



# CURRICULUM NEWS

2022 Autumn Term 2 - Primary

*Inspire Excellence  
Challenge Potential  
Empower Learning*

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## Headteacher's Welcome



What a busy term and there have been so many things to showcase. My highlight was the pupils' fantastic performance in the school production of

Peter Pan. This for me exemplifies how we should never lower the ceiling of expectation and encourage pupils to aim high! I really hope those of you that managed to attend enjoyed the show!

Curriculum work this term has seen the introduction of more enrichment activities outside of the classroom to complement teaching and develop those critical life and wider social skills. We now have a full quota of subject leads in place leading the development of the academic curriculum across the school. In our review this term for English, Maths and Science all learning was never less than good with many examples of outstanding practice across the school.

Thank you to parents and carers with your continued support with attendance. Our school average has risen to 91% which is fantastic. This has had a positive impact on progress across the school.

Wishing you all a peaceful and healthy holiday. All good wishes for 2023!

Best wishes, Lucia Santi, Headteacher

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## Teaching, Learning, Curriculum



We are fast approaching the end of term and we have a lot of excited pupils and needless to say staff ready for the festive break!

Our pupils continue to amaze me in so many different ways, they have all worked so hard this term. On Pupils Progressed Day, we looked at the progress made by each individual pupil in the different areas across the curriculum. I was overwhelmed by the progress they are making.

Our pupils' performance in Peter Pan is another incredible achievement, we have a number of inspiring actors within our mists.

Class teachers and Head of Departments are now busy with planning for the Spring Term to continue this way.

You will find in this edition a lot of updates about what has been happening in your child's class this term and some suggestions and useful links to help you when working at home with your child.

Thank you to all the parents for your continued support and we hope you have a restful Christmas break and a happy new year!

Best wishes, Helen Georgiades, Deputy Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
3rd January	INSET - No Pupils
4th January	Pupils back to school
16th January	Family Workshop Session 1
24th January	Family Workshop Session 2
26th January	Grove Governor Meeting
30th January	Family Workshop Session 3
2nd February	Family Workshop Session 4
3rd February	Family Workshop Session 5
6th February	Family Workshop Session 6
10th February	Break Up for Half Term
13th-17th February	Half Term
20th February	INSET Day - No Pupils
21st February	Pupils Back to School
22nd February	Family Workshop Session 7
1st March	Family Workshop Session 8



## Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

Thank you to parents / families who have attended the coffee morning this term. We will get some more dates for Spring booked in and we will be holding these in the Sixth form cafe.

The dates for parent workshops in the new year have been sent home in a letter and are listed in this newsletter.

Many of you might not know that we have a facebook group! This is a group for parents / carers with pupils at The Grove. It has been created to enable our families to share local information about events, share ideas, arrange meet ups or to even give away old uniforms. I am the admin for the group, please feel free to join us!

Children's Mental Health Week and Stand Up to Bullying return in February and departments will continue their work for PSHE across the term.

Wishing you all a wonderful festive season and a happy new year.

Best wishes, Nadine Huseyin  
Designated Safeguarding & Mental Health Lead

[nadine.huseyin@thegroveschool.co.uk](mailto:nadine.huseyin@thegroveschool.co.uk)

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at The Grove. There have been some real success stories across the school and a number of pupils have made significant steps in terms of behaviour and engagement this term. We are continuing to work on supporting all students to develop positive self-regulation and communication strategies.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the family workshop sessions that will be starting next term. I personally am really looking forward to meeting some of you!

I hope you all have a great holiday! Best wishes, Louis Maunder (Senior Leader for Pastoral Lead and Behaviour)

### Careers and enrichment

Thanks again everyone for all your support with trips and workshops this term. It has been a busy term for Careers and Enrichment and there have been some fantastic on and off site trips and activities. We are already planning more exciting events for 2023, including **Careers Week (6th - 10th March)** and the return of our **Careers and Next Steps Fair**.

### Also coming up:

- Divergent Thinking / Mobile Film Making workshops
- More Kentish Town City Farm visits / Work experience
- Early morning explorers / London Transport Museum
- London Law Courts
- Pet Club
- Scope
- African Drumming
- NHS Cadets
- Groundswell Arts Communication Pod

It is an exciting time for Careers at The Grove and you can now find out more information on the website in our new "Sixth Form and Careers" section.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions around careers or options for post 16 and beyond:

[bronja.elton@thegroveschool.co.uk](mailto:bronja.elton@thegroveschool.co.uk) or on 020 3876 6555

Bronja Elton - Director of Sixth Form/Careers Lead

### PRIMARY NEWS

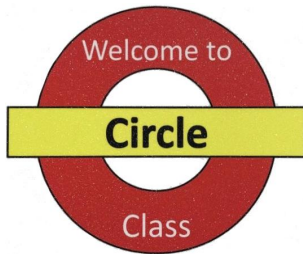
#### HEAD OF PRIMARY: MR MILLS

This term the Primary department has been working on the theme of 'Food'. The pupils have had the opportunity to learn about and explore a range of foods and ingredients across the curriculum. Pupils have read books about foods, made new foods and eaten various dishes from around the world.

This half term, the SEARCH value has been Empathy. Class teams have been awarding weekly certificates to pupils that have demonstrated empathy and understanding to their peers and class staff.

The Primary department will begin a new theme of 'Materials' after the Christmas break.

Have a great Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back in January.



## CLASS NEWS

This term Circle Class have been exploring the book 'The Disgusting

Sandwich' by Gareth Edwards. We have loved engaging in a 'disgusting' sensory story to help us bring adjectives to life by dropping a sandwich into lots of different textures such as sand, black paint and water. This was great fun, and really helped us to describe objects using lots of new, exciting language. In Maths we have been focusing on addition. We have all worked really hard to recall our number bonds to 10, create our own number sentences and solve 1, 2 and 3 digit sum using a variety of resources such as tens frames, flip charts and counters.

This term has also allowed us to explore food packaging in Design Technology. We spent time looking at and evaluating packaging of our favourite snacks and thinking about the purpose of different materials like plastic, foil and cardboard. We then designed our very own packaging and created our own models made from recycled boxes, bottles and cartons, which was great fun! Other fun things we have done this term are learning French and tasting some French cuisine in Cultural Studies and taking part in celebratory activities in R.E. as part of learning about important religious ceremonies and festivals.

## HOME LEARNING

Next term we will be focusing on the theme of 'Materials' and our core text will be '[The Fish Who Could Wish](#)' written by John Bush. We will explore this story in a

variety of ways to bring the text to life, using sensory trays and music to help us understand and later recall the narrative. We will also use this story as a way of engaging in persuasive writing through letter writing, poster designing and postcard writing too. Perhaps over the holidays you could listen to the story via the link and have a go at writing a persuasive letter to Santa to practise ready for the new year. In Maths we will be focusing on subtraction. This can be introduced through a variety of songs such as [5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer](#) and [Subtraction with Jack Hartman](#). You can also have a go at some subtraction using the [Cbeebies website](#) too or even practise subtraction using your rote counting skills with objects around the house. In Science we will be exploring 'Animals, Evolution and Inheritance', in which we will explore identifying, categorising and classifying in a variety of ways. One way to introduce this topic is to have a look at some of your features such as hair and eye colour and compare the differences and similarities to your family members. Another way to do this is to think about different types of animals and the categories they fall into. There are lots of songs to help us think about this such as [The Animal song](#) and [The Vertebrates song](#). Maybe you could even have a go at making some of your favourite animals from playdough! You could even think about the features of your pets (if you have one!) like if they have a tail, live in water or maybe even have wings!

It has been such a fun filled and busy start to the new academic year! We cannot wait for lots more fun and learning in 2023. We all hope you have a wonderful break. See you in the new year!

The Circle Class Team



## CLASS NEWS

City class has had a fantastic second term of the year. As a team, we are all so pleased with how well the children have engaged with their learning and got involved with all of the learning opportunities presented to them! Continuing with our topic of food, we have been exploring lots of different activities.

In English this half term, we have been focusing on the story 'Handa's surprise'. Pupils have loved listening to the story using puppets, fake and real fruit and masks to get involved with the characters! We have been developing our ability to recall information from the story as well as answering questions about what we have read. Pupils have been fantastic learners and engaged so well in their story. In writing, pupils have been developing their fine motor skills using a range of activities. We have also been exploring different mark making tools and use these to trace and imitate different pre-writing shapes.

In maths, City class have been learning about number focusing on our counting skills. We have been learning to count backwards, using songs such as '[10 green bottles](#)' and '[5 currant buns](#)' to support our understanding. We have also been developing our understanding of 'non' or 'zero'. In measure, we have learnt about how to use things in the world around us to measure length. We have tried paperclips, pens and even biscuits to measure a range of different things!

During our themed activities, we have explored and engaged in a range of different activities around food! In geography, we explored food from around the world. Pupils felt, smelt and even tasted new and exciting foods from different cultures. In cultural studies, we have explored France! We have explored cuisine including croissants and even smelly cheeses. In science, we have been learning about animals and their habitats. We loved feeling different materials like the animals' different textures. City class also enjoyed sensory trays themed as the different habitats as well as animal yoga, turning into the animals they were learning about!

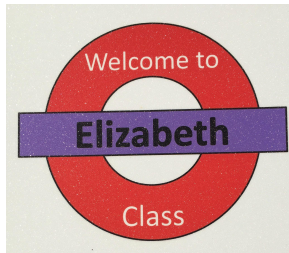
## HOME LEARNING

Next term we'll begin a new theme, titled 'materials'. We will explore a range of different sensory stories, aimed at improving pupils' engagement and retention of information from the story. In maths, we will learn about 2D shapes and identifying these. In science we will learn about our bodies and explore similarities and differences between our peers. In history we are exploring Ancient Egypt!

Maths: Pupils could listen to this [2D shape song](#). They could also play this [shape game](#). To recap their previous learning, children could listen to [counting songs](#) or nursery rhymes for counting such as '[Ten green bottles](#)', '[1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \(Once I caught a fish alive\)](#)' and '[5 little ducks](#)'.

English: Children could listen to the stories '[Oi frog!](#)', '[We're going on a bear hunt](#)' and '[I want my hat back](#)' which we will be reading next half term!

Theme: In science next half term, we are learning about ourselves and our bodies. Pupils could listen to [heads, shoulders, knees and toes](#) and try to join in with the actions. Pupils could also listen to [this song](#) about humans and their amazing differences!



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## CLASS NEWS

We have had a very busy and productive half

term in Elizabeth class. The pupils tried a lot of new activities and they showed a lot of empathy towards themselves, their peers and teachers.

Our theme this term has been 'Food'. In English, the pupils started looking at nonfiction books with a focus on cook books. They explored different recipes and made lists of ingredients and cooking equipment. The pupils continued practising their reading and writing skills through various activities. In Maths, we focused on numbers and measuring length and height. Elizabeth class learners used their skills to add two amounts using different methods, and they started reading and writing simple number sentences. Also, they measured the length and height of different objects using standard and nonstandard units of measurement.

In Science, the pupils learnt about living things and habitats. They explored four habitats through sensory trays with different animals and textures. In D & T, Elizabeth class explored food packaging, what information they can find on it, and

they designed their own food packaging. In Geography, we looked at where food comes from, what you can find in a farm, and we tasted local and exotic fruit. In RE, we explored the school's SEARCH value of Empathy and ways to support each other, and we looked at Christianity and Christian celebrations (baptism, advent, Christmas). In ICT, the pupils continued to explore what a computer is and they practised using a mouse to access a computer. In Cultural studies, we travelled to French speaking countries, ate local snacks and listened to and danced to French music. Finally, in PSHE, we learnt about emotions, relationships, staying safe at school, and we continued following our hygiene routines.

Next term we will learn about materials. In English we will continue to work on reading and writing, and we will explore [The Fish Who Could Wish](#) by John Bush. In Maths, we will focus on subtraction and shapes. In Science we will explore the theme of animals including humans, evolution and inheritance.

## HOME LEARNING

- English - read with your child or listen to them reading for at least 5 minutes a day. They will take home their reading books. If you go shopping with them, make a shopping list and encourage them to find the items priorly agreed. You can even attempt to follow some recipes and cook ([recipes](#)). [Stories](#)
- Maths - [robot addition](#), [animal addition](#),

- Science - [woodland habitats](#), [ocean habitats](#), [polar habitats](#), [savannah habitats](#)



## CLASS NEWS

This half term the Theme had been 'Food'. In English lessons,

Victoria Class have been exploring the book 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. We have been learning to recognise the different food items in the story as well as act out the actions in the story. We have also been learning to request as well as answer simple questions using colourful semantics. Victoria Class pupils have been working hard to improve their fine motor skills and pencil control.

In Maths lessons, we have been learning to match quantity to numeral as well as work out which number shape is linked to the correct numeral. We have been learning to distinguish between the different numerals and make the correct quantity as well as give the correct quantity when requested. Furthermore, we have been learning about size and length and working hard to recognize what length different objects are.

In Science lessons, we have been learning about Living Things and Habitats. As a class, we have been exploring different habitats through sensory trays and exploring the animals that live in the different habitats. We have also been

exploring animal textures and the different sounds animals make.

In PHSE lessons, we have been learning about self awareness and playing together with our peers. Pupils have been learning how to wait for their turn, play and share with their peers within structured lessons. We have also been learning about how we can communicate with adults.

## HOME LEARNING

Next Half Term we will be moving onto our new Topic 'Materials'. We will be exploring the story 'We are going on a bear hunt'. In Maths we will be learning about number systems and shapes. In English, we will continue to learn how to answer simple questions, reenact the story, and continue working on our fine motor skills and gross motor skills in order to improve our handwriting.

Here are some activities that you can do at home with the pupils.

1. Listen to the story [here](#).
2. Play the shape sorting game [here](#).
3. Find numbers in the environment and see whether pupils are able to match to the written numeral.

Have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back in January 2023.

Victoria Class Team



## CLASS NEWS

It has been another eventful half-term for Waterloo class. We continued our horse riding and swimming sessions,

both of which were extremely successful. All of the pupils were able to develop their confidence, and we all enjoyed these activities a great deal. I was really impressed with the maturity that our pupils showed here: It can be difficult coming out of the familiarity of the classroom, but everyone dealt with this uncertainty well.

Our continuing theme this term was food. In English, we shifted our focus from different types of recipes to creative writing and developing descriptive language. It has been great to see the pupils continue to expand the skills that we began exploring last half-term. We have looked at a range of texts for inspiration while working on our writing skills, including *The Bakery of Happiness* by Ian Beck. This half-term we have also had weekly library sessions where the pupils work through a structured phonics reading program, and have the opportunity to read books of their own choice. Reading for pleasure is a key factor in developing reading skills, and this is something that we will continue to focus on as the year goes on. Our kung-fu punctuation sessions have continued to be a success as well, with the pupils using a range of punctuation marks (including commas, question marks and exclamation marks) to develop their own sentences.

In maths, the pupils have been developing their knowledge of addition and

measurement. A key focus this half-term has been to take a structured approach to maths sessions where pupils are able to make informed choices about the level of challenge they take on. This has worked well, and it has been good to see the pupils reflect on their own progress when choosing between silver, gold or diamond challenges. There has also been room to explore practical applications of maths: In one particularly memorable lesson I lay down on the ground so that the pupils could measure my height using a range of non-standard measurements. It was lovely to see everyone working together. One area that we will continue to develop next term is deciphering questions. Often pupils will have a solid understanding of core concepts, but will find some questions difficult because they are phrased in an unexpected way. Next term we will focus specifically on this, looking at how to bring our English skills into our maths lessons.

Our focus in Science this half term has been living things and habitats. Waterloo class have explored a range of different organisms and how they live, from how they obtain their food to ways that we can arrange them into groups using classification keys. It has been an interesting topic, and we have used a range of practical activities to explore it. Next half-term we will build on this knowledge when exploring animals, evolution and inheritance.

In addition to these lessons there have been several other moments that have been real highlights. It has been wonderful seeing the pupils get so involved in preparations for the school play, from making their own costumes and props to participating in rehearsals. At all



points they have tried their best, and that has been great to see. We also continued to explore different foods in our Food Technology sessions, and were even able to work together to make a chocolate mousse! In DT we have used 2d nets to create (and decorate) packaging, and through all our subjects we have taken the time to explore our SEARCH value for this term, which is empathy.

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching Waterloo class this term, and I am looking forward to resuming our lessons in the Spring term.

## HOME LEARNING

To prepare the pupils for the Spring term, pupils should complete some of the following activities:

- In English, pupils should complete some of the activities that you can find [HERE](#) to consolidate their work on creative writing. This half-term we have been developing our use of descriptive language as we have been exploring our theme of food, and it would be great if they could explore this further to further embed their learning.
- In maths, pupils should begin to prepare for the Spring term by looking at subtraction and shape. For subtraction, they should start with [THIS](#) activity about using the column method. For shape, they should try [THIS](#) activity, which asks pupils to recognise and describe 2D shapes. Additionally, pupils can attempt these maths games for [subtraction](#) and [shapes](#).
- In science, pupils will be looking at animals, evolution and inheritance

next half term. To prepare they should attempt one of the activities [HERE](#).

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## PE News with Mr Proctor

It has been a very busy half term within the PE department with many exciting events and trips happening across the school.

Each half term pupils focus on developing specific sports skills during PE lessons. The sports change each half term and we are trying to expose pupils to as many different sports as possible. This half term pupils have been developing their football, table tennis and curling skills.

Primary and Secondary West classes have shown great progress this term developing their gross motor skills and linking skills together. A special mention goes to Jubilee class and Bakerloo class for showing great football dribbling skills and teamwork. A special mention also goes to City class pupils who are enjoying completing obstacle courses and are learning to take turns in PE lessons.

Waterloo class enjoyed a term of horse riding lessons at Chigwell Riding School. Pupils have shown a caring attitude towards the horses throughout this time and have made great progress in these sessions in terms of confidence and riding ability.

Circle class, Waterloo class and Post 16 1 have enjoyed swimming lessons this term at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre. Student's water confidence and swimming stroke techniques have improved during

these sessions with some pupils now being able to swim 25m which is amazing!

This half term we also launched a new PE Gifted and Talented programme across the school for pupils that show great attitude, enthusiasm and ability within PE lessons. PE Gifted and Talented sessions take place at Lee Valley Athletics Centre where pupils get the opportunity to take part in athletics sessions taught by an athletics instructor in an amazing facility. Staff at Lee Valley have been amazing with our pupils and we even got to meet a Team GB sprinter!

Pupils have enjoyed following the football world cup with the whole school watching the first England game against Iran. All pupils had the opportunity to watch this game with class teachers organising world cup themed lessons and parties on the day.

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## Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymka

### Primary

#### Waterloo & Circle

In music pupils have been composing their own melodies using Glockenspiels. pupils used 5 notes to create their melodies which they wrote down before performing to the class. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In drama we've been focussing on role play and story-telling through dressing up, making props and costumes and practising our parts for the Christmas Show.

### Victoria & City

In music pupils have been singing action songs and learning how to play some of the different percussion instruments together. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In drama we've been focussing on role play and story-telling through dressing up, making props and costumes and practising our parts for the Christmas Show.

### Elizabeth

In music pupils have been learning about playing and creating music through familiar songs. Some pupils have explored different untuned percussion instruments and some have been using Glockenspiels to play simple melodies. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In drama we've been focussing on role play and story-telling through dressing up, making props and costumes and practising our parts for the Christmas Show.

### The Winter Show 2022 - 'Peter Pan'

All the pupils and staff worked hard to get ready for the Christmas Show. Pupils took on all the roles involved in a production - acting, singing, playing instruments, making props and puppets and stage crewing - and did an incredible job to get the performance ready. It was fantastic to see so many families and friends at the performance to celebrate the pupils' achievements and enjoy a wonderful afternoon of theatre together. We look forward to seeing you at future performances in 2023.

