be continuing to deepen their skills based knowledge and understanding, ready to impress staff further in their next big write. Year 3 have continued to consolidate their understanding of exchanging, when solving addition or subtraction problems. Each class are constantly changing and manipulating their problems through concrete, pictorial and abstract methodology to help deepen their understanding. Gryffindor’s artwork is impeccable! They have been looking at how shadows and shading can add texture and dimension to their drawings. Amazingly, they have even been using the ipads to take photographs inspired by the shadow artists Henry Cartier-Bresson and Kumi Yamashita. They experimented with torches to manipulate different shadows in order to create their own digital art using their techniques.

In English, the children in Hufflepuff have been learning about a new genre of writing: Explanation texts. They have been exploring what makes a good example of an explanation text and have been answering a range of comprehension questions based on the text type. Next week, they will be using all of their fantastic knowledge from their Science learning to start drafting an explanation about what happens in the digestive system. In Maths, the Year 4 children have built on their understanding of place value and have been working to add together 4-digit numbers. They have impressed their teachers with their subject knowledge of when and why we exchange sometimes during addition. I am sure that they will be ready for subtraction next week!  Finally, in Science, the children have continued to explore teeth this week and have been investigating why different animals have different types of teeth. They compared them to their own set of teeth.  The children learnt some very interesting facts about shark's teeth, please ask them what to share their learning!

Week 6 has been a great one in Ravenclaw and the children have again continued to amaze us all with their fantastic work. In Maths, Year 5 classes have moved on to addition and subtraction. The children are beginning to develop strategies and also to check their answer, including using rounding to estimate as well as the inverse operation. It is great to hear the superb Maths vocabulary that the children are using around school and this shows the progress they are all making in their learning. Writing and Reading sessions have seen children drafting a character description about Dr. Drax from their class text ‘Cosmic’, perfecting their ‘show don’t tell’ techniques learnt in previous weeks. Fantastic learning has also been taking place in topic lessons as pupils in Year 5 have discovered the daily routine of an astronaut. It’s fair to say that is now an area of work that many of our children now wish to peruse! Lastly, French lessons this week saw Ravenclaw pupils fluently describing the months of the year along with some key celebrations. They also learnt to say Happy Birthday in French! Très bon!

This week in year 6, the children have been writing a narrative based on their current book ‘Pig Heart Boy’. The children have been retelling the event of Cameron meeting the doctor who will carry out his pig heart transplant. I have been blown away by their writing and I certainly think there could be some potential authors in our midst. In Maths, pupils have continued to explore the four operations; this week’s focus has been on developing a range of strategies to help answer division questions. After spending the half term planning and designing an alternative healthy snack, Slytherin AB and JB-P started to put their plans into action by baking a brownie using sweet potato, avocado or beetroot. Slytherin CB and AW will produce theirs next week. In Science they have been investigating the life’s work of William Harvey and the impact he had on the understanding of how the body works. Why not ask your child to tell you 5 facts about him? As we near the end of our topic on the circulatory system, the children have started to gather all of their knowledge together in preparation to present to the rest of their class. We all look forward to seeing them demonstrate their understanding next week when they show us their PowerPoint presentations.

Another week of exciting learning here at Grove! The children really are amazing and fascinate us every day with their thirst for knowledge and learning.

Thanks once again for your ongoing support.

Mrs Carrigan