



Grove Junior School

Turner Street, Northwood, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST1 2NL
Telephone:(01782)234550 Fax:(01782)236404 Email:office@grovejunior.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Moran - Head of School: Mrs S Machin
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Blackhurst and Mrs L Morrall
Link Governor for Child Protection: Miss Michelle Chadwick

Where Every Child Does Matter

Our ref: SuM/EC

18th September 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the 2017 / 2018 school year from Grove Academy! I know that Mrs Moran and the trustees wrote to you last week to welcome you back and to update you on our academisation and formal collaboration with Hamilton and Northwood Broom as academy partners. We are committed to building and strengthening our community approach further as we teach, learn and care for our children together; enabling them to grow into competent and responsible adults of our world. Our community based inclusion team is expanding and we are excited to share the expertise of Mrs Qayum, as our Deputy Principal for Inclusion; Mrs Harrison, as Inclusion Leader and Mrs Oaks as our Senior Safeguarding Lead across our multi academy trust.

Our Grove family is growing and changing too! We expect all of our staff to have high expectations for our children and for themselves. We want them to be ambitious and aspirational. Thus said, I am delighted to announce that we have built a middle leadership team into our staffing structure. Mr Jones has been successfully appointed as Year 6 Lead with responsibility for Maths across the school, Mr Woods as Year 5 Lead with responsibility for Science, Miss Brown as Year 4 Lead with responsibility for English and Miss Commerford as Year 3 lead with responsibility for the Foundation Subjects. I would also like to welcome and introduce you to additional new staff to our Grove team. We have:

Miss Morris - Year 4 teacher
Mrs Extintari – Senior Teaching Assistant (Year 5)
Miss Wooliscroft – Senior Teaching Assistant (Year 4)
Mrs Worthington – Assistant Inclusion Lead
Mr Wright– Teaching Assistant (Year 5)

The children and staff have settled into their new classes and have adapted to the classroom moves without a hitch; including our 'new recruits' in Year 3 who were very excited to tell their infant teachers all about Grove when they visited last week. The children's behaviour and readiness to learn was clearly evident as Mrs Moran and I carried out our learning walk around school. Attendance, punctuality and adherence to our uniform policy has been pleasing and I ask that all parties: governors, staff, parents and children help me to ensure that our high standards, expected within today's educational climate, are consistently upheld.

I am sure that the children have told you about the exciting learning environment that they came back to after the holidays. We have our very own train station corridor and castle stage! The staff embraced the children's choice from 'one book, one school' as they arrived in character on their first day back.





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Our new communication diaries are now in use. These have been developed in response to parent, teacher and children's feedback. They include helpful information and reminders including uniform, homework, PE Kit and much more. If you think of other information that would be useful, please let us know and we can consider your viewpoints as we develop them further next year. Remember that, as part of our open communication policy, staff check diaries each day to see if you have written a message or would like to meet with them at the end of the day, or by appointment, to discuss any issues or concerns that you or your child may have. Meeting with your child's class teacher is always the first point of contact that should be used in such circumstances.

As Mrs Moran mentioned in her letter last week, we are working on the development of our new website. We know that Grove's current site is outdated and are really looking forward to 'becoming live' in the near future. We are looking forward to writing and sharing our Headteachers' weekly blog about the children's learning in school. We will also be setting up our school Facebook page as another means of sharing school experiences with you at home. We will keep you updated as these developments progress this term.

In the meantime, I will now share the start of each year groups autumn term.....

Gryffindor children (Year 3) have completed their first full week at Grove. A highlight for them has been their French lesson with Madam Barratt. I have had many excited children saying, "Bonjour Mrs Machin" as they see me in the classrooms and around school. They have also been completing their 'bleep test' in PE. Even though it was tough, they dug deep and all gave their best. They will be working on fitness throughout the term to increase their score. Miss Commerford and her Year 3 teaching team are really impressed with home reading. Thanks you for supporting your child's learning at home. It really does make a difference to educational outcomes for children!

Hufflepuff children (Year 4) are particularly impressed with their reading and topic areas with the theme of the Ancient Egyptians. They are enjoying finding out about this ancient civilisation and were quite surprised, when researching the history of online devices, to find out just how long ago the first computer was created (1938 – Can you believe that?). They were also learning about multiples of 6 last week and in English have been learning the use of the apostrophe to show singular and plural possession.

Year 5 (Ravenclaw) have impressed me with their improving evaluation skills as they mark their own work, and the work of their friends, in line with our marking policy. They have started to read their class text - the mysterious, Viking tale: Beowulf and have been developing initial ideas about the gruesome character 'Grendel'. In Maths, they have been deepening their knowledge of place value and are working on reading and writing numbers up to one million. Test their skills at home! You will be as impressed as I was.





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Last week, Year 6 (Slytherin) have been writing a blurb in English. Their blurbs have been based around their intriguing class text, Dracula, by Bram Stoker. They have also been exploring the circulatory system in science. Impressively, after a fun, practical lesson, they were able to recall key vocabulary such as: oxygenated and deoxygenated blood as well as being able to label parts of the heart. Some potential doctors, nurses and paramedics are in our Year 6 I'm sure!

Safeguarding is of paramount importance to us and our staff have regular training in this area. They have a deep understanding of their roles and responsibilities and are fully equipped to safeguard your children. As part of safeguarding, it is extremely important that we have up to date and accurate information in school for you and your child. To ensure that our records are up to date a data collection sheet will be coming home with your child within the next two weeks. Please check this form thoroughly and amend any information which is incorrect.

All pupils have been learning about safety, including e-safety responsibilities and road safety. I know that you are as passionate about children and adults using the internet safely and respectfully as we are. Road safety is particularly pertinent to our community, with the challenges that our surrounding roads and lack of parking bring. Indeed, improving parking safety, dropping off and collection from school will be a school priority this year and if you would be interested in volunteering in joining an action/ working group, please write an expression of interest in your child's school communication diary. In the meantime, thank-you for role modelling the safety measures and respect that we expect and teach to your children.

Here's to another week of exciting teaching and learning together!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Machin
School Principal