

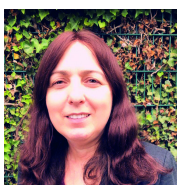


CURRICULUM NEWS

2023 Autumn Term 2 - Primary

*Inspire Excellence
Challenge Potential
Empower Learning*

Deputy Headteacher's Welcome



As we bid farewell to a busy term, I am thrilled to share a few of the remarkable highlights from our wide range of activities.

The school production of The Snowman showcased outstanding performances by Primary and Secondary West pupils, creating a truly memorable experience. Similarly, Secondary East captivated audiences with their impressive presentation of The Little Match Girl in the performing arts showcase.

Among my highlights is the TGS Young Enterprise Team, they demonstrated dedication and hard work. Their biscuits especially were a resounding success, and sold out during all the performances.

The dedication of our pupils shone brightly on Pupils Progress Day, where we celebrated their exceptional strides across various curriculum areas. Witnessing their progress left me genuinely moved. It is inspiring to see our pupils consistently meet and exceed expectations. Thanks to parents and carers for your ongoing support in improving attendance. Our school's average has now reached an impressive 92%, positively influencing progress throughout the school.

Wishing you all a peaceful and healthy holiday. Best wishes, Helen Georgiades, Deputy

Teaching, Learning, Curriculum



As we come to the end of a very busy Autumn Term, it is such a pleasure to reflect on all of the hard work that has gone on across the school. We

have set up a Curriculum Development Team, which allows us to develop and monitor all curriculum subjects and ensure that we are providing the best possible education for all of our pupils. This has been hugely successful. Our focus this term has been PSHE, Maths and Humanities, and we aim to cover different subjects going forward into Spring Term. Reading continues to be a priority at The Grove, with Phonics, Guided Reading and Reading for Meaning happening across the school consistently. I would like to take this time to remind parents how beneficial reading at home can be for pupils. Any time you can set aside for reading over the holidays would help your child develop their vocabulary and understanding, as well as prepare them for more learning next term.

Have a wonderful break!

Best Wishes,

Molly Stopps
Senior Faculty Lead

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
8th January	INSET Day - No pupils
9th January	Pupils back to school
15th January	Martin Luther King Day
16th January	Coffee Morning at Downhills Park Cafe. 10.45-12
21st January	World Religion Day
24th January	Family Workshop
25th January	Grove Governors
27th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
31st January	Family Workshop
6th February	Family Workshop
12th - 17th February	Half Term
14th February	Ash Wednesday
12th - 16th February	Half Term
9th February	Pupils back to school
26th February	Women's History Month
4th March	World Book Day



Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

Wow what a term! I would like to say thank you to all of the families who have been in touch this term and to those that have welcomed me into their homes.

This half term I saw some wonderful celebrations for Anti-Bullying week and the Winter show practice and performances. I have been fortunate enough to teach Marylebone Relationship and Sex Education and have been astounded by their maturity as we covered topics including forced marriage, abuse, types of relationships, sex and contraception. I have also had the opportunity to teach District where we had a focus on Online Safety, again some excellent work and recognition for safety aspects online.

Ready for the new year we have a Coffee Morning on Tuesday 16th January 2023 at 10.45am-12.00. We will have this one at Downhills Park Cafe.

Just a reminder for the 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. It is called The Grove Families Group - if you search for it the image is The Grove logo.

Last but not least pupils who have access to Thrive, PBS and Trauma Informed direct support will be reviewed and parents contacted in the new year. Referrals can be made by staff and families for these services, therefore I will send information home in January detailing what each service can provide / support with.

Wishing you all a wonderful break.

Best wishes, Nadine Huseyin
Designated Safeguarding & Mental Health Lead

Pastoral and Behaviour - Mr Louis Maunder

Hi everyone,

It has been a long but incredibly successful Autumn Term, with so many success stories evident across the departments.

It was an absolute pleasure to see the Christmas Shows this year, and everyone involved should be so proud of what they achieved. All of the hard work from pupils and staff members really did pay off and it was great to see so many happy faces in the audience.

We have had 3 very successful Family Workshops this term. Our 'Careers and Next Steps' session was incredibly well attended and our families really benefited from hearing from a range of different providers and ex-pupils. The session run by our SaLT Team was also very well received and it is great that we are able to offer workshops from such skilled professionals. We look forward to seeing more of you at the sessions we will be running in the new year.

I hope that you all manage to have a restful break and I look forward to working alongside more of you in 2024!

Best wishes,

Louis Maunder

Senior Leader for Pastoral and Behaviour

Career News

It has been a fantastic term for careers and enrichment activities across the school. We are so proud of our Young Enterprise team who have raised over £200 through their hard work and creativity. They have raised money for their business and will be having a stall at Spitalfields in March! We will keep everyone posted on their achievements.

We have lots of exciting opportunities coming up next term such as a trip to the RSC to see a play at the Barbican, immersive art exhibitions and hopefully another visit from the Fire Brigade.

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

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

bronja.elton@thegroveschool.co.uk or on 020 3876 6555

Bronja Elton - Director of Sixth Form/Careers Lead

PRIMARY NEWS

HEAD OF PRIMARY: MR MILLS

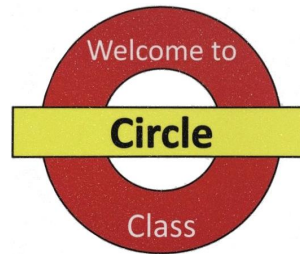
It's been a long but very successful first term in the Primary department this year. New pupils have continued to settle in well and a range of pupils have settled well into new classes in the department. I think both pupils and staff are really ready for the winter break.

We have recently performed the winter show which was absolutely amazing. The pupils were great and they all seemed very proud and excited by the event. The staff team worked incredibly hard on props, costumes and supporting the pupils to come onto the stage - well done everyone!

Circle class have continued their horse riding sessions at Chigwell Riding Centre which have been fantastic. Victoria class have started swimming sessions which they have thoroughly enjoyed and helped develop the pupils confidence around water.

Next term's theme is the Environment which will involve pupils looking at the world around both locally and further afield. Going out for walks and looking, commenting and describing what you can see around you will be a great way to support pupils with the new theme.

Have a great winter break and I look forward to seeing the pupils in January 2024.



CLASS NEWS

Circle Class had a great Autumn term at The Grove!

Our theme this term in English has continued to be Myths and Legends. Circle class have been reading the legend of *Robin Hood*. Pupils enjoyed the story and showed good understanding of the characters and the events. They were able to summarise and retell the story, including key information. We have also been continuing to learn about newspaper reports. Pupils have been able to create headlines and captions and are working towards writing a full newspaper report about the story of *Robin Hood*. All pupils have made good progress in this unit, well done!

In maths this half term we have been learning about addition. Pupils have been working on adding 2 and 3 digit numbers using a number of methods and have been building on their prior learning on partitioning numbers. Pupils were able to represent and add numbers using concrete objects initially, before moving on to pictorial and abstract problems.

In science, we have been learning about living things and habitats. Pupils have had lots of opportunities to explore different habitats and different animals that live within them and are now learning about how different animals have adapted to different habitats. We have had some great discussions and Circle class are proving to be very inquisitive young learners!

The topic for geography this half term has been The United Kingdom. Pupils have been learning about the four countries of the UK and have loved learning all about the fascinating places of interest people visit. Pupils have been able to make connections between places across the UK and have been really eager to learn more about them.

Circle class have been learning about technology during our computing lessons and have developed their typing and internet safety skills.

In DT this half term, Circle class have been busy making props for their winter show! Pupils did a great job working as a team to create a life sized robot and everyone practised wrapping presents for the toy workshop.

Circle class all worked really hard in the build up to the winter show and displayed a wonderful performance!

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!
- Pupils have worked very hard in maths this term on developing their skills in addition so it would be great for them to continue with doing some basic addition at home. They could also start doing some basic subtraction in preparation for next term.

- Circle class have all really enjoyed learning about different habitats and living things and the break would be a good time for them to watch some nature documentaries such as Planet Earth III to continue building on their interest and understanding of living things.



CLASS NEWS

It has been a very busy term for City class.

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 '[That's not my Dragon](#)'. They worked on following pictorial instructions to make dragons, and learnt to answer questions about the story. Also, they have been completing fine motor skills tasks and practising letter formation and writing. In Maths, we focused on numbers and measurement. City class learners used their skills to identify one and lots, and they explored addition. In Geometry, they explore measuring and describing objects based on size, length and height.

In Science, the pupils learnt about habitats. They explored forest, pond and arctic habitat sensory trays, and identified animals and other features of these habitats. In Design and Technology, City class explored prop making for the winter show. In Geography. We explored different geographical regions of the UK through

sensory trays. In RE, we explored the school's SEARCH value of Empathy and ways to support each other, and we looked at Christianity through the story of Noah's Ark. In Computing, the pupils explored creating media using the interactive board and iPads. In Cultural Studies, we travelled to Italy, ate local snacks and listened to and danced to Italian music. Finally, in PSHE, we learnt about people who help us and we practised hygiene routines.

Next term, we will explore books from other cultures. In English we will continue to work on developing reading and writing skills through phonics, fine motor skills and letter formation sessions. In Maths, we will focus on subtraction and shapes. In Science we will learn about Animals including humans, evolution and inheritance.

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), and encourage them to describe objects
- Science - you can encourage your child to water plants around the house



CLASS NEWS

The second school term has proven to be fantastic! As a team, we are delighted with how well the children have adjusted to the class routine. Throughout this term, Elizabeth class have

immersed themselves in a variety of engaging activities centred around our theme of stories.

Throughout this half term in English, our primary focus has been the enchanting tale, 'Once Upon a Dragon's Fire.' Pupils have been learning to comment on the story using 'what,' 'who,' and 'why' questions, which has helped develop their understanding. Pupils have also been working on fine motor skills and are making progress with letter formation.

In our Maths sessions, Elizabeth class have delved into both numbers and geometry. We have explored addition and understanding the structure of number sentences. Pupils have also been developing their ability to write and trace numbers. In Geometry we have been learning about the concepts of long and short and, big and small. Pupils are able to sort and order objects based on height and size.

Our theme this term has been 'stories'. In geography we have been learning about coastlines. We have used sensory trays to explore the features of different coastlines. Cultural studies transported us to the kitchens of Italy, where Elizabeth class explored and crafted different Italian foods. In design and technology, pupils created props for the winter show. Finally, in science, we delved into the study of different animals and their habitats, expanding our understanding of the natural world

HOME LEARNING

- Next term will focus on the theme 'Stories from other cultures'. We will read different stories from

various different cultures and write a diary entry. It would be lovely if pupils could read and explore different stories with you over the holidays. We will also be exploring street art. In science we will learn about the environment and the weather.

- Maths: Children could play [addition games](#) to refresh their knowledge. They could also listen to this [song](#). Pupils can also touch base on long and short using this [game](#) and big and small using this [game](#). Next half term, we will focus on using a range of 2D shapes and weight and volume.
- English: Pupils could listen to their story from this half term, [Once Upon a Dragon's fire](#). You can ask your child who, what and why questions relating to the story.
- 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 been exploring the theme of stories through the book 'Don't Ask The Dragon' by Lemn Sissay. This has been lots of fun. We have really loved exploring the animals in the story

and learning to describe their colour by building sentences with colourful semantics. We have also enjoyed practising our letter formation by using our fingers to make shapes and letters in all sorts of things, we love the paint the most!

In Maths, we have worked really hard on our counting skills and learning how to count a total. We have used lots of different objects to do this, such as counting bears, pom-poms, playdough and transport and bug counters too! Some of us are even starting to add 1 to different numbers with a number line! Science this term has also been lots of fun- we have explored Arctic and Forest habitats in sensory trays with lots of different textures. We loved touching ice to help us learn about the temperature in the Arctic, it was very cold! The Winter Show was definitely the most exciting thing of all. We loved making baubles for our tree in DT and practising putting on our costumes as part of lifeskills. We are very proud of our performance!

Miss Taylor and the Victoria Class Team

HOME LEARNING

Next term our theme will be 'Stories From Different Cultures'. We will be exploring the book 'Dumpling Day', by Meera Sriram, which you can watch on YouTube. We will use the book to create our very own diary entries. Maybe you could listen to songs linked to days of the week such as ['Days of The Week'](#) or ['Super Simple Days of The Week'](#) to help us start thinking about how to use a diary, or even take a photo of you doing something fun each day of the holidays to help us begin to comment on things that have happened in the past.

In Maths we will continue developing our counting skills. This is something you could help us with at home too! Perhaps count the plates at the dinner table, or count how many trees you can see at the park. Perhaps you could even practise counting by listening to [‘The Funky Counting Songs’](#) or [‘The Numbers Song’](#).

Science next term will also be a bit different too, as we will be learning all about the human body. There are a few songs you could sing, like [‘Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes’](#) or even play a game of ‘Simon Says’ to begin to label your body parts. Maybe, if you have some time, you could have a go at making [playdough](#) and making models of yourselves to think about how many body parts we have.

We have had so much fun together this year. We are so excited to see what next year has in store for us in Victoria Class! We hope you all have a wonderful break, see you all in 2024!



CLASS NEWS

Waterloo class had a fantastic Autumn term! The pupils have coped really well with lots of changes as Ms Lottie has become their new class teacher. As a team, we are all so pleased with how well the children have adjusted to their new routines and rules. We have ended the term on a big high from our fantastic school show. I am so proud of how well all

of our pupils performed and how dedicated they were to their roles throughout our many rehearsals!

In English this half term, we have been focusing on ‘The Legend of Robin Hood’ and continuing our learning about newspaper articles. We have dissected the story, exploring the different emotions and changes that the characters go through. We have also been learning new writing techniques, focusing on using commas to list and including question marks and exclamation marks within our writing. As our end goal, we have written newspaper articles about the events of Robin Hood. We have developed our caption and headline writing skills before writing our full published newspaper report. I was very impressed with how the pupils remembered their previous half terms learning and how they used this to enhance their writing when creating their brilliant newspaper articles!

During the first half of Autumn term 2 in maths, Waterloo class focused on addition. They have expanded their skills by learning how to cross 1 and 10 when using addition. We have also focused on answering worded questions and how to break these down so they are easier to understand. In the latter half of the term, pupils have focused on measuring length and height. We have explored converting between metres, centimetres and kilometres as well as developing our understanding of what we use these measurements for.

In design and technology, Waterloo class really enjoyed their project of creating props for their scene in the Christmas show. We practised different origami techniques to create gift bags and bows.

We also explored different patterned wrapping paper before designing and producing our own! In geography, we focused on the United Kingdom. Each week we investigated the different countries within the U.K. and went on 'tours' of famous places within them. Waterloo class loved learning about new places and doing their own research on these too.

HOME LEARNING

Next term we'll begin learning about our new topic of **stories from other cultures**. We are going to be exploring lots of different books from around the world starting with '[The Sadiq collection](#)'. We will also be reading a new class book called 'The Explorer' by Katerine Rundell. We will read this in our spare time to promote reading for enjoyment. Pupils can listen to the first chapter [here](#).

Maths: Pupils could practise their problem solving skills using [this game](#). They could also explore different ways of measuring in their environment over the Winter holidays. For example, the height of different family members or the distance travelled when going on a trip.

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. Pupils could also recap and expand their knowledge of Robin Hood by reading or watching a different version of the story.

Subjects: Waterloo class can do their daily brain wake up with [wordle](#), [flagle](#) and [globe](#). They can also practise their [origami techniques](#) learnt in design and technology.

PE News with Mr Proctor

Primary department pupils focus on specific gross motor skills every half term during PE lessons. This half term pupils focused on developing their running technique, jumping with two feet, balancing, hopping, throwing and catching. Pupils have also explored handball and tag rugby. Pupils have learnt how to dribble, pass and score in handball. This has been a new sport added to the PE curriculum this year which pupils have thoroughly enjoyed and engaged with.

Pupils have also enjoyed exploring tag rugby, learning how to hold the ball, pass and how to score a rugby try!

Pupils from Circle class and Elizabeth class have been attending horse riding lessons every Tuesday morning 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. Waterloo class recently started dance lessons which they will continue in the new year.

Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymka

Primary

In Performing Arts, pupils have been working hard to prepare their performances for the Christmas Show, 'The Snowman'. In the show, the Snowman goes on an adventure to the North Pole. While there he meets lots of new friends and decides to stay there and help Santa. pupils created costumes and props to support their performance and really enjoyed meeting, dancing and making music with the Snowman. The fantastic performances they gave on Wednesday 6th December were a joy to see and it was incredible to see the progress that they have made.

Pupils have also continued to participate in the Drumming Workshops every week with Ben, the drumming teacher.

