

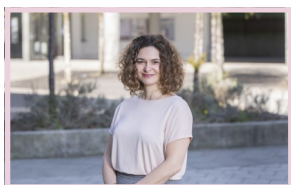


Inspire Excellence - Challenge Potential - Empower Learning

School Newsletter

2020 Spring Term 1

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HEAD'S WELCOME:

Welcome to the first school newsletter of 2020. I can't believe we are drawing to the end of our half term, and how

quickly this year is going.

This term I have noticed how pupils are settling into the routines and rhythm of the school. I have been lucky enough to get into classes on a regular basis and see some of the wonderful learning taking place from learning how to follow schedules to using Bunsen burners! There is such a range of great learning happening each day.

Next half term we turn our attention and focus to two key external reviews. We have a visit from the school improvement partner on March 3rd who will be visiting to conduct a "deep dive" into English/Communication and topic. The purpose of this is to reflect and assess how far we have come in developing the curriculum content. Part of this review is to understand how well we implement our curriculum subjects across the key stages and how well we support the development of skills and learning to help pupils be ready for the next stage of their education. We will have a second review into PSHE and Maths later on in the school year.

On March 25th-27th, we have our first Challenge Partners Review. This is a three day peer review conducted by 3 external professionals. The focus of the review is around the quality of education and the curriculum delivery. The reviewers will spend most of their time in classes watching lessons, meeting staff and pupils and looking at pupil's work and evidence of progress. At the end of the review we will receive a report with actions that will support school development. This is a valuable process which we choose to take part in for our own quality evaluation.

We are keen to gain external feedback to help us continuously improve the provision we offer to our pupils and their families.

I shall look forward to sharing the feedback with you in the next newsletter just before the Easter holidays.

Best wishes,
Lucia Santi
Headteacher

STAFF UPDATES: This term we have welcomed a new LSA Bernadette Nwakaeeze to city class and Charmine Xerri as our new locum Occupational Therapist. After half term Amy Crick and Nikki Rockwell will be joining us as our new Speech and Language Therapists. Kandee Hill will be joining the central class team as an LSA. Congratulations to Ms Carolina Torres who has secured the teaching post in Central class.

We say goodbye to Sarah McKeage our locum SaLT who moves into the NHS. Thank you to Sarah for all her hard work and support since September; she has really impacted the work on communication support within the school.

We would also like to wish Mr Peter Dunwell lots of luck as he leaves us for half a term to go on a school placement as part of his teacher training programme. Mr Dunwell will return to circle class after Easter.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance for the Autumn term was 89% across the school which is lower than our 95% target.

Attendance was affected by a number of pupils being taken out for extended periods of time and periods of sickness, particularly in the first half term. As I reminded parents and carers in our last newsletter, the school does not authorise extended family holidays outside of term time. It is a long proven fact that pupils make progress when they come to school. I hope you understand that our focus is solely on the progress of our pupils and the work we do has the most impact when the pupils are at school. I hope we are able to work together to ensure attendance rises in the spring term and also into the summer.

Attendance per Key Stage for the Autumn Term:

KS1 (Years 1-2)	82%
KS2 (Years 3-6)	89.7%
KS3 (Years 7-9)	92.03%
KS4 (Years 10-11)	92.91%
KS5 (Years 12-14)	80.39%

Deputy Head Message:



It has been another busy half term and Mrs Georgiades Pupils have been working hard. Our school council has been exceptionally busy this half term, helping us to choose The Grove's new Reading Scheme. I and all the staff are now looking forward to sharing our new books with all the pupils and young adults in our school.



Thank you to all our families that have contributed books for our school library, Post 16 students have been exceptionally busy cataloguing them all. Classes from across the school are now using the library to enjoy reading.



On Thursday 5th March we will celebrate World Book Day, like many other schools around the country, we are giving our pupils the opportunity to come to school dressed up as their favourite book

character. We will also be giving our pupils the opportunity to really enjoy the experience of sharing a good book. We want to celebrate the joy of getting lost in a good book and we encourage all pupils to bring along their favourite book to share.

This academic year The Grove School has been working with the SCERTS, (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support), Action Research and Innovation Group. As a school we are very excited to be part of the Teaching Assistant Mentoring Project, that will lead to a publication of 'A Teaching Assistance Handbook'. Additionally, all the work carried out by all our Learning Support Assistants will be part of a co-produced white paper with contributions from all schools called 'Using SCERTS to develop a Teaching Assistant mentoring programme'.



Primary News from Mr Mills

We have got some new scooters for the primary playground. The children are very safe and always wear a helmet as they whizz around the playground.



This term has been Materials topic in the Primary department, the pupils have been learning about lots of different types of materials in a range of ways including stories in English and experiments in Science



The school now has two new mini buses which we are planning to take full advantage of next half term. These mean we can provide lots of adventures and enrichment to our primary curriculum both locally and further afield.



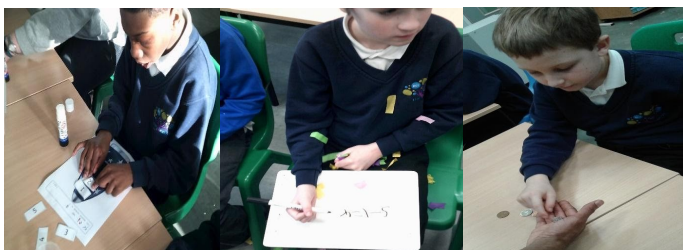
Some of our pupils have been going to weekly music therapy sessions which is helping to build confidence, communication and a whole range of skills.

Circle Class



This half term our topic has been Materials. In English, we have been reading, writing and answering questions based on The Three Little Pigs. The Pupils have been able to identify the characters and articulate (using various AAC methods) what is happening within the story. The Pupils have been able to build on their knowledge of 'The Three Little Pigs' and began to write their own version by choosing the characters and new materials for the houses. In Circle Class we have been learning new vocabulary and using the new words to make sentences.

In Maths we have been learning how to count forwards and backwards, the concept of subtraction, as well as learning about Money and what that looks like. We have been using concrete examples to help students visualise the learning before moving to more abstract form. We have been using our Math skills in various lessons to embed the learning and to show how to use the new skills in a functional way. For example, in PHSE we created a 'shop' where students exchanged money to 'buy' toys etc.



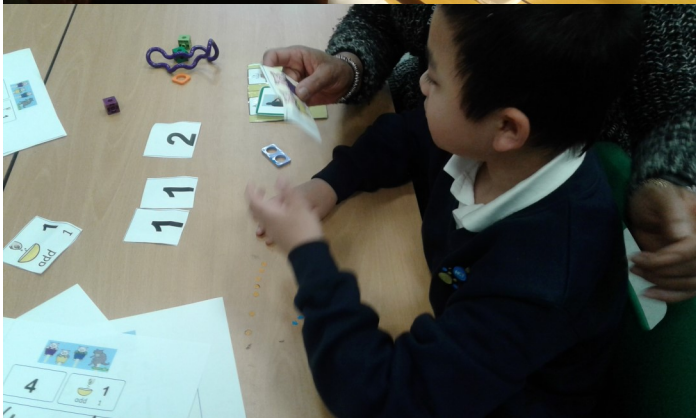
Top Tip for Parents:

When reinforcing any lessons, it is important to always start off with concrete evidence. For example, with subtraction, have objects in front of the students physically, demonstrate taking x amount away and then counting the remainder. Repetition and modelling is key to understanding and retention of any skills being taught.



City Class

Our pupils have worked very hard since coming back from the Christmas break. We have been working hard with a wide variety of activities in our materials topic. doing plenty of activities under "Materials topic". We have read The three little pigs story and we have explored different materials. We have progressed on counting skills completing simple sums and subtractions.



The class have enjoyed experiencing materials using all their senses and we have communicated using PECs to label actions and nouns. We have been practising shapes (2D and 3D shapes) by exploring objects and have labelled daily objects using symbols. We particularly enjoyed preparing sandwiches working skills such as spreading, grating and cutting. Well done, City class!

Victoria Class



This half term the topic has been 'materials' and in literacy we have been learning about the two sensory stories 'The Journey Home From Grandpa's' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. The Pupils have been colouring in pictures and tracing and

writing words. They have sequenced pictures from the story and matched with words. We have used the materials featured in the stories to build different structures and we have been sorting the materials into soft and hard.



In maths the Pupils have been learning about 3D shapes and money. The Pupils have been sorting 3D shapes and matched them to pictures. They have used the 3D



shapes to build and they have used nets to make the shapes. The Pupils have been using pennies to pay for different toys and they have sorted and matched coins.



In PSHE we have started practising tooth brushing and explored healthy foods. In cooking we have been filling wraps and pancakes and have learnt to spread jam and cut fruits. We have also started to use 'Zones of Regulation' to learn about different emotions.



Secondary East News from Mr Wood

In Secondary East Pupils have adapted well to new staff and changes in the timetable. We now have an even broader curriculum offer and we are starting to think about next steps for our Pupils moving into their second year at the Grove. We have seen some excellent displays of leadership and empathy, helping out in Primary PE lessons and across the school. Next half term there is going to be a focus on getting Pupils out into the local area to support building essential life skills.

District Class



This half term District class have focused on Life Skills and PSHE in form time. We have been cooking everyday meals such as beans on toast.

We have also been learning about friendship and appropriate consent in PSHE. In history they have been looking at WW2, linking to our theme for this term, Acceptance. Learning about the holocaust has given Pupils new perspectives to consider and discuss.

Science has been full of experiments, exploring the periodic table and the difference between elements and compounds.



During art we have been studying artists chosen by pupils and looking at their work in greater depth. In English Pupils have focused on poetry and writing skills based around WW1 and in maths they have been looking at angles.

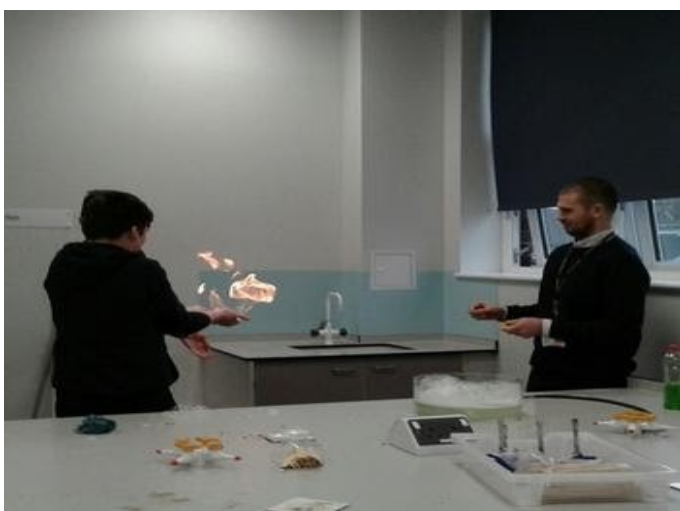
This term has focused on computer skills particularly coding giving our Year 7

Metropolitan Class



Metropolitan have been participating in a range of subjects and activities this half term. Pupils have welcomed Ms Steventon in Maths and have been learning about angles and coding; WWI poetry in English; lots of cool experiments in Science; Russia and

Communism in History; researching artists in Art; and lots of football skills and games in PE. Pupils have supported primary classes in PE and shown fantastic leadership skills. Keep up the great work!



Secondary West News from Ms Colhoun

It's been a very quick half term and life in the secondary west department has been full of action. Key Stage 3's topic this term has been "Rumble in the Jungle", students have been exploring wildlife, nature and the climate in the jungle. Key Stage 4's topic this term is transport and they've done some fantastic creative writing around the theme of their dream journey.

Thank you to all the families that came to participate in their child's annual review of their EHC plan this term; it was a pleasure to meet you all and hear about your child's life outside of The Grove. Next term I look forward to the remainder of the annual reviews for our pupils in the secondary department; these are important meetings so please do contact us if you are unable to attend so that we can rearrange to hold the review at a more convenient time.

Have a lovely half term holiday!

Bakerloo



Bakerloo Class have had a brilliant start to spring term and a fantastic start to 2020! Our topic this half term has been 'transport' and we have really enjoyed learning about amazing places all over the world. In English, we thought about where we would go if we could go anywhere in the world. We researched, discussed and then wrote some beautiful pieces of

writing about our dream journeys. We thought about what we would see, hear and smell and what it would feel like – the Pupils used some fantastic adjectives and then illustrated with beautiful drawings.



In maths, we have been learning about measuring different lengths using different units of measurement. Everyone really enjoyed measuring things around the classroom and did really well with beginning to estimate lengths too. In the number strand, we

have been learning about how to halve and double numbers. We have used different objects to show how to do it before solving number problems on paper.

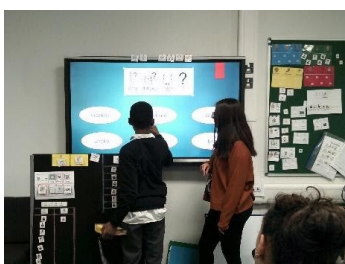




In life skills, we have been learning about transport in our local community. We have used ICT to help us plan journeys and then use this information to help us find places near to us. We have started going shopping to buy ingredients for food tech lessons and are learning to be independent when walking outside and finding what we need from the supermarket.

It has been a very busy but focused half term, well done Bakerloo!

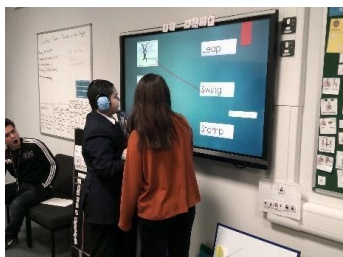
Central



The students from Central class have been very busy this half term. They have been doing a lot of work around phonics, recognizing the different animal sounds, recognizing and reproducing the pho-

nemes "s" and "a", and clapping out the rhythm of words containing 1 and 2 syllables.

We introduced our new Topic "Rumble in the Jungle" through a new Sensory Story: they enjoyed learning about the animals. We used the Sensory Story to work on communication skills.



During PSHE, Pupils have learnt about what it means to be a good/bad friend and how our actions and behaviours can make people happy or sad. We also worked on the importance of exercise and all the benefits from it. During this last week we started talking about hobbies and things that they can do during their spare time.

Central class students have participated in a lot of physical activities, such as Soft Play and PE twice a week and an active minds circuit every morning. Water play sessions has helped Pupils to be more independent, to improve social skills and interact as a group and make friends.



Cooking has been successful as we have been following methods and



instructions: Enjoying the meal together after.

Jubilee

This term has been quite busy for Jubilee class. Our topic was Rumble in the Jungle and we've been learning about various animals; looking at their habitats, body parts and sorting them in groups during Science. During Phonics and English we have been matching sounds to animals and writing poems.

In Maths we have been developing our addition and problem solving skills while using money and adding coins or notes to specific values. We also worked on word problems and started exploring multiplication and learning the times tables. You can help your child by including them in your shopping trips and allowing them to buy something small independently. would be amazing if you could include your children in your shopping trips and allow them to buy something small independently in order to develop their life skills in various settings.



For SEARCH day we focused on Acceptance. We talked about respecting others and accepting differences. We gave an assembly presentation where we sang 'Imagine' by John Lennon.



We have also practised our cutting, spreading, mixing and cooking skills during Food Tech lessons. This term we made delicious pizzas and learned how to cook noodles and pasta. During your cooking at home try to involve your child as much as possible!





This half term it has been a joy to see how all Pupils have achieved a great deal of independence when in the community. Everyone in Piccadilly class has been able to go out to buy the items they needed in a shop and practice at and being safe when walking on the street. In addition, their ability to use a shopping list, find the items and then pay at the till continues to improve every week. We are immensely proud of everyone in Piccadilly class for their effort and their great progress.

During our Music lessons we started learning how to play the ukulele. During our PE lessons we've been practising our football skills.



Well done Jubilee class for another great term!



Piccadilly



Piccadilly class have had a very good start to the new year. This half term we have been learning about animals that live in the jungle. To learn about this topic we have read the book

"Rumble in the Jungle". In English the students have been looking at what the animals look like, adding adjectives to their sentences, using either symbols or writing. Piccadilly class have also done a lot of work around commenting using their PECS books or core vocabulary boards (CVB) to comment on what they see and hear during interactive activities between peers and adults. During our reading and phonics sessions, all students have been improving their reading skills depending on their level, as well as their comprehension, answering simple questions with visual support about the book.

In Maths this half term Piccadilly class have been learning about shapes, 2D and 3D and their properties. All the students have enjoyed activities such as creating their own 3D shapes, or counting the number of faces or vertices.

Post 16 News from Ms Elton



I can't believe that we have already completed another half term. It feels like we have only just returned after Christmas and the wonderful Christmas production that the students put on. Saying that, it has been another great term with lots of activities and learning taking

place throughout all of the post 16 curriculum. It has been great to see the students return with such a positive attitude towards their learning and as I have gone into their different lessons I have been impressed by the work they've been producing and how they are preparing for those next steps towards independence. I would also like to thank all of the Post 16 students for helping me to catalogue the library and prepare it as a place for learning.



Post 16

In PSHE Post 16 students have been learning about well-being. They understand the importance of exercising and the vital role of eating a daily healthy balanced diet. They understand the principle of moderate eating of protein, carbohydrate, fruits, vegetables, dairy and sweets. We have used this to choose recipes to cook and eat for lunch in school.



Post 16 understand the importance exercise such as, the gym, long walks, running or swimming. They also recognise the importance and enjoyment of dance a fun way to develop and enhance their personal well-being.



News from Miss Huseyin

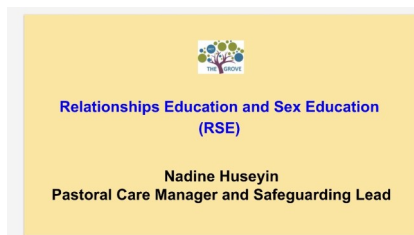
Children's Mental Health Week



We had a great week celebrating Children's Mental Health week by taking part in yoga, mindfulness, a morning cake and snack party and many more activities. This is a great week dedicated to understanding and learning more about healthy minds and also learning that it is ok to not be ok!



Relationship and Sex Education Workshops



Thank you to all the parents who have attended the workshops/ consultations.

There are still a few dates left,

please return forms via school.

Wednesday 4th March 10.00-12.00

Monday 9th March 10.00-12.00

Wednesday 18th March 10.00-12.00 and 1.00-3.00pm

Coffee Morning



My apologies for cancelling the last coffee morning. I hope you can all join me at school on **Tuesday 10th March between 10-12pm**

After school clubs:

After school clubs will be starting when we return from Half Term. We are aiming to provide a mixture of different clubs every half term and are encouraging all students to participate in some enjoyable activities with their peers. If you have any questions get in contact with Daniel McKay Wood (daniel.mckay-woods@thegroveschool.co.uk) and please remember to send in the reply slips!



- **Thursday 27th February** SEARCH Day
- **Tuesday 3rd March** School Improvement Partner Visit
- **Thursday 5th March** World Book Day
- **Monday 16th - Friday 20th March** Assessment Week at school
- **Wednesday 25th March - Friday 27th March** Challenge Partners review
- **Monday 30th March** Pupil Progress Day: School is Closed to Pupils
- **Monday 30th March 1pm - 5pm** Parent Consultation Meetings
- **Friday 3rd April** End of Term 3.15pm
- **Monday 20th April** Back to School
- **Friday 8th May** Bank Holiday Friday
- **Monday 11th May** INSET Day School is closed to pupils
- **Friday 22nd May** End of Term

FINAL THANKS: We would like to thank all parents, carers and families for your continued support over the half term.

Working in partnership is such an important part of our school approach and ethos and we look forward to working with you all again next half term.

From all the staff at The Grove, we wish you all a very restful and happy half term holiday!