



Inspire Excellence - Challenge Potential - Empower Learning

School Newsletter

2020 Spring Term 2

Follow us on Twitter@thegroveschool_

Follow us on Facebook: The Grove School

Message from Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

It seems strange to be writing to you at the end of this term and in these unprecedented times. When we returned for the start of term back in January, none of us would have predicted where we would be now. Who would have expected that we would all be part of a virtual school community and students learning at home? It is a time of uncertainty and a time where we cannot accurately plan for what is coming next. What I can say though is how truly wonderful our families have been in their support for the school community and staff both in your feedback and your support with home learning. Thank you so much for some of the fabulous photos and videos of home learning you are sharing with us. It really is a magic moment to see our students and young people at home working and engaged. I know for some of our pupils working from home is challenging. We are all responding to different and unique ways to the changes and new routines, so please do not be burdened with any worries or guilt if your child is not completing all the work or tasks set for them at home. These are difficult times and there are no right or wrong ways of coping, we are all trying to do the best job we can in whatever our circumstances are. Staff will continue to provide creative activities and online learning tools for the students and we will continue this for as long as necessary.

Home liaison and contact will continue through our pastoral team, in the meantime, if you have any worries, questions or just need to speak to someone, you can contact your child's class teacher via email, the school office or via Ms Huseyin.

Easter

The school will not open over the Easter period. Following Government advice and guidance, we have undertaken risk assessments of every individual child to ascertain if they can remain at home which is the Government's top priority. All our students are able to do this safely and those with key workers in their families have provision at home to remain safe. For these reasons, the school is not required to open.

It may be too early to predict what might happen after Easter from Monday 20th April. This will unfold over the next two weeks, but please rest assured, we will remain in contact with you over the school holiday period via text, through the school website or via contact with our pastoral team. At this moment in time, we predict schools may be asked to continue to open for their most vulnerable children and children of key workers if they are not safe at home. Once again, we will look at each child and discuss this with families to ensure we make the safest decision and the right decision for the school community.

Again, if you have any questions, concerns or just want more information regarding the school holidays or returning to school, please do not hesitate to contact us at office@thegroveschool.co.uk or via Ms Huseyin and we will do our best to get back to you as quickly as we can.

School Updates

Annual Reviews: All remaining Annual reviews are now re-scheduled for after the May half term. If your child's annual review is due, it will still go ahead, most likely in the second half of the summer term. We will keep you fully informed as to any updates or dates.

Parent Consultations: Parent consultations were cancelled on 30th March due to school closure and COVID-19. Teachers are busy updating your child's PLP and will share these with you after Easter. The next scheduled Parent Consultation Meeting is due to take place on 10th July. If schools open and become fully operational sooner than expected, we will reschedule a time for you to meet with your child's class teacher beforehand.

Residential: We are very sad to announce that the residential trips have been postponed until further notice.

Transitions and Preparation for Re-Opening: We have been thinking a lot about planning ahead for reintegration and transition back to school once we re-open. It is likely that when we do open there will be a staggered opening to support the students in their re-

turn. We are mindful that the transition back to school, when it does happen, will be a challenge for many of our students and for many it won't. Once we know what the Government guidelines will be on schools reopening then we will ensure that we work with each family to make sure both you and your child are supported through the transition back to school.

Free School Meals: After Easter the school will be supported through the DfE voucher scheme which has been set up to support families who qualify for FSM. This system will take effect from Monday 20th April. These will be sent in electronic format, so please, once again look out for an email.

If you do NOT have an email or your email address has CHANGED please notify either Ms Huseyin or the school office (office@thegroveschool.co.uk) as soon as possible to avoid any delay in receiving your e-vouchers.

New Parent Newsletter

Format: We will be trialing a new format for parent and carer news that should make reading the newsletter a little easier on mobile devices, tablets and computers. These will be shorter and more frequent so that we are able to keep you updated with news as it happens.

We will be running a tester edition over the next couple of days, so we will welcome your feedback and your views.

We will continue with the half termly newsletter which will focus mainly on class news rather than school news and be divided into departments.



Primary News

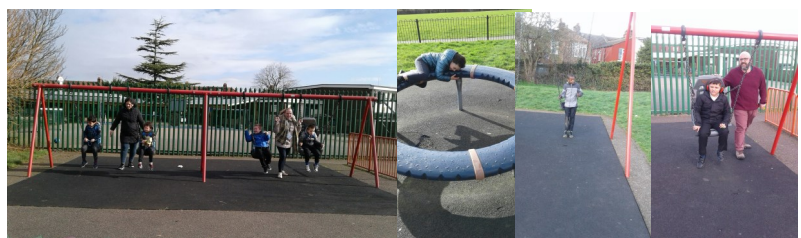


The Primary Department really embraced World Book Day earlier in the term, with both students and staff dressing up as their favourite book characters. There were various fun reading and book activities taking place throughout the day, including reading, 'The Cave' by Rob Hodgson and a Primary Department reading assembly where we all read The Three Little Pigs together. We had so

much fun a lot of the students asked for it to be read again!



This term we have started to go on weekly class outings to the local park. Getting out into the local community has been a big focus for the Primary Department. It has allowed us to work on a range of skills such as road safety, being aware of stranger danger, developing adventurous play skills in a new environment and developing the ability to finish a fun activity without becoming upset. We have had lots of fun and are looking forward to going out on lots more fun class outings.



Circle Class



This half term our topic has been Materials. Circle Class has explored different materials and looked at their properties. In addition, we have been reading and answering questions based on the story of 'The Gruffalo'. The Students all

loved the story and were able to answer questions on the story based on individual abilities and levels. Students were also able to sequence the story and write short sentences to describe what was happening. Everyone has worked incredibly hard to recall and retell the story. Reading and phonics has been at the forefront this half term. It was absolutely amazing to see Circle Class all dressed up for World Book Day! Furthermore, with the school library now filled with incredible books, we as a class have been reading daily with and to the adults in class. Reading is instrumental in helping children learn new vocabulary and improve their memory and comprehension. This has been evident in some of the work produced by the students this half term.

Our topic has been Materials. We have enjoyed plenty of sensory activities, students have explored materials, textures and temperatures. We have implemented two 'Messy play' sessions per week in order to support sensory needs. This term, they have had a lot of fun making playdough.



Additionally, we have started to implement a consistent Phonics structure in class. We learn one letter every week and the students learn through different activities: listening, writing and making sensory letters.

We have read 'The Journey Home from Grandpas' and we have implemented daily/weekly sessions at the Library. It is really nice to see how the students explore and read books alongside an adult.

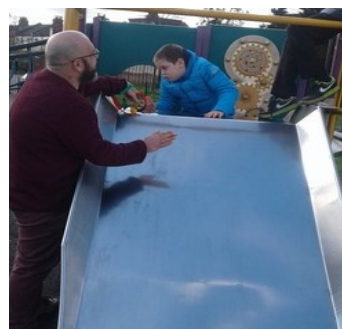


In Maths we have been embedding our knowledge of numbers, learning about different prepositions and addition. We have been using concrete examples to help understand different prepositions before moving to more abstract forms. Students have been able to describe where different characters are using symbols and use this in their writing.

Circle Class has worked incredibly hard this year and have coped with changes really well. We the staff, are very proud of our students and the achievements they have made across the board.

City Class

City Class has made a lot of progress this term. We have had a lot of fun and have introduced new activities. Every Wednesday, we are walking to the park and the students have enjoyed using the playground equipment. We plan to extend outdoor activities next term.



As you are aware, with the current situation, we have had to change to learning at home. I would like to say a massive thank you, with how you are supporting your child at home. This is greatly appreciated.

We will come back healthy and full of energy to face the Summer Term!

Great job which deserves a happy Easter!

Victoria Class



The students all made so much progress this half term. They enjoyed listening to the story 'Mr Wolf's week'. They took turns acting out the different types of weather by making it windy and rainy by using fans and spray cans and stomping in 'snow' and touching ice.

They matched pictures and traced weather words and we started talking about the days of the week.

In maths the students continued to sort and match coins and count out pennies to 'pay' for various toys. We started looking at capacity and the students enjoyed filling up containers with different materials to make shakers. We also continued to match and sort 2D and 3D shapes.

The students enjoyed their weekly walk to the park with Mr Mills and using the different playground equipment. In PSHE the students were practising brushing their teeth, cutting fruit and spreading toppings on pancakes. All the best until we're back in school again! Thank you to everyone who has been sending in pictures of what you are doing at home.

Ideas for Messy Play:

Dry Play Ideas

- Finding items in a tub of lentils or dried beans
- Driving cars or moving animals through dry cereal
- Tipping sand into containers
- Drawing shapes into flour
- Crunching leaves or tissue paper for art projects

Wet Play Ideas

- Finger painting
- Cooked and colour pasta
- Cornflour putty
- Drawing pictures in shaving foam
- Digging toys out of a jelly block
- Drawing shapes in yoghurt
- Pouring water between containers

Learning sites:

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Free workbook: <http://www.tts-group.co.uk/on/demandware.static/-/Library-Sites-TTSSharedLibrary/default/vaea75f5663a038b8658d258fd198e57ce70b35d6>



Secondary East News

This has been an extremely challenging half term and the students have adapted well. Both students and staff alike have had to change the familiar ways in which we teach and learn, Google Classrooms has become our way of sharing information and subject knowledge. We hope that everyone is able to access information and feels connected over this difficult period, we are all here for you. When we eventually return to the classroom, we will start thinking about transitions and what will be our second year at The Grove, it is scary to think that, even with its challenges, how quickly this year is going.

District Class

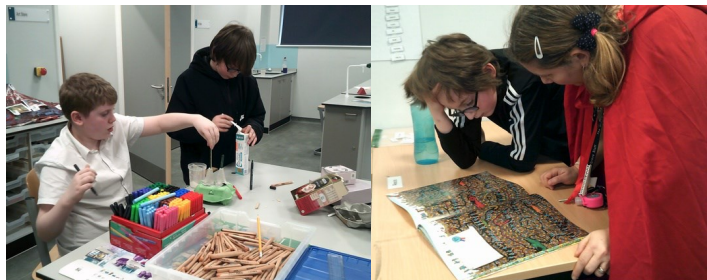


This half term District Class have been focused on engagement and helping the students to access their learning in lots of different ways. The students have been going to and engaging in a variety of lessons with their different subject teachers. In Art they have been focusing on the Formal elements, looking at key skills for line drawing, shading and shape. In Geography they have

been focussed on Natural Disasters, how they occur and safety measures. In Science, District Class have been looking at motion and forces. In English we have been focusing on Biographies and Autobiographies. In Maths they have finished their topic on angles and triangles and are getting ready to begin a new topic.

We have set up Google Classrooms for the students to be able to work remotely from home and are glad to see some students are already very engaged in completing their tasks.

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break,
District Team.



Metropolitan Class



Metropolitan Class are sending our very best wishes to all families, we have had a fantastic term and are looking forward to welcoming all students back to The Grove.

This half-term students have shown their ability in Food Tech: all students can follow recipes, prepare and wash up independently which is outstanding progress, well done!

The students have been working hard in every subject: food chains and experiments in Science; biographies and autobiographies in English; angles in Maths; coding in Computing; natural disasters in Geography; line drawing and sketching in Art; dodgeball in PE. It's been a busy term!



Metropolitan pupils continue to be positive influences around the school and act as role models for younger pupils during PE sessions and at lunchtime.

Secondary West News

What a strange half term we have had! We started our term in full action mode with Key Stage 3's theme being "water, water everywhere!" and Key Stage 4 continuing their learning around the theme of transport. It was fantastic to see all our classes now beginning to feel comfortable enough to explore their local community outside of The Grove, with pupils going shopping to purchase food for cooking lessons or visiting local parks.

Again, it was a pleasure to meet many parents as we continued to hold our annual reviews, I really enjoyed hearing about your fantastic students from a home perspective. We will make sure to catch up on all missed reviews as soon as we return to some form of normality after this strange period of uncertainty. I hope you are all managing and enjoying this extended period of time at home with your children. It is very strange not to see them everyday and I certainly can't wait to welcome them all back to school again in the future; until then please stay safe at home and keep in contact with our class teachers or Ms Huseyin. We love hearing about all the fun things you have been up to at home.

Bakerloo Class

It has been a term of extremes for Bakerloo Class this spring! The class have done some amazing learning in all curriculum subjects and have been gaining confidence with outdoor learning such as road safety and shopping. The Bakerloo team miss the students a great deal in this time of uncertainty and we can't wait to welcome them all back!



In English this term, we have been learning about how to write instructions for how to use public transport. The pupils have been leading up to writing an instruction manual for an alien from another planet and they have all really enjoyed it! We have been thinking about types of punctuation such as question marks and exclamation marks as well as identifying the key pieces of information needed to travel on public transport in London.

In maths, we have been learning about place value. Pupils have been identifying how many hundreds, tens and ones there are in different numbers and have been using dienes to represent them visually. We have also been completing number challenges using place value as well as consolidating foundation skills such as counting and sequencing.



In life skills we have been getting out and about in the community. We have been going shopping every week, which the students are getting increasingly independent with. We buy our ingredients for cooking that week and pupils are encouraged to look for the items and pay as independently as possible.



Bakerloo Class have shown great companionship and resilience this half term and continue to be such a lovely class to work with. Keep up the good work and I look forward to us all being back at The Grove again soon!



Central Class

This half term Central Class has been exploring the world under water. We read and worked through the book "The three little Mermaids". Our pupils have enjoyed travelling under the sea to meet the sea animals in our Sensory Story. They have implemented their key vocabulary with new nouns, verbs and adjectives based on our book. Our pupils continue to improve their communication skills using their PECS Books.

In Maths we have worked on number bonds of 5 and are learning to answer "How many?" when we add 1 to a group of 1-9 objects. We have used Numicon, counters, paint and other resources to make these abstract concepts accessible to them.



Central Class has worked hard in Phonics, every week we introduce a new phoneme and recap with those they already know. It has been wonderful to see how they engage in the lessons and how they do their best to repeat and learn the phonemes. We incorporate art into our lessons where they can make an animal or object to represent the Phoneme we are working with.



For cooking Central Class has been making pasta with tomato sauce and cheese. All the pupils have participated and enjoyed the cooking lessons, they are beginning to be able to prepare their meal almost independently.

Well done Central Class!

Jubilee Class

Jubilee Class has shown great resilience this term and they have been very enthusiastic with their learning, even during this challenging time.

Firstly, in Maths we have started learning the Times Tables; Multiplication and Division facts but have also worked on 2 step maths problems. The students worked very diligently and enjoyed using our school's online learning tools to practise their multiplication and division skills (Timetables Rock star). We have also gone out shopping to the local Tesco. The students were able to find the items on their list and pay for it independently using 5p, 10p, 20p and 50p coins. They were all so excited and proud of their achievements.



Finally, we have been practising our football skills during PE and also created an amazing choreography during 'Dance with Mr Maddy'. It has been a challenging term but I could not be more proud of all my students for persisting and working hard to complete their tasks and develop their skills. Well done Jubilee Class and thank you parents for making sure they continue their learning at home. Stay safe and stay strong.



In English we enjoyed the sensory story 'Under the Sea' through which we explored different sea creatures, sand and shells. We then used the story 'Finding Nemo' to practise our reading skills but also to explore and describe characters, sequence the story and answer questions. We have also been using Bug Club for

guided reading and reading comprehensions which helped the pupils to develop their literacy skills.



For Science, we explored the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases and how we can change them from one state to the other (i.e. melting, freezing). We also learnt about the water cycle and the 4 important steps: evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. The students were very interested in the lessons and carried out experiments while using scientific language to understand the water cycle.



Piccadilly Class

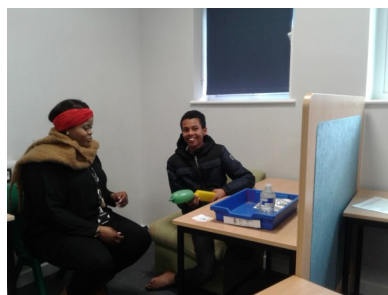
It has been a challenging end of term for everyone in Piccadilly Class, but I am proud to see how well everyone has dealt with the sudden changes. This term Piccadilly Class has worked really hard in all areas of the curriculum and their life skills.

In Maths we have focused on Number, learning about counting, number bonds, addition, and subtraction. Our topic this half term has been about water, and it has been a great opportunity to make all our Maths activities fun and engaging. The students have used different water animal toys to support their counting, made a pufferfish out of playdoh then count the number of spikes or used them to represent their number bonds, among others.



In English, Piccadilly Class have enjoyed reading and working with the book "The snail and the whale". They have worked on their comprehension skills, answering simple questions about the story, sequencing the pictures, telling the story using small world toys, ordering sentences and of course acting out their favourite scene from the story - the sharks chasing the whale!-

During our topic and science lessons, they have been working hard on their peer-to-peer interactions and learning about the habitats and animals that live in oceans, seas and rivers.



They have also been experimenting with the states of the water, using ice, water and gas (balloons) to represent and then label each state.

In our afternoon sessions, they have continued to learn about social and interaction skills, practising their commenting ability using their individual communication aids, and learning to play with other peers and adults.



Piccadilly Class has continued with our weekly shopping trip, this half term they have been learning to do their shopping in different avenues, such as the fruit and veg market in the high street, Lidl and Sainsburys. They have all achieved a great deal of independence with their shopping skills but also in

their awareness of road safety. As soon as we are back, we will move towards using public transport.

The whole team in Piccadilly Class is looking forward to seeing you all back very soon at The Grove school!

Post 16 News

Dear all, this is a very strange newsletter entry to write as we have become a virtual school!

I just wanted to say how amazing all of the Post 16 students are at managing the changes that we find ourselves facing and also a big thank you to all of the teachers in the Post 16 team that kept them so calm throughout. I have been speaking to parents and students this week and it has been great to see that everyone is completing work on Google Classrooms and BugClub, as well as doing all of the Life Skills tasks being set everyday by their teacher. Thank you parents for all your support with this too.

Have a lovely, if not very different, Easter Holiday.

Post 16



The new topic for Life skills learning objectives are for pupils to further develop and enhance their interpersonal skills to contribute to positive relationships. They have been learning how to develop their people skills that will help them to plan and direct their relationship in a personal, professional and social setting. Their first lesson in this unit before going into remote learning is about understanding public space, social space, personal space and intimate space.

They have learnt to use their arms to measure personal space, they understand that personal space begins about an arm's length away; starting around 46cm from the person you are in conversation with and ending about 4 feet

away.

They know this is the appropriate required distance for personal space when engaging in conversation with a person/people in personal, professional and social situations.

Nadine News

I cannot tell you how proud I am of the community at The Grove School. Everyday I wake up to photos and videos sent from families sharing updates of events at home. They really do brighten up each day! I have seen arts and crafts, cooking, painting, exercising, Joe Wicks workouts, rainbow pictures, reading, games, maths I could go on!

Please keep sending messages, videos and photos as I do update staff weekly. If I can share the photos with staff or on our twitter / facebook please include permission in the text or email.

I have spoken to many of you over the past couple of weeks and will continue to be available during Easter. I am sure we all appreciate the communication during times like this!

Just a reminder that my email is

nadine.huseyin@thegroveschool.co.uk

for any of you who have concerns, I will check it frequently over Easter. Or of course, please call my mobile.

Remote learning can encounter online safety concerns so I am just re-sharing the internet safety information for you all.

Childline

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> contact 0800 1111

The UK Safer Internet Centre

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

CEOP

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

London Grid for Learning

<https://www.lgfl.net/default.aspx>

Net-aware

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

If you are worried about a child call

help@nspcc.org.uk

0808 800 5000

Parent info

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Thinkuknow

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

National Crime Agency to stay safe online

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

A lovely message from one of our families...

Thank you our amazing NHS, essential service people and all other frontline workers!



Thank you all for your continued support.
Nadine

And Finally



Here are some photos of Raiza, from Post 16, teaching her son how to wash his hands as well as supporting him on how to read his social story about corona virus sent from his school.

