Blog w.e. 23.09.19

Welcome once again to my weekly blog. Another busy and exciting week here at Grove as always! I am sure that I speak for all of the staff in saying a huge thank you to all of the parents who were able to come to our parent-teacher meetings on Thursday evening. It was lovely to see all of you and it really does help us to support your children when we have conversations early in the term. With that in mind, if you weren't able to attend this week, please contact your child's teacher via the communication diary and they will be more than happy to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.  Thank you to the parents who took the time to complete our ‘settling-in survey’ on the night. It was great to receive very positive feedback about our transition arrangements this year. There were also many useful comments about things which parents felt could be improved so we will be looking at how we can improve these aspects over time.

The children are continuing to thoroughly enjoy their PE sessions at Northwood Stadium – the focus this week has been around jumping and how to develop a high quality jump in order to be successful at the long jump! The Year 6 children have attended the ‘Safe and Sound’ event at Hanley Fire Station this week where they have learned all about keeping themselves safe. They have looked at vulnerability, what to do in an emergency, staying safe when out and about and fire safety. I was fascinated by the fact that all of the children could stand in front of an articulated truck and from sitting in the cab you can’t see a single one of them! This was a real eye opener and really valuable learning for the children about how careful they need to be around these large vehicles. The children were very positive about the whole visit and learned some very important life skills. Their behaviour was excellent and I am very proud of the way in which they represented the school.

It’s been another busy week for Year 3, especially with it being their first week at swimming. The excitement was emanating from the children on both departure and arrival back to school. I think it is safe to say the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are all looking forward to next week’s lesson.

In English, this week, Year 3 have been learning and developing new skills ready for their big write next week. They have been looking at how they can improve their writing through adding fronted adverbials and prepositional phrases. The children have all demonstrated an excellent ‘growth mindset’ during these lessons and truly embraced the challenge. This week in Power Maths Year 3 have begun their second unit. This unit focuses on addition and subtraction and the different methods that can be used to solve these mathematical problems, such as the use of a number line, the ‘part-whole’ model and even using the column method. In Science they have had to face a dilemma: Orion (the main character in their English text) is in desperate need of a coat, one that is covered in reflective materials to help him be seen in the dark. The children have taken on this task with enthusiasm, beginning to learn new scientific vocabulary such as opaque, translucent and transparent. This will ensure that they are ready to plan and carry out a scientific experiment to find out which material will be best for the job.

In Hufflepuff this week, the children have been busy putting their number skills to the test and have learnt how to compare and order numbers up to 10,000. They can even compare them when many of the digits in the numbers are the same! The children have also learnt the terms 'ascending' and 'descending' to help them with their ordering this week – fantastic maths!

In English, our Year 4 children have been budding recipe writers, who have studied how to write the perfect instructions to make a healthy snack. They have been focusing on their use of key vocabulary, especially imperative verbs and have used adverbs to explain how to carry out the action. I am sure that they will be able to explain this technical language to you at home. In Science the children have presented their knowledge about the digestive system to the rest of the class, with someinteresting home-made songs to accompany their explanations.

This week, Ravenclaw have also had yet another week of exciting learning. In English, the children have been using subordination and speech to write fantastic, imaginative narratives about the conversation between Dr. Drax and Liam from our class text, ‘Cosmic’; when Liam finds out he has won the mystery prize of ‘World’s Best Dad’. They have been focussing on the technique ‘show – don’t tell’ using their inference skills and it is brilliant to see how much their writing has improved over the last few weeks. I can’t wait to see their final narratives when they are written up on Friday this week. Maths this week has seen children rounding to the nearest million and they have enjoyed solving problems as well as learning all about negative numbers. Times tables sessions have focussed on the 6s this week and the children in Year 5 are getting quicker and quicker at these every day! Year 5 look forward to another great week next week when they will be meeting a new and exciting character in their class text, ‘Cosmic’ by Frank Cottrell Boyce.

In Year 6 this week, the children have been discussing the characters in the book ‘Pig Heart Boy’ in preparation for their narrative which will be written in the coming weeks.  They have used drama to portray the characters in role and have used freeze frames to discuss their thoughts and emotions. I am sure that we have some budding actors and actresses that the stage beckons! In maths, the children are now looking at multiplication by one and two digit numbers; they have solved missing number problems and applied their understanding in reasoning questions. Science has been great fun this week- the children have been learning about the respiratory system. They have designed an investigation using balloons to test lung capacity and discussed their results. Why not ask them what they found out?

Thank you again for all of your support for the Academy and your child’s learning. Please continue to support your children at home with their homework, reading and times tables. Also, take into account the targets shared with you at Parent’s evening.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Carrigan