



# CURRICULUM NEWS

2023 Spring Term 2 - Secondary West

*Inspire Excellence  
Challenge Potential  
Empower Learning*

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## Headteacher's Welcome



As I write this, I am reflecting on the last half term, which, although fairly short, seems to have been very very busy.

We are still awaiting the Ofsted Inspection Report. Although the usual time is 4 weeks, it seems that Ofsted are running a little behind schedule. We were hoping that we might get a sneak peek at the report before we finish on Friday but I think in all honesty we will be looking at the report "going live" sometime in April. Really frustrating, but I hope, when we do get the chance to share the report that it reflects our school fairly and accurately, recognising the work that we do.

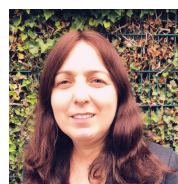
Thank you to all parents and carers who attended pupil progress day. It was wonderful to hear about progress across the school, we are so very proud of our pupils here at The Grove.

Finally we wish Ms Nayemah Chowdhry, Victoria Class Teacher all the best as she goes on maternity leave. We look forward to meeting her little one when it arrives! Mr Tahir will be in charge for the remaining academic year alongside Ms Molly Stopps supporting the class.

Best wishes, Lucia Santi, Headteacher

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## Teaching, Learning, Curriculum



Welcome to our latest Curriculum Newsletter. This has been a very busy term for both pupils and staff. We were visited by

OFSTED and are now looking forward to reading our very first OFSTED Report. We had another fantastic World Book Day, an amazing time was had by all and the love of reading continues to grow at The Grove. It was great to see all pupils and staff dressed up in their favourite costumes to celebrate characters they love.

During Pupil Progress Day I was privileged to witness the amazing progress pupils made this term across different areas of the curriculum and their personal development.

All teachers have added 'Home Learning' to their class section. This section outlines what the pupils will be learning next half term in each class, with ideas of different activities you can do at home to help prepare your child. Best wishes, Helen Georgiades, Deputy Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
31st March	End of Term
17th April	INSET - No Pupils
17th April	Yom HaShoah
18th April	Pupils back to school
21st April	Eid ul-Fitr Begins
25th April	St George's Day
1st May	Bank Holiday - No Pupils
2nd May	Pupils back to school
4th May	Grove Governor Meeting
6th May	King's Coneration
8th May	Bank Holiday - No Pupils
8th May	VE Day
9th May	Pupils back to school
17h May	International day against HBT Phobia
29th May - 2nd June	Half Term



## Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

Hi everyone,

The family workshops have been continuing through the term and have been well attended and received by parents and carers. We have 2 exciting workshops coming up in the summer term being delivered by Dr Laura Cockburn and Claire Kenny, external Educational Psychologists. Keep an eye out for a letter coming home about this.

Work on the Behaviour Hub action plan has continued recently. Staff have been developing a playground charter and new activities will be introduced into the playground in the summer term. Senior Leaders have also been visiting other schools as part of the DfE led programme in order to develop our practice and see other positive educational settings.

I hope you all have a great holiday!

Best wishes, Louis Maunder (Senior Leader for Pastoral Lead and Behaviour)  
(On behalf of Miss Huseyin in her absence)

## Career News

It has been a very busy half term for Careers this term. We have had new providers on site for enrichment. The pupils have been enjoying the African Drumming Workshops and NHS Cadets as well as Lee Valley, Pets Club and Becoming a Chef. We have had a fantastic Careers week with lots of onsite and offsite activities. A definite favourite being the visit from The London Fire Brigade which was loved by pupils and teachers alike! The big event of the week was our Careers Fair which we hosted with 15 external organisations in the hall. Thank you to all of you that attended and supported it was a really successful event. Also thank you to all of you that attended our parent workshop on 'Access to work' with Divergent Thinking.

Next term we look forward to bringing in a 'Learning Pod' for all pupils to enjoy based in the library, Sixth form and Secondary East will be doing visits to New City College in Hoxton and we will be setting up new internal work experience opportunities for pupils in year 11 and the Sixth Form.

As always please contact me if you have any questions around careers and next steps.

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

Bronja Elton

*Director of Sixth Form/Careers Lead*



## CLASSROOM NEWS

### SECONDARY WEST NEWS

#### HEAD OF SECONDARY WEST

Happy Easter to all our families! It has been a very busy few weeks in school and I continue to be impressed with the enthusiasm and engagement from all our pupils across the department.

In Key Stage Three our overall theme is "What's the matter?" We have also been exploring the Search value of resilience in our lessons. In Key Stage Four, Jubilee class have continued to make progress towards their AQA awards and have recently started a new module around Forest School which involves off site visits to local forests.

This term Piccadilly and Bakerloo class have continued to enjoy going to Rugby Works sessions and Northern, Jubilee and Piccadilly have continued to enjoy dance lessons through Step into Dance. All classes in Secondary West continued to engage with forest school sessions and look forward to their weekly sessions.

I hope you all have a fun but restful Easter holiday.

Miss Jac



## CLASS NEWS

### Maths:

With our continuous theme around 'number' pupils began the

Spring term learning about coins and identifying each one.

Pupils showed confidence with this and are able to know coin values ranging from 1p-£2, and for some, ranging up to £20. Pupils took their knowledge out into the community and experienced making an exchange with a shopkeeper. Pupils read the price in the shop and with adult support would generate the required amount to give over the counter.

It is always great to take skills learnt within the 4 walls of the classroom into a real life, practical environment.

### English:

Bakerloo pupils have adjusted well to their twice weekly, structured guiding reading. The adapted groups allow some to have a phonics input to support their blending and reading whilst others to develop more control over their reading, assist with decoding the text and answer comprehensively.

Pupils continued with their reading of a pre 19th century text and started learning about the story of *Alice In Wonderland*. Pupils responded to questions about what they have read, wrote two or three part sentences (Alice-is-eating-cake) as well as writing and creating their own potions.

As part of independence and life skills, the Food Technology room is accessed weekly in order to follow recipes. This term we have closely followed recipes linked with Polish culture and have followed step-by-step instructions to cook dishes such as: Polish pancakes, cheesy mushroom baguettes, donuts and

dumplings.

## HOME LEARNING

Next time you go shopping, hand over the shopping list to your child - have them read and locate the items. If you're paying in cash, allow them the practice of exchanging it with the shopkeeper.

(In addition, you could purchase some seeds and plant them somewhere and if they're fast growing ones such as cress - record their growth by measuring with a ruler and recording results).

Please read daily with/to your child - This can also be done digitally via our 'BugClub'

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

Practice number bonds, addition and subtraction with access to our fun, friendly 'Numbots'

<https://play.numbots.com/#/intro>

- (Please email Mr Mike if you do not have your login details for either of these.

- Embark on a 'shape hunt' around your home. How many 3D shapes can be collected and identified in a certain time limit (cylindrical coffee containers or pyramid tea bags!)



## CLASS NEWS

Spring has sprung and this term Central class have

had a spring in their step! Throughout the term we have been exploring the SEARCH value of 'Resilience' through both play and trying out new things. Central pupils have explored new foods as we venture through a range of Polish recipes inspired

by our fantastic LSA Maggie, to deepen our understanding of Polish culture.

We continued our learning around pre-1914 literature in English by engaging with the story Alice in Wonderland, which brought many smiles to the faces of Central class as we dressed up and had a rabbit of a time with sensory props. Pupils developed their sentence building skills and showed their mastery in using vocabulary boards to both comment on and construct sentences to retell the story.

In Maths this half term we focussed on 'Money' as well as 'Mass and Volume'. Identifying, sorting and counting were all key skills that Central class revisited and continued to master as we continued to develop our understanding of money in the real world. Volume was a highlight of the term as we used water to explore filling and emptying vessels as well as measuring accurately, a great transferable skill!

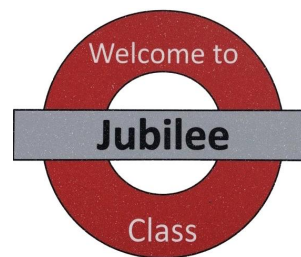
Finally, this half term saw the exploration of Thailand as our focus for Geography. Thai culture and folklore were touched on as pupils had many opportunities to broaden their understanding and engage with the vibrant music, food and history of Thailand.

On behalf of the 'whole' Central team, happy Easter and happy holidays!

## HOME LEARNING

Next term we will carry out an author study and explore a range of texts rather than focussing on one individual novel for the term, this will be a great opportunity for pupils to gain an understanding of key features in writing and literature. During

Maths we will be identifying early fractions through practical experiences, once again utilising daily opportunities to discuss fractions such as half and whole around the home and throughout the holidays will help pupils develop some understanding as they come into the summer term. Easter eggs provide a great opportunity to explore breaking in half and eating an egg whole!



## CLASS NEWS

Here we are at the end of another term. It has been a short term but a very busy one with lots to fit in. In English, we have now completed this term's focus on reading and will be moving on to another writing focus in the summer term. In Maths we have just completed a term working on counting and number facts and all pupils have now attempted their Entry Level 1 exam papers. We will be sending these off in the coming weeks and look forward to celebrating those who achieve their qualifications. Our focus in Maths next term will be measure. In Science we have just completed half a term investigating light and sound in which pupils particularly enjoyed exploring shadows and how these are made. We will be moving on to learning about states of matter and forces after Easter.

In our non-core subjects, we are finishing off a Forest School module at the moment which has seen us take regular trips up to the Lordship Recreation Ground wooded area to learn about the wildlife and complete activities in nature such as bark

rubbings and making 'bird helpers'. We have also been working on safety in the community as part of our life skills learning to ensure we are safe when we go outside of school. Some pupils have been working on these skills inside first and in the playground outdoor area. In PSHE we have been learning about healthy relationships and what these might look like as we get older and we will be moving on to learning about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and healthy eating. Next half term we will also be beginning a careers and work related learning focus in our thematic afternoons with some exciting experiences planned. We are wrapping up our focus on Polish culture and will be moving on to learning about Spain in summer term 1 which will be incorporated into our circle time each day and our cooking lessons. Our SEARCH value this half term has been 'resilience' and we have been celebrating how we can withstand adversity and bounce back from difficult situations. Next value will be 'compassion'.

## HOME LEARNING

- At home, please continue to find the time to enjoy reading together whenever you can. Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance!
- To keep learning, explore some measurement games [here](#). Watch [this](#) to learn more about forces for our science learning. Resources are available [here](#) relating to our upcoming PSHE learning. Sit down together and have a look at [this](#) to discuss ideas about careers and work.
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- We all hope you have a relaxing Easter break.
- Miss Jude and the Jubilee Class team



## CLASS NEWS

Dear Families, we hope you are well? It has been such a short and very busy term, we are looking forward to our much needed Easter holidays.

Our search value this term has been resilience and we have explored the theme through many ways such as taking on challenges and not giving up if we don't manage them first time.

In english we have continued to study pre-1914 literature, this term we focussed on the story Alice in Wonderland. Pupils enjoyed dressing up as different characters in the story and requesting different props; they also enjoyed having tea parties with the mad hatter.

In maths we have been learning about money. We were able to identify coins by different characteristics such as their colour or shape. Northern class enjoyed using the class shop to buy different items they were interested in, through this they were required to count out specific values of items to pay for them.

In science we have been exploring sources of light and also different sound sources.

Pupils enjoyed the hands on and sensory experiences from these sessions.

Pupils continued to enjoy weekly step into dance sessions and forest school sessions alongside their weekly RE, geography, D&T and PSHE sessions.

## HOME LEARNING

Home learning:

- Continue to explore the theme of money by taking pupils shopping regularly. It is important for pupils to recognise they need to give money in order to get an item they are interested in.
- Next term our literacy focus is the author Rob Hodgson, if you have any of his books at home then please read them to your child. Alternatively you can continue to read any book regularly with your child. Our focus with pupils is that they are able to follow along with the text using their fingers, moving left to right and from the top of the page to the bottom as an adult reads to them.

Have a lovely Easter holiday,

Miss Jac & Miss Molly



## CLASS NEWS

This term in maths, our main focus has been on money. Pupils have focused on lots of skills including recognising coins and notes and

adding with coins and notes. We are now beginning to look at measuring mass and volume. In Summer 1, we will be focusing on fractions and statistics.

In English, Piccadilly class have been exploring the story of Alice in Wonderland. Pupils have been working hard on reading the text carefully and answering comprehension questions about the story. We have been working towards writing our own retelling of parts of the story, using correct punctuation. After the Easter break, we will be doing an author study which involves looking at multiple books by the same author.

In Geography, Piccadilly class have been learning about Thailand. As part of this, they have identified it on a map and explored the climate, landmarks and food.

In Science, the topic has been 'light, sound and electricity'. Piccadilly class have focused on light in particular, including exploring natural and artificial light sources and learning about the effects of the sun. Next term, we will move to materials and states of matter.

Piccadilly class have coped really well with lots of changes this term and have made lots of progress with their learning. Well done on another wonderful half term Piccadilly Class. Have a great break.

Miss Amy

## HOME LEARNING

- Please read daily with your child and ask them questions about what they have read to check that they understand.
- In preparation for our maths next term, you can find some activities related to finding half [here](#).

- In science this term we have looked at shadows, your child may like to further explore making shadows outside in the sun or making shadow puppets using a torch.

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## PE News with Mr Proctor

Pupils across the school have been focusing on football and table tennis this half term. Football has always been a firm favourite for many of our pupils and table tennis is a new sport that we have added to the PE Curriculum this year. Table tennis helps improve hand eye coordination and there are many game variations that pupils can play.

Primary and Secondary West pupils have focused on taking turns and working with a partner this half term. Pupils have been learning to dribble a football, pass to a partner and how to score a goal. Pupils understand that it is important to celebrate everyone's participation in various activities. Elizabeth class have had the opportunity to explore table tennis and have enjoyed taking turns to hit the ball to each other.

Also, a group of pupils have been attending weekly athletics sessions at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. They have had the opportunity to attempt all athletics events and this has been a highlight of the term. Pupils have shown great determination when completing certain events and have really enjoyed this exciting weekly trip.

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## Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymaska

### Secondary West

#### Piccadilly, Bakerloo & Jubilee

In music, pupils have been learning how to play the ukulele. They have learnt how to hold the ukulele correctly, how to strum the strings and how to pluck individual strings. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In drama, we've been exploring '*The Three Little Pigs*', re-telling the story and creating masks for some of the characters. In addition, we have been practising essential drama skills - stopping, starting, sharing, taking turns and engaging in role play.

#### Northern & Central

In music, pupils have been exploring dynamics, learning to play loudly and quietly. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In drama we've been focussing on story-telling through exploring the story of '*The Three Little Pigs*' through re-telling the story and mask-making.

