



# CURRICULUM NEWS

2023 Spring Term 1 - Primary

*Inspire Excellence  
Challenge Potential  
Empower Learning*

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## Headteacher's Welcome



This has been a relatively short half term but we still seem to have packed a lot into it!

INSET at the beginning of the year focused on computing and we have seen lots of fantastic work going on since the training. Recently we ran focused dives into our Humanities, RE and PSHE curriculums. The data and feedback has helped us to plan for refinement in these areas. We saw really engaging lessons and the content in the schemes of work being delivered in a sequenced order to build skills and knowledge. We still want to work on our PSHE curriculum and support our teachers to be more confident in its delivery across classes. As a result our INSET training day on 20th February will be focused on the PSHE curriculum and Life Skills. I'm really excited about these areas for development as they provide essential learning for our pupils and can be delivered cross curricular in all other academic and vocational learning.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership working to help us to make the learning experiences for your children the best they can be. Have a good half term!

Best wishes, Lucia Santi, Headteacher

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## Teaching, Learning, Curriculum



Another half term has passed, and we are already through half the academic year and we are compiling our 3rd Curriculum Newsletter. The senior leadership team and subject leads continue to work hard reviewing and refining. The Grove curriculum, to enhance our pupils' learning, engagement, experiences and outcomes. The Grove curriculum is not limited by the walls of our classrooms. It is enhanced by all aspects of school life through:

- Assemblies
- Pupil Voice
- Pastoral and wellbeing support
- Enrichment
- Wide ranging extracurricular activities

The Grove curriculum seeks to empower and enable, giving our pupils the currency to allow them to realise their aspirations. In this edition you will find many updates as to what has been happening in your child's department this half term. Class teachers and Department Leads have added ideas and useful links to help you support your child at home. If you would like to find out more, please feel free to email me at, [helen.georgiades@thegroveschool.co.uk](mailto:helen.georgiades@thegroveschool.co.uk).

Helen Georgiades, Deputy Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
13th - 17th February	Half Term
20th February	INSET - No Pupils
21st February	Pupils back to school
21st February	Shrove Tuesday
22nd February	Family Workshop (Primary) Online Safety
1st March	Family Workshop Session 8
3rd March	World Book Day
3rd March	Family Workshop (Secondary) Online Safety
6th March	Purim
7th March	Family Workshop Speech & Language
8th March	International Women's Day
8th March	Holi
16th March	Grove Governor Meeting
24th March	Pupil Progress Day - School is closed to Pupils
22nd March	Ramadan
27th March	Autism Week
31st March	End of Term
17th April	INSET - No Pupils
17th April	Yom HaShoah
18th April	Pupils back to school



## Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

It has been so lovely to meet so many of you at the family workshops this term. Thank you so much for attending and for your positive contributions to the sessions. They have been really fun and enjoyable to run. There are lots more coming up before summer so please keep an eye out for letters coming home. As always, if ever you have any follow-up questions then please do not hesitate to contact me on [louis.maunder@thegroveschool.co.uk](mailto:louis.maunder@thegroveschool.co.uk).

In the coming half-term we are going to be focusing on developing our practice in the playground, which is one of our key action points from the Behaviour Hub programme. There has been some great engagement from staff and pupils already, and we are excited to see what we can do.

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

(Written on behalf of Miss Huseyin)

## Career and Enrichment News

A big thank you to all parents and staff for your support with trips and workshops this term. For parents, thank you for embracing our new system on Parent Pay, it has really helped with the organisation of trips and clubs.

It has been a busy term for Careers and Enrichment and there have been some fantastic on and off site trips and activities. Pupils in Secondary East have taken part in a fantastic Mobile Film Workshop with a company called 'Divergent Thinking', run by an inspirational young autistic adult. I will share their films when they are ready! Sixth form continue to take part in Work Experience at Five Guys in Wood Green and most recently Kentish Town City Farm. These are fantastic opportunities and the pupils are doing really well at developing skills towards independence. Primary and Secondary West have been taking part in Horse Riding and Forest School which has been great to see.

We are now offering many enrichment opportunities across the curriculum to enhance pupils learning and experiences. Some of those activities are listed below:

- Early morning explorers / London Transport Museum
- London Law Courts
- Pet Club
- African Drumming
- NHS Cadets
- Groundswell Arts Communication Pod

Next half term is **Careers Week** (6th - 10th March) and the return of our **Careers and Next Steps Fair**. Please keep the date of the **9th March free**. The fair will take place from 2.30-4.30. 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)

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### PRIMARY NEWS

#### HEAD OF PRIMARY: MR MILLS

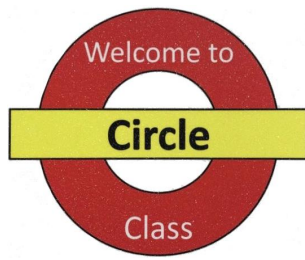
This term the Primary department has been working on the theme of 'Materials'. The pupils have had the opportunity to learn about and explore a range of materials across the curriculum. Pupils have read and learned about books such as We're Going on a Bear Hunt and The True Story of the Three Little Pigs.

This half term, the SEARCH value has been Acceptance. Class teams have been awarding weekly certificates to pupils that have demonstrated acceptance and tolerance to situations going on around them.

The Primary department will continue to work on the theme of 'Materials' after the half term break.

Have a great half term break.

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## CLASS NEWS

This term Circle Class have loved exploring the text 'The Fish Who Could Wish'

by John Bush. We have worked really hard writing letters to ask a magical genie for three wishes using persuasive language. We have loved learning how to use persuasive language by trying our best to persuade our teachers to give us extra playtime and let us eat sweets for lunch (this was easier said than done!) In Maths this term, we have worked on learning how to solve subtraction independently. We have really enjoyed using different resources to help us, such as the magnetic answer boards, cubes and wiggly worms. We also used dice to help us create our own number sentences! Our theme in History this term was Ancient Egypt, which we all loved learning about in lots of fun ways such as exploring sand, turning each other into mummies, creating Ancient Egyptian headwear and writing our names in hieroglyphics. We have also loved exploring Italian cuisine in Cultural Studies. Our favourite lesson was making traditional Neapolitan Pizza to share with a friend. It was delicious!

## HOME LEARNING

Next term we will continue engaging with the theme 'Materials' and exploring the text '[Boogie Bear](#)' by David Walliams. We will use the story to develop our recount and writing skills through combining role-play and writing recounts of personal experiences. This term in Maths, we will be focusing on money, with the last two

weeks of term exploring weight and volume. It would be great if you could start engaging with the concept of money ready for next term. There are lots of songs you can listen to introduce this concept such as, '[The Money Song](#)' and '[The Coins Song](#)'. Perhaps you could have a look at some of the prices of your favourite items in the supermarket, or even have a go at paying for something and counting the change in your local shop. If it's a rainy day and you can't get to the shops, maybe you could spend some time looking at coins and notes at home and use the coins to make prints in playdough or trace over the coins using paper and crayons to see their value. Next term we'll be doing Geography, in which we will explore the European country of France and its capital city Paris. We will do this in lots of fun and engaging ways, but to get us thinking about Paris perhaps you could look at some pictures of the Eiffel Tower if you have access to an iPad or computer, or even have a croissant or crepe for breakfast to start thinking about the Parisian Culture!

We hope you have a wonderful break and look forward to more fun and learning next term!

The Circle Class team



## CLASS NEWS

City class has had a great start to 2023! We have started our new term of 'materials', exploring and learning about a lot of new concepts whilst also revisiting

some previously learnt. This half term we also embarked on our first class trip! Linked to both our literacy and performing arts lessons, pupils visited 'Little Angel Theatre' to see 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. As a team, we are all so proud of how City class settled back into their routines after the Christmas break, continuing with their fantastic engagement and enthusiasm.

In English this half term, we have been focusing on both '[We're going on a bear hunt](#)' and '[Walking through the jungle](#)'. We have focused on the sensory side of these stories, aiming to make them as engaging and motivating as possible for our learners. Pupils have developed their communication skills, requesting which parts of the story they would like to be read again. We have been developing our understanding of 'more' and how we can use this to achieve something we would like to experience again. Pupils have been fantastic learners and engaged so well in both of their stories, with the 'snow' aspect of both stories being a clear winner for most requests. This half term, pupils began a weekly OT led handwriting group to develop their fine motor skills using a range of activities. Pupils have adapted well to their change of schedule and love to get involved with the range of activities presented to them. We have also been exploring different mark making tools and use these to trace and imitate different pre-writing and letter shapes.

In maths, City class has been developing their understanding of 'take away'. We have been engaging in exciting activities and experiments, to practise counting down from 5 for the 'pop', 'bang' or 'whizz'. In geometry, pupils have learnt to identify and match a range of 2D shapes.

We have been learning to sort 'real life' 2D shapes and began learning about 3D shapes also.

During our themed learning, we have explored a range of different concepts including cause and effect of digital devices in computing, Sikhism in Religious Education and Italian cuisine and culture in Cultural studies. In history, pupils loved learning about Ancient Egypt, trying foods that the Egyptians would have had and even making their own sarcophagus and mummies. In science, we have been learning ourselves, our bodies and our senses. We loved exploring our senses with different sensory trays aimed at each sense. City class also learnt about their body parts and facial features.

## HOME LEARNING

Next term we'll continue with our theme of 'materials'. We will continue to explore a range of different sensory stories and develop our ability to reorder and retell these using different props and symbols. In maths, we will begin our half term learning about money, before moving onto measuring weight and volume. In science we will learn about light, sound and electricity. In Geography we are exploring different European countries and their capital cities.

Maths: Pupils could listen to this [2D shape song](#). They could also play this [shape game](#) to recap their learning from this half term. In preparation for the next half term, pupils could listen to [this money song](#) or play [this game](#).

English: Children could listen '[We're going on a bear hunt](#)' or '[Walking through the](#)

[jungle'](#) to recap their learning. Some of the sensory elements could be recreated at home, using foam or flour for snow, dry pasta for sticks in 'we're going on a bear hunt' or spraying water for any aquatic elements in both stories.

Theme: In science next half term, we are learning about light, sound and electricity. Pupils could listen to [this song](#) about light sources. They could also test their listening skills with [this game](#) about sounds. In cultural studies, we will begin learning about Polish cuisine and culture. Pupils could listen to [this familiar counting song](#) in Polish or try a [Polish recipe found here](#).



## 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 acceptance, especially when it came to changes in their daily routine.

Our theme this term has been 'Materials'. In English, the pupils started looking at different books and they focused on sequencing the events of a story. The pupils continued practising their reading skills through phonics and guided reading sessions, and their writing skills through various sensory and paper based activities. In Maths, we focused on numbers and shapes. Elizabeth class learners used their skills to take away amounts using different methods, and they started reading and writing simple number sentences. Also, they explored 2D shapes and properties of 2D shapes

through various class based and outdoor activities.

In Science, the pupils explored Animals including humans, evolution and inheritance. They looked at how animals can be grouped in classes and what physical features they might have. In Art, Elizabeth class explored the art work of Chris Haughton, and they manipulated different materials to make a collage. In History, we explored practices and beliefs in Ancient Egypt times, such as pyramids, pharaohs, mummification and the use of makeup. In RE, we explored the school's SEARCH value of Acceptance and ways to accept changes, and we looked at Sikhism and Sikh celebrations. In ICT, the pupils continued to explore different devices and were introduced to algorithms. In Cultural studies, we travelled to Italy speaking, ate local snacks and listened to and danced to Italian music. Finally, in PSHE, we learnt about emotions, relationships, staying safe at school, and we continued following our hygiene routines. In Performing Arts, the pupils had a very successful trip to Little Angel Theatre to see We're going on a bear hunt.

Next half term we will continue to learn about materials. In English we will continue to work on reading and writing, and we will explore the stories of Neon Leon by Jane Clarke, and Boogie Bear by David Walliams. In Maths, we will focus on money, and measuring weight and volume. In Science we will explore Light, Sound and Electricity.

## 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 and their Science booklets. [Stories](#)

- Maths - [robot addition](#), [animal addition](#), [subtraction](#), [properties of shapes](#), [patterns](#)
- Science - [fish](#), [amphibians](#), [reptiles](#), [birds](#), [mammals](#)



## CLASS NEWS

This half term the Theme has been 'Materials'. In

English lessons, Victoria Class have been exploring the book 'We are going on a Bear Hunt'. Pupils have been learning to act out the story using props and answer comprehension questions using colourful semantics. Pupils have been sequencing the story and making requests using PEC'S. Victoria Class pupils have been working hard to continue to build on their fine motor skills and pencil control.

In Maths lessons, we have been learning to match quantity to numeral. We have been learning to distinguish between the different numerals and make the correct quantity. Some pupils have also been learning how to accurately count up to 15 and find the correct numeral. In addition, we have been learning about 2D shapes. Pupils have been learning to distinguish between different shapes, match and sort them.

In Science lessons, we have been building on our previous knowledge and learning more in depth about our body. We have been learning about the different parts of our face and body. We have also been building on our knowledge of animals and animal movements.

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 what qualities we need to have in order to be a good friend and how to successfully interact with our adults and peers.

## HOME LEARNING

Next Half Term we will continue with the theme 'Materials'. We will be exploring the story

'Walking through the Jungle' by Julie Lacome. In Maths we will be learning about Money as well as weight. In English, we will continue to learn how to answer simple comprehensive questions and continue working on our fine motor 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 a money game with support [here](#).
3. Tracing [here](#).

Hope you have a wonderful half term break. We look forward to seeing the pupils after the half term break.

Victoria                      Class                      Team

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## CLASS NEWS

This half term has seen a lot of changes. Our horse riding and swimming

sessions have unfortunately come to an end now, but this has opened up the opportunity to introduce a second science session each week. This gives us more time to focus on experiments and engagement to encourage curiosity. We also now have time for a mid-week 'check-in' where pupils are encouraged to reflect on their progress through the week and take part in a debate topic. The aim of these sessions is to promote mature interaction, and the idea that the Waterloo pupils are role models to the other pupils in the school. So far they have been very successful, and will definitely continue after the break. There have been other changes: This half term we welcomed some new LSAs to our class, who have quickly become well established and already built strong working relationships with the class. We have also welcomed a new pupil to Waterloo. It has been a busy time, but Waterloo class have adapted well to these changes and continue to make good progress from a secure base.

In English our class text this half term was *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka. When reading the text the emphasis in lessons has been point of view, with the end goal being to write a story from a different perspective. Our class text has given us an accessible way of entering into this potentially tricky area and has allowed the pupils to make good progress. One area in particular that has

been very strong this half term has been reading aloud. Every pupil in the class has done excellent work with their reading, and I have been very impressed by the confidence and understanding that they have shown. We have also focused on punctuating direct speech by using kinesthetic activities to help develop written tasks, which has been both successful and enjoyable. After the break we will continue to develop these areas, but our class text will be *The Dragon Sitter* by Josh Lacey.

In maths our focus has been addition and subtraction (with an emphasis on subtraction) as well as 2D and 3D shapes. With number, as well as developing core skills, we have spent time looking at worded questions, and how to use our English skills in maths. This has been effective so far, and we will continue to develop this going forward. With geometry, we have spent time using rulers to measure and draw accurate lines and shapes. We have also worked with 2D nets and plasticine to make our own 3D shapes. Although there has been some good progress here we will continue to focus on these practical aspects of maths after the break.

In science we have been looking at animals (including humans) evolution and inheritance. This built on our work on habitats last term, but with more of a focus on how what we learn in class relates to us as humans. As I mentioned earlier, because we are no longer horse riding or swimming, there has been time for additional science sessions to boost pupils' engagement with the subject and promote 'thinking like a scientist'. This half term Waterloo ran an experiment to monitor the effect of different exercises



on their heart rate. It was great to see them approach this task so responsibly, and then apply what they learned in later lessons.

A particular highlight of the half-term has been our ICT lessons where the pupils have learned about sequencing, problem solving and the fundamentals of programming by working with Bee-Bots. It has been lovely to see everyone so engaged and taking charge of their own learning in such a practical way. It has also been great to see them so enthused about their cultural studies. They regularly use a set of key Italian words and have explored Italian food as part of their food technology lessons. Waterloo pupils have also spent time exploring collage technique in their art sessions, which has resulted in some excellent pieces of work being created. As well as developing fine motor skills, they have had regular opportunities to express themselves creatively. Additionally, the class has been exploring Ancient Egypt in sessions with Ms. Huseyin and learning about Sikhism and the school value of acceptance in religious education.

As always, I have really enjoyed teaching Waterloo class this term. A lot has happened in a short period of time, but the pupils have dealt with this well and are making good progress. More than anything, I have been impressed with the friendly and encouraging atmosphere of the class. The pupils regularly go out of their way to encourage and support their peers, which is lovely to see. I look forward to resuming our lessons after the break.

## HOME LEARNING

In English, pupils should complete some of the activities that you can find [HERE](#) to consolidate their work on writing direct speech. This half-term the pupils have been focusing on this in their punctuation lessons, so they should have a good foundation. However, as always, practice will be very helpful to fully embed these skills.

In maths, it would be great if pupils spent some time continuing their work on shapes. There are activities for 2D shapes [HERE](#), and ones for 3D shapes [HERE](#). It would also be good if pupils continued to top up their addition and subtraction skills by attempting some of the games available [HERE](#).

In Science, after the break we will be looking at light, sound and electricity. To prepare for this pupils should try some of the activities available [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Finally, for ICT, if you have access to a device that can run apps from the Apple Store then there is a free educational Bee-Bot app that you can find [HERE](#) that could be used to consolidate our recent ICT lessons. If you ask them to show you what they can do they may well impress you!

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## PE News with Mr Proctor

Primary classes have enjoyed a mixture of indoor and outdoor PE activities consisting of dance, table tennis, boccia and obstacle courses. Primary pupils are developing their teamwork skills by understanding the importance of positive communication, taking turns and sharing.

Four pupils from Elizabeth class have been attending horse riding lessons at Chigwell Riding Centre and pupils are showing a caring attitude towards the horses. Pupils are now confidently attending these sessions and it is a highlight of their week.

Rugby Works continues to work with classes across the school every Thursday developing their teamwork and communication skills. A large number of pupils from Post 16 and Secondary East now support Rugby Works sessions every Thursday and they will be working towards completing their Sports Leaders Qualification during the summer term.

Unfortunately, due to the temporary closure of the Tottenham Green Swimming Pool, Victoria and City class have not started their swimming lessons yet but we hope that the swimming lessons restart next half term.

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## Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymka

### Waterloo

In music, pupils have been using music technology to explore different sounds and compose their own music. They have become adept at using Chrome Music Lab

and Incredibox and have enjoyed sharing their creations with the other pupils and the teachers in the class.

We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound. In drama we've been focussing on essential skills - stopping, starting, sharing, taking turns, copying and engaging in role play.

### Circle

In music pupils have begun to learn about pitch and explored listening to and making high and low sounds. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In drama we've been focussing on essential skills - stopping, starting, sharing, taking turns, copying and engaging in role play.

### Victoria & City

In music pupils have been singing familiar songs and learning how to play some of the different percussion instruments together. Pupils have also started taking part in the Drumming Workshops every week with Ben, the drumming teacher. We've all had a lot of fun playing the West African drums in these lessons.

In drama, we have been exploring 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' which included a trip to the Little Angel Theatre to see a performance of the story.

### Elizabeth

In music pupils have begun to learn about pitch and explored listening to and making high and low sounds. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In drama, we have been exploring 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' which included a trip to the Little Angel Theatre to see a performance of the story.

