

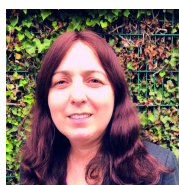


CURRICULUM NEWS

2023 Autumn Term 1 - Secondary West

*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

SECONDARY WEST NEWS

HEAD OF SECONDARY WEST

Dear families, I hope you are all well? We have had a great start to our new school year in Secondary West and I've been impressed with how quickly pupils have adapted and fitted into their new classes and routines. It has been lovely getting to know the new pupils and staff members that have joined our department and I hope they continue to thrive with us.

In Key Stage 3 our termly theme is "Myths and Legends" and our pupils have been exploring different mythical stories in their literacy lessons. In Key Stage 4 our termly theme is "Global Citizen" pupils have been looking at fiction and non-fiction writing, alongside a focus on Geography, History and RE AQA award units.

All classes have been enjoying forest school each week and Piccadilly class are currently taking climbing lessons on Monday afternoons where they are already showing great progress.

I hope you all have a fantastic half term holiday and that our pupils get some well deserved rest before our action packed autumn 2 term starts again.

Best wishes,
Jac Colhoun



CLASS NEWS

The overall autumn theme is *Myths & Legends*. This is an exciting theme with a lot to explore!

English

The focus this half term has been exploring the book: *Once Upon a Dragon's Fire*. Pupils have been constructing three or four part sentences on the characters, the dragon and what's happening. Pupils were able to sequence events which supported them to answer comprehension questions (who?, what?, why?)

In the last few weeks of the term, pupils have been exploring newspapers and learning about the features of a newspaper article. In the final week, pupils will be planning an article of their choice about an event in the story.

Maths

Pupils learned how to count and represent objects, understand numbers, and read them as words. They gained confidence in counting forwards and backwards for some to 10, most to 20 and others up to 100.

Pupils could recognise the numbers that came before and after, and identify one less or one more. Additionally, pupils compared quantities as well as using symbols (<, >, =) to understand and order numbers.

Pupils became skilled at using number lines to count accurately and explored counting in different steps.

Within the **Life Skills** curriculum, the autumn unit has been *'my social self'* and pupils have been developing both their problem-solving as well as thinking skills whilst having fun at the same time. Next half term the unit will be on *'my safety'* - safety at home and school as well as safety with people.

In **Science**, pupils learned to identify and differentiate the four seasons based on simple characteristics. Additionally, they explored matching months of the year to the corresponding season and described how the weather and trees change across each season. Investigating seasonal harvests was also part of their exciting journey.

HOME LEARNING

- Create a mini number line at home using paper and markers. Have them practice counting forward and backward within 20, filling in the missing numbers accurately. They can also explore counting by twos, fives, or other steps on their number line
- *Little Wandle* books go home for holidays, please read those and practise the sounds and or explaining the vocab.



CLASS NEWS

Hello and welcome to our first Central Class curriculum news of this academic year! I am pleased to report that everyone has settled in well to

school routines with new staff members and new class members too. We are in the process of establishing positive behaviours, strong communication skills and respectful relationships. We have been making a great start to our AQA pre-entry awards.

In English, we have been working hard on a non-fiction piece of work, creating simple autobiographies detailing all of our likes and dislikes as well as key information about ourselves. Next half term we will be completing a speaking and listening module covering emotions and regulation strategies. In Maths we have completed two AQA awards - one on place value and another on addition. Next half term we will be covering Geometry and Pattern.

In Geography we have worked on an award that involves using simple maps to navigate around school and the playground and in History we have been learning about the Vikings. In Science we have had a sensory exploration of plants and have been learning which ones we can smell and which ones produce fruit and leaves that we can taste.

In PSHE we have been learning about friendship and how to be around others as well as exploring different emotions and what strategies can be helpful for us. In RE we have been working on a module relating to Hindu religious celebrations and have been exploring these using all of our senses including Diwali and Holi. We have also been learning to choose and make a wrap sandwich in Food Technology with dietary requirements adapted.

Our SEARCH value this half term has been 'support' and it has been lovely to see everyone celebrating little moments of

supporting others as well as making good choices to support ourselves. Next half term our value will be 'empathy'.

Looking ahead, we will be learning about Myths and Legends in History, Living Things and Habitats in Science as well as more winter religious celebrations in RE and we will have the big Winter Show to start rehearsing for.

A great start to the Autumn term everyone, well done and lots to look forward to.

HOME LEARNING

At home, please continue to find the time to enjoy reading together whenever you can. Reading at home as it builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves sleeping patterns.

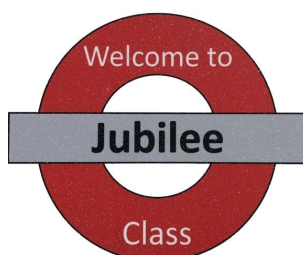
To consolidate some of our recent learning, online Maths games relating to addition can be found [here](#) as well as simple counting [here](#).

A simple game to recognise facial expressions and emotions can be played [here](#). An All About Me game can be found [here](#) which you might like to complete with your child.

Finally, some nice ideas [here](#) from Kew to keep learning about plants at home together.

We all hope you have a relaxing half term break.

Miss Jude and the Central Class team



CLASS NEWS

Firstly a huge thank you and well done to Jubilee for such

an excellent start to the year and for making my first weeks at The Grove so much fun! It has been a pleasure to speak with the pupils' families and I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

In our core subjects, pupils are working on preparing for Entry Level qualifications or working towards AQA Unit Awards.

In Maths our focus has been on revising and progressing our number skills, including tackling word problems in the style of assessment questions.

In English we have been exploring non-fiction texts with pupils reading and writing instructions, postcards, letters and leaflets. We have set up our Guided Reading groups for the term and pupils are bringing books home every Friday.

In Science we have learned about the seasons and plant variation. The pupils have sprouted lentils, planted tomatoes and cress and devised experiments to test the key factors for growth. We are looking forward to presenting an assembly on World Food Day where we will be explaining the importance of water in providing healthy food for all.

Our topic for this term is Global Citizen and we have enjoyed approaching the subject from different angles across a range of different subjects. In Geography we have been using maps to navigate our local, national and international communities. In History we have been considering migration to the UK, beginning with The Vikings. In RE we are preparing to explore and compare different festivals of light across a range of religions.

As part of our life skills programme pupils have also been working on their problem-solving skills and preparing to venture out into the community for a weekly shopping trip. We have cooked some delicious meals including mac and cheese and spaghetti and meatballs and we have also been considering respectful relationships and identifying the behaviours that we want to see in our community.

HOME LEARNING

- Enjoy your guided reading books as well as your sharing books in the evenings and at the weekends.
- Practise number skills using online sites such as Top Marks. But don't forget that a shopping trip or cooking can also be fantastic opportunities to review everyday maths skills.
- Think about planting some seeds at home and watching them grow.
- Watch Newsround and tell someone about what you saw. You can find out more about the countries featured using a paper or online map.



CLASS NEWS

A big welcome back to all the pupils in Northern class, and what a great start to the academic year we have had! It is

lovely to see all the pupils growing in maturity and contributing to an active and engaged classroom.

This half-term the overarching theme of 'Myths and Legends' has influenced each of our subjects. Within English we have

explored the world of 'Puff the Magic Dragon', a lovely sing-a-long story that introduced key vocabulary around dragons, pirates and kings. Pupils have demonstrated their mastery over new vocabulary through building sentences to retell the story alongside answering comprehension questions on 'who, what and where'. Art introduced key drawing techniques and culminated in sketching a dragon using a range of mark-making tools. Science had us observing the seasons and identifying features of our surroundings throughout the year. Finally, maths continued on it's spiral curriculum, with pupils revisiting the foundations of numbers through real-world scenarios including 1:1 correspondence and giving/taking a certain amount.

Next half-term in the build up toward the new year, our theme of Myths and Legends will continue and we will be working hard on our Winter Play, focussing on the country Australia and the aboriginal dream-time story of the rainbow serpent. Maths will see the continuation of addition as a skill in both practical and conceptual forms. Finally, science will focus on habitats and living things around the world.

HOME LEARNING

- To prepare for our new story and winter play, the Rainbow Serpent story is available on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8RA7-yktM0>
- Topmarks has a range of simple maths games in the 3-5 years section perfect for number sense: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=SpringNumber>



CLASS NEWS

This term in maths, our main focus has been on place value. Pupils have focused on lots of skills including counting objects to 100, partitioning numbers into hundreds, tens and ones and ordering and comparing numbers. Piccadilly class have demonstrated great knowledge of place value. Next half term we will be focusing on addition, length and height.

In English, Piccadilly class have been reading the Greek myth, *Icarus* this half term. Pupils have been working hard to answer questions about what they have read particularly who, what, where and when questions. In terms of writing, pupils have been working towards writing a newspaper report all about what happened to Icarus. They have written headlines, captions and re-written the story in the style of a newspaper report.

In History, Piccadilly class have been learning about Ancient Greece and have explored Greek gods and goddesses, the origins of the olympics and ancient Greek art. Pupils particularly enjoyed looking at Greek gods and goddesses and exploring how some of them were thought to have controlled the weather with their moods. Next half term we will be completing a geography unit all about forests!

In Science, we have focused on plants. Pupils have explored the parts of plants, what plants need to grow and the plant life cycle. As part of this, they planted beans and experimented with putting them in different places and seeing how the conditions affected their growth. Next half term in science, we will be exploring living things and their habitats.

In art, we have been focusing on illustration (drawing and mark making) and have studied the work of Quentin Blake. We have looked at the way he drew 'The Witches' and drawn our own witches in his style. Next half term in DT, we will focus on prop making in preparation for the school show.

Well done on a super first half term Piccadilly Class. Have a great half term 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 next term's maths focus, some fun addition games can be found [here](#).
- In preparation for next term's science, please find some [videos and games](#) related to living things and their habitats.

PE News with Mr Proctor

Secondary West department pupils focus on specific gross motor skills each half term during PE lessons. This half term pupils have focused on developing their running technique, jumping with two feet, throwing and catching. pupils have also explored hockey and basketball during lessons. pupils have learnt to hold a hockey stick with two hands, dribble using a hockey stick, pass to a partner, take part in hockey matches 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, different basketball passes, shooting into the hoop and taking part in basketball games.

Bakerloo, Piccadilly and Jubilee Classes have enjoyed weekly dance lessons every Tuesday with our Step Into Dance Instructor. Piccadilly Class have started climbing lessons at Stronghold Climbing Centre. These have started extremely well with the pupils showing great self confidence and engagement.

Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymska

Piccadilly & Jubilee

In music, pupils have been continuing to develop their Ukulele skills. After reviewing the pieces they learnt last year they have been learning more string picking patterns. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In drama, we've focussed on the story of 'The Stick Man'. Having learnt about the

story together, pupils then created an adventure for their own Stick Man, working in small groups to move their puppet.

Bakerloo

In music, pupils have been focussing on playing and moving in time to music, using a variety of actions, body percussion and instruments to play along with a variety of different pieces.

This culminated in a performance of 'In The Hall of the Mountain King' which we created together. In drama, we've been exploring 'The Stick Man', learning about the story before creating our own Stick Man puppet and taking him on a table top adventure.

Northern & Central

In Performing Arts, pupils have been following a pirate theme through the story 'Pirates Love Underpants'. pupils have dug for treasure, created their own pirate hats, designed their own special underpants 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. In addition, they have been on a trip to The Little Angel Theatre to see 'The Bed', an amazing play using puppets and sensory play.

KS4 Music

pupils have started their course this year which will enable them to gain accredited music qualifications from AQA. For the introductory unit we have looked at the key musical elements of Pulse and Rhythm, using a variety of instruments and body percussion to hone understanding. In addition, the vital skills of turn-taking, listening and following cues have been a major focus.

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.

