

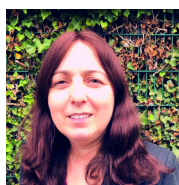


CURRICULUM NEWS

2023 Autumn Term 1 - Primary

*Inspire Excellence
Challenge Potential
Empower Learning*

Deputy Headteacher's Welcome



As we commence the new school year, we anticipate the journey that lies ahead and reflect on the achievements of the past year. We take pride in our pupils' outstanding accomplishments. Each pupil who undertook accreditation exams met or exceeded their predicted grades, a testament to their dedication and hard work. The year was marked by a splendid prom, a cherished tradition enjoyed by all. It was a delight to welcome back former pupils who shared their experiences of Supported Internships and their subsequent successes.

Our leavers embarked on new ventures, including placements at West Lea Pre-Internship and enrolment at The Pavilion 6th Form, part of The Garden School Hackney. We have every confidence in their bright futures. We extend our congratulations to all our pupils, past and present, and wish them the very best in their endeavours. I was pleased to report to our LGB the sustained and improved progress our pupils made. Last year, an impressive 96% of pupils achieved expected progress in both English and mathematics. Best wishes, Helen Georgiades

Teaching, Learning, Curriculum



Welcome to the first edition of our curriculum newsletter for 2023 - 2024. Within each half termly edition you will receive updates and information about what has been happening in your child's class and in their departments. Class teachers and Department Leads have added ideas and useful links to help you support your child at home. A simple yet incredibly effective way of supporting your child's development at home is through reading. It strengthens literacy, enriches vocabulary, enhances comprehension, and ignites a lifelong love for learning.

Our dedicated team of faculty and subject leads are unwavering in their commitment to crafting a curriculum that is both knowledge-rich and engaging. We understand that every child is unique, and The Grove curriculum is designed to cater to the diverse needs of all our pupils. Furthermore, our curriculum is thoughtfully sequenced, building upon each pupil's previous knowledge, ensuring a cohesive and structured learning journey.

Best wishes, Molly Stopps, Senior Faculty Lead

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
23rd - 27th October	Half Term
30th October	INSET - No Pupils
31st October	Pupils back to school
11th November	INSET - No Pupils
2nd November	Remembrance Day
8th - 10th October	Autism Re-Accreditation
12th November	Diwali
16th November	Grove Governors
17th November	Children in Need
2nd December	International Day for Abolition of Slavery
10th December	Human Rights Day
15th December	Pupil Progress Day - School is closed to Pupils
21st December	End of Term
8th January	INSET - No Pupils
9th January	Pupils back to school



Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

What a great start to the new year! Thank you to parents / families who have attended the coffee afternoon this half term. We will get another date booked in before we have a winter break.

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 -

Next half term we see Anti-Bullying week being celebrated 13th-17th November, with some activities and sessions planned for pupils.

Our work in PSHE continues across departments with relationship values, mental health and wellbeing. Some classes will be starting sex education, letters will be sent home to individuals.

Looking forward to the next half term!

Best wishes, Nadine Huseyin
Designated Safeguarding & Senior Mental Health Lead
nadine.huseyin@thegroveschool.co.uk

Pastoral and Behaviour - Mr Louis Maunder

Hi everyone,

It has been a lovely start to the Autumn Term, and it was so nice to see all of the pupils after the summer break.

We are going to run another programme of Family Workshops this year, tailored to the needs of parents and carers. Letters have gone home to get your feedback and we will devise a programme based on the replies. There is still time to reply and have your say if you have not had a chance to yet.

We have continued to evaluate our playground activities through the start of the term and new ones are now going to be available to pupils based on feedback. The playgrounds are becoming a much more engaging and fun environment and we will continue working hard to make playtime even better.

Best wishes,

Louis Maunder

Senior Leader for Pastoral and Behaviour

Career News

It has already been a busy start to Careers this term across the school. We have started our 6th form placements at Kentish Town City Farm and New City College, Primary pupils have been to Pizza Express to experience becoming a pizza chef! We have started African Drumming sessions again, piano lessons, horse riding and Young Enterprise. There have been trips to Little Angel Theatre and trips to cafes and shops. It has been really exciting this term to start some Higher

Education visits with some of our year 11s from Secondary East. We have started with New City College but hopefully this is just one of many. Please look for links in the parent Newsletter and on the website under 'Internships and Next Steps' with links to open days, evenings and events and different colleges in the local area.

Coming up next half term:

- Sixth Form pupils start work experience at Five Guys in Wood Green
- Face Front Theatre are returning with their performance of 'It's my move' about careers and next steps (9th Nov)
- Small group West End Theatre trip to watch 'Dear England' (16th November)
- Peoplescape Theatre will be performing 'The Gingerbread Man' (20th Nov)

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

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

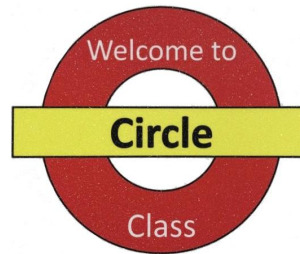
The Primary Department has made a fantastic start to the new academic year since we returned in September. We have welcomed a number of new pupils to the school. They have settled in amazingly well and are already part of the Primary family. The new staff that have joined us have also settled in well and are doing a fantastic job alongside our already existing staff that do a fantastic job everyday!

The theme that Primary Classes have been exploring and learning about is Stories. I've seen some wonderful work going and a wide range of books being read. Please try hard to encourage pupils to read or be read to at home as this really helps our pupils learn and make progress.

I have been very impressed with some pupils from Circle Class going for horse riding sessions each week at Chigwell Riding Trust. As the year progresses we will be encouraging pupils to take part in off-site trips and visits. We will keep you informed of any developments.

Have a great half term and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back at the end of October.

Lee Mills



CLASS NEWS

Circle class had a great first half term back at the Grove!

Our theme this term in English is Myths and Legends. Circle class have been reading the Ancient Greek myth of *Icarus*. Pupils enjoyed the story and were able to write detailed summaries to explain what had happened. We have also been learning about newspaper articles and are working towards writing their own article about the story of *Icarus*.

In maths, we have been learning about place value. Pupils started the year learning about partitioning numbers using base ten. Pupils were able to partition into hundreds, tens and ones. Pupils were able to represent numbers using concrete objects and then we moved on to looking at part - whole models. We are now learning about estimation, and pupils are beginning to estimate numbers on a number line to 1,000.

In Science, we have been learning about plants and their lifecycle. Pupils have had lots of opportunities to explore different types of plants and have all planted their own seeds! We are now observing our seeds to see what happens, we're hoping for some lovely flowers!

The topic for history this half term has been Ancient Greece, pupils have loved learning all about the different Greek Gods and Goddesses and their different powers. We have also been learning about Ancient Greek culture and held our own mini Olympics!

Circle class have been learning about technology during our computing lessons and have developed their independence with using laptops.

In art, Circle class have been exploring the work of Quentin Blake and have practised many different techniques to support them to attempt to draw in the same style. They have drawn portraits of themselves and their friends and have been able to link back to familiar Roald Dahl books.

HOME LEARNING

- Pupils will all receive a reading book every Friday, which they have already read in class. It would be great if you could take some time over the weekend to listen to your child read so that they can share their great progress with you!
- We have started to learn about times tables in class and pupils have really enjoyed it. Any chance you get to practise times tables with your child to help consolidate their learning would be really beneficial.



CLASS NEWS

It has been lovely welcoming our pupils back to school for a new year in City class.

The pupils have had a great start to the

year and have coped well with the changes and new routine.

Our theme this term has been 'Stories'. Across all subjects of the curriculum our focus has been communication, in particular making requests and commenting. In English, the pupils have enjoyed engaging in exploring sensory activities around the story '[King Jack and the Dragon](#)'. They worked on following pictorial instructions, and building 3-part sentences to describe images from the story. In Maths, we focused on numbers and patterns. City class learners used their skills to identify and count different objects, and they practised copying, continuing and creating patterns.

In Science, the pupils learnt about plants. They explored herbs using their senses, and planted cress. In Art, City class explored illustrations and they used different mark making tools to draw pre-writing shapes and illustrate a dragon. In History, we explored Ancient Greece through various sensory activities which included tasting food and making art. In RE, we explored the school's SEARCH value of Support and ways to support each other, and we looked at Hinduism and Hindu celebrations. In Computing, the pupils explored offline and online technology by manipulating different devices. In Cultural studies, we travelled to Bangladesh, ate local snacks and listened, and danced, to Bangladeshi music. Finally, in PSHE, we learnt about ourselves and our emotions, and basic hygiene routines.

Next half term we will continue to learn through 'Stories'. In English we will continue to work on developing reading and writing skills through phonics and fine motor skills sessions. In Maths, we will focus on addition, and measuring length

and height. In Science we will explore living things and habitats.

HOME LEARNING

- English - read with your child for at least 5 minutes a day. They will take home their reading books.
- Maths - practise counting steps or toys with them (up to 5 or 10)
- Science - you can encourage your child to water plants around the house

CLASS NEWS



The first half term of the year has been a great one for Elizabeth class! As a team, we are all so pleased with

how well the children settled back into routines and adjusted to a new class and teacher! We have been engaging in a range of exciting activities, all about our topic of stories. It has been fantastic to see the children engaged and enjoying our different learning opportunities.

In English this half term, we have been focusing on the story 'Fergal is Fuming'. As part of this story, we have explored lots of different emotions and even made predictions based on the story! We have been building on our recognition of various emotions and what strategies the main characters used to calm down. 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 shapes and lines.

In maths, Elizabeth's class has been focusing on both number and geometry. We have been learning to sequence numbers in order and identify one more and one less. We have also been developing our ability to write and trace numerals. We have also been focusing on patterns. Pupils have been building their skill of matching patterns and creating their own patterns using varying shapes, colours and objects.

During our themed activities, we have explored and engaged in a range of different activities around stories! In history, we explored Ancient Greece. We enjoyed discovering the religious aspect of Ancient Greece, identifying different Greek Gods and listening to different myths and legends. In cultural studies, Elizabeth has been exploring Bengali snacks which pupils enjoyed looking, smelling, tasting and feeling. In art, we have been learning how to draw different characters represented in Zog. Elizabeth class have developed their mark making skills and ability to identify colour in pictures. We have also explored different mediums to mark make with. In science, we have been learning about plants and seasonal changes. Very fitting to the time of year! We have been planting seeds and caring for these by regular watering.

HOME LEARNING

- Next term we'll be continuing our themed learning of 'stories'. We will read different myths and legends and report on these events in a newspaper article. Pupils could look at newspapers at home to become familiar with the structure. We will also explore textiles and

designing props in design and technology in preparation for our department Christmas show. In science we will learn about living things and different animal habitats.

- Maths: Children could listen to this [counting to 100 song](#) to refresh their knowledge. They could also listen to this [patterns song](#). Pupils can also practise sequencing using this [game](#). Next half term, we will focus on addition in number and shapes in geometry. Pupils could make shapes using [this fun game](#).
- English: Pupils could listen to their story from this half term, [Fergal is fuming](#). Pupils could use a mirror to express the different emotions Fergal felt throughout the story. As mentioned before, pupils could also explore newspapers and their layout.
- Theme: We are exploring French culture in next half terms cultural studies lessons. Pupils could listen to [this song about colours](#) or when watching their favourite shows, put subtitles on in French!



CLASS NEWS

This term we have all been working hard to get back into the school routine and get to know one another. Victoria Class have been exploring the book 'That's Not My Dragon' through touch and feel. It has been lots of fun to engage with different materials to learn about texture.

We have worked hard to comment on what we can see and feel using vocabulary boards, as well as build sentences using our communication systems with key words from the story. Maths has been good fun too, as we have worked hard on developing our understanding of number by practising our counting skills, building number lines and finding and creating specific amounts using various objects.

As well as working on core subjects, we have also been doing some fantastic work in subjects such as Art. We have loved learning all about illustration through mark making in sensory trays with our finger, as well as exploring drawing lines and shapes using different technology such as the interactive whiteboard. In History, our theme has been Ancient Greece, which we have found really interesting and lots of fun. We have really enjoyed tasting pitta bread and olives as well as trying some Greek Dancing and decorating Greek Vases.

HOME LEARNING

Next term we will continue exploring the theme 'Myths & Legends' through the book 'Don't Ask The Dragon' by Lemn Sissay, which you can listen to [here](#), ready for the new term. Perhaps you could even have a go at making a dragon on a rainy day, to help us remember our theme (instructions can be found [here!](#)). We will be focusing on addition in Maths, along with shapes towards the end of the term. There are lots of ways you could start practising simple addition, such as counting toys, counting plates and cups at the dinner table or listening to counting songs like ['Our Favourite Number Song'](#), ['Add Count Together Song'](#), ['The Addition Song'](#). In DT we will be focusing on making props for our Winter Show. To start

thinking about props, perhaps you can listen to a story with toys that link to the characters. Maybe you could have a go at dressing up, or making hats and wands to engage in imaginative play on a rainy day.

It has been so much fun this term building new relationships and learning lots of new things! We cannot wait for next term in Victoria Class!

Have a fab break everyone.

The Victoria Class Team.



CLASS NEWS

This half term our focus has been on change and transition. After the half term

break Waterloo class will be saying goodbye to Mr Johnny and welcoming their new permanent class teacher, Miss Lottie. We have made this transition gradually, with Miss Lottie teaching more and more lessons as the half term has gone on, so that pupils were given time to process the change and get used to their new routine. Since we started lessons in September, we are now referring to Waterloo as a Secondary transition class to reflect the maturity of the pupils. They now also share their breaks, lunchtimes and assemblies with the Secondary East cohort. This has been a really valuable experience, and has given them the opportunity to begin to prepare for their eventual transition to a full secondary schedule. (As an additional bonus, their new schedule also means that Mr Johnny will continue to see them regularly, when he is teaching in Secondary East.

In English, we have been focusing on Greek myths and newspaper articles. It has been lovely to see them so engaged with mythic creatures like Medusa and the minotaur while they develop their core English skills. I have been especially impressed with how well pupils have developed their headline writing skills, where they have been able to use language to summarise, engage and even be (genuinely) funny while demonstrating their reading comprehension. We have also been exploring (ancient) Greece in our history and food technology sessions. In maths, we have been developing our place value skills and exploring sequences and patterns. They have also been developing their understanding of roman numerals and worded questions. As the term has progressed we have increasingly been focusing our lessons on practical application so that the pupils are able to use their maths knowledge in a range of different contexts, including their other lessons.

Our focus in Science this half term has been plants and seasonal change. Pupils have been able to build on their prior learning, and have been able to go into more depth in their studies by exploring the science behind plant growth. I was particularly impressed with their curiosity and understanding when exploring photosynthesis. Additionally, we have been researching key figures in science, beginning with Sir David Attenborough. Across the curriculum pupils have also been exploring processes, inputs and outputs in their computing lessons; using different mark making tools and the work of Quentin Blake in Art; engaging with the Hindu story of Rama and Sita in RE; and developing their independent reading through our library lessons and regular

reading sessions. This half term I have been particularly impressed with the progress Waterloo class have made with their independent reading. All pupils regularly read independently for twenty minutes multiple times a week and are demonstrating an increased interest in reading for pleasure.

It has been an absolute privilege to teach Waterloo class, and I will genuinely miss delivering their lessons and spending each day with them. I have seen them all grow and develop, and it has been wonderful to see them all gain confidence and build their skills. Every pupil in Waterloo has shown that they can be thoughtful and considerate, and I will miss them greatly. However, I know that they are in very safe hands. From next half term onwards they will have an excellent class team that they know and trust, and I am confident that they will continue to make steady progress. I look forward to seeing their further achievements this year.

- Mr Johnny

HOME LEARNING

ENGLISH: In order to continue the solid progress pupils have made in their independent reading, I strongly encourage pupils to continue reading for pleasure over the break. Pupils will each be bringing home a book to read from our school library over the half term break.

MATHS: Pupils should continue to practise the core skills that they have been working on this year. The BBC Bitesize website offers short activities that can help with this. You can find the website [HERE](#) and I particularly recommend the section on [PLACE VALUE](#), [ADDING AND](#)

[SUBTRACTING](#) to consolidate their learning this half term.

SCIENCE: Next half term pupils will be studying living things and habitats. To prepare for their new topic they should complete some of the short activities [HERE](#). It would be especially useful to complete the activities on [CLASSIFICATION KEYS](#).

PE News with Mr Proctor

Primary department pupils focus on specific gross motor skills each half term during PE lessons. This half term pupils focused on developing their running technique, jumping with two feet, throwing and catching. pupils have also explored hockey and basketball. pupils have learnt to hold a hockey stick with two hands, dribble using a hockey stick and the importance of keeping the hockey stick low to prevent accidentally hitting another player.

pupils have thoroughly enjoyed exploring basketball, learning how to dribble a basketball and shoot into the hoop!

pupils from Circle and Elizabeth Classes are attending horse riding lessons every Tuesday which the pupils find very exciting! All primary pupils have the opportunity to attend weekly Rugby Works sports sessions focusing on social skills and working as a team in a sports environment.

Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymska

Victoria, City & Elizabeth

In Performing Arts, pupils have been following a pirate theme through the story 'Portside Pirates'. pupils have dug for treasure, created their own pirate hats and made their own treasure chests. They have also been singing familiar songs and learning how to play some of the different percussion instruments together as well as continuing to participate in the Drumming Workshops every week with Ben, the drumming teacher.

Circle

In Performing Arts, pupils have been exploring different ways of using their voice, including singing and creating different effects with their voice. They then created a vocal soundscape to tell the story of 'A Surprise Meeting'. Pupils have also continued participating in the Drumming Workshops every week with Ben, the drumming teacher.

Waterloo

In music, pupils have been focussing on playing and moving in time to music, through beat-boxing and rapping. Pupils have also continued participating in the Drumming Workshops every week with Ben, the drumming teacher.

In drama, we've been exploring using masks and the pupils have been creating their own character masks.

Christmas Shows

As our school has grown the performances have grown as well and this year there will be three separate performances taking place in December. With so many pupils now at the school this will mean they have more performance time to showcase their work and it also allows more audience space so everyone who wishes to attend can do so.

The performances are as follows:-

Primary - 'The Snowman' Wednesday 6th December 10:30am Main Hall

Secondary West - 'The Snowman' Wednesday 6th December 2pm Main Hall

Secondary East - 'The Little Match Girl' Wednesday 13th December 1:45pm Activity Studio

We look forward to seeing you at the performances to celebrate the fantastic work of our pupils together.

