Weekly Blog 25.09.20

Welcome back to the first weekly blog of this academic year. It’s been a strange start to the term with all of the new restrictions in place following the lockdown but I have to say that we have been delighted with how everyone has adapted and adhered to the new rules and systems to keep everyone as safe as we can and it has been amazing to see all of the children back in school and hear the buzz of learning that we have missed so dearly over recent months. The children have absolutely wowed us with how quickly they have settled back in, we really cannot tell that some of them have spent so long out of school! I cannot thank you enough for helping everyone to return safely and for supporting us whilst we have developed and established safe procedures. The responsibility and maturity of the children is a credit to you all as they have been keeping themselves and others safe with good hygiene and using our one way systems sensibly.

The Year 3 children have settled into their new lives at Grove impeccably well. Each and every one of them have demonstrated a fantastic attitude and motivation in their return back to the structured routine of school. They are now well and truly back into the full swing of it all, taking everything in their stride. In English, the children have been developing their skills to support them in writing a story opening. Their stories have been inspired by the story ‘Orion and the Dark’ which is centred on the timid, scared boy; Orion. During the last two weeks, the children have been developing their vocabulary bank whilst looking at the impact different sentence types have on the reader. The narratives they have written are a wonderful showcase of what they have to offer. A super start to the academic year! However, the exploration of the dark did not end here as the children have been exploring and investigating shadows. At the beginning of the week they designed and made their own shadow monsters, looking at the impact opaque and transparent objects have on the formation of shadows. They have continued to build on this as the week has progressed, through experiments to consolidate their learning. Look out for these on your child’s Class Dojo story, their shadow monsters were a frightful site to behold. In Maths we have been looking at place value and simple addition and subtraction sums to help develop their confidence and growth mind-set, although the children are eager to start writing in the Power Maths practice books next week.

It has been a busy three weeks in Year 4 as the children have returned and got back into the new school routines. They have hit the ground running by writing a fantastic set of instructions for a simple circuit and how to have the skills to be safe around electricity. It was wonderful to see the amazing work that they have produced and to see them applying their knowledge of making a functional circuit which we have explored in Science. These positive attitudes were not only evident in their English and Science but in their Maths too as they recapped topics from home learning. Please, please practice times tables with your children at home as it is vital that they know all of these right up to 12x12! Active time has taken place on a daily basis – children have enjoyed learning games together and being active has been fun not only for the children but their class teachers. What a super start to the year Hufflepuff!

What a brilliant week year 5 have had too! We are so proud of how all the children have come back to school and embraced the new topics that they have been presented with. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about irreversible and reversible changes in Science lessons and have been investigating how to separate materials, including using filtering, sieving and evaporation. In English, they have been thoroughly enjoying their new class text, Phoenix by S. F. Said, and are beginning to write their own description of Lucky’s bizarre dream from the start of the text. Why don’t you grab yourself a copy to read along at home? Within Maths lessons, our fantastic Year 5 children have been wowing their teachers with their problem-solving skills and brilliant use of mathematical language during their place value topic of numbers to 100,000. They have been loving using all the Maths manipulatives like base 10 equipment, place value counters and part-whole models to show different ways in which numbers can be presented. Across the curriculum, they had a great Computing lesson in which they made paper airplanes using their knowledge of algorithms, and in French, they learnt the language of ‘Our Home’. The children can’t wait to start their new topic of The Earth, Sun and Moon next week, too!

Our Year 6 children have delved into the world of characterisation in English this week, as they have unpicked body language and character description in the text, Pig Heart Boy. There have been some excellent discussions of the impact these descriptions have on the reader and the images they create. In maths, children have developed their understanding of number by partitioning and understanding place value. Year 6 have been working scientifically by planning practical investigations into how shadows are formed: why not ask your child to give you an explanation of how this all works? In their active time, the cohort have participated in HIIT sessions aiming to raise their heartbeat and fitness through short interval training.

As I am sure you will agree from reading all of the fantastic learning, children and staff have really welcomed the return to school and it is wonderful to have everyone back. We know that some children may have found the return more tricky and want to reassure you that we are doing lots of work around wellbeing and ensuring that children are well settled and ready to learn.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, have a lovely weekend

Mrs Carrigan