



CURRICULUM NEWS

2024 Spring Term 2 - Secondary West

*Inspire Excellence
Challenge Potential
Empower Learning*

Headteacher's Welcome



The Spring term seems to have whizzed away and we are soon heading into summer. Thank you to all the parents and carers who participated in the teacher consultation meetings last week.

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. Once again, the vast majority of our pupils across the school are making excellent progress. In the second half of Spring, our school hosted the Growing the Top event, welcoming five practitioners from outstanding schools. This opportunity allowed us to present our curriculum, which received high praise from our visitors. They also observed several classes and were very impressed with the quality of education, indicating an interest in sending their teachers to gain insights from our teaching approaches.

Overall, we were extremely proud of everyone and the Growing the Top visit was a celebration of all the successes around the school. A great way to finish the term! Wishing you a good half term from the team at The Grove

Best wishes, Helen Georgiades, Deputy Headteacher

Teaching, Learning, Curriculum



As we come to the end of Spring term, it is such a pleasure to take some time to reflect on what a productive term we have had. World

Book Day was a huge success! I thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the amazing costumes and was blown away by everyone's efforts towards their 'World Book Day Class Door'. It is always so lovely to see pupils and staff engaging in conversation about books and taking time out of their usual timetable to dedicate towards their favourite stories.

We have had many visitors this half term who have had the opportunity to get into classes to see how the curriculum is being delivered. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and they have all been really impressed with seeing pupils so engaged in learning across the school!

There have been lots of really interesting parent workshops this half term. I would like to say thank you to anyone who has attended, I hope they have been beneficial and helped towards supporting pupils at home.

Have a lovely Spring break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for Summer term.

Best Wishes, Molly Stopps, Senior Faculty Lead

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
28th March	End of Term
10th April	Eid ul-Fitr Begins
15th April	INSET - No Pupils
16th April	Pupils back to school
22nd April	Stephen Lawrence Day
23rd April	St George's Day
2nd May	Grove Governor Meeting
6th May	Bank Holiday - No Pupils
7th May	Pupils back to school
8th May	VE Day
15th - 21st May	Mental Health Awareness
17th May	International day against HBT Phobia
27th - 31st May	Half Term
3rd June	INSET - No Pupils
4th June	Pupils back to school



Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

As always I begin with a huge thank you to all the families that have been in touch, attended annual reviews, meetings and pupil progress day.

As we head into the Summer term I would love to see you all for a catch up **Wednesday 15th 9.30-11am** this will be our last one of the year. I hope you can join me!

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.

I have been fortunate enough to be in the position to teach a group of pupils about anti-bullying which has led them to complete a course and become Anti-Bullying ambassadors. We will be doing more of this next term and expanding our anti-bullying ambassador group.

Next half term sees our usual Mental Health awareness celebrations. I will also be running a drop in for families who want to know more about how to support their children with their mental health and wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to point you all in the direction of our Online Safety page <https://thegroveschool.co.uk/online-safety/> this is on our website and contains some useful information.

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

Pastoral and Behaviour - Mr Louis Maunder

Hi everyone,

It has been another short half-term that has been packed full of wonderful achievements and moments.

We had a very productive staff Inset Day at the beginning of the term in which staff revisited behaviour expectations and considered why we use certain strategies for our pupils. We developed a whole school list of 'behaviour non-negotiables' that are being designed into a poster to display across the school. These will guide staff to ensure we are meeting the needs of all pupils and factoring in autistic differences when we support behaviour.

Family workshops have been continuing this half-term, with more of a curriculum focus. I would like to thank everyone who attended! We really love seeing you all in school for the workshops. Please sign up for the remaining sessions and if you ever have any ideas for workshops you would like then email me.

The playground charters have now been printed and installed in the playground. They look great and can now be used to support play and interaction in the playground. As we move towards summer we will be introducing new games and activities to make sure playtimes are fun and engaging.

Career News

Another very busy half term, the highlight of which was Careers week and the Careers fair. Across that week pupils had access to a number of different activities including the ones below:

- Art trips of secondary west classes to 'Frameless'
- Employability visits for key stage 4 to the Rugby Works Offices
- On site drama workshops with 'Monkey Moves'
- 'Becoming a chef' trip to Pizza Express
- The Gaming Bus!
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I think a stand out activity was definitely the 'gaming bus' for our pupils aged 8 and above. It was great to see them racing each other on virtual racing tracks and entering virtual worlds with VR headsets. We will definitely be bringing it back next year!

Thank you to those of you that supported us with the Careers fair and came round to look at the stands and talk with our exhibitors. Your feedback was lovely and I hope that it gave everyone something to think about for the future and how many wonderful opportunities there can be for your children.

As always you can contact me below with any questions on next steps, careers or enrichment opportunities.

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

Bronja Elton - Director of Sixth Form/Careers Lead

SECONDARY WEST NEWS

HEAD OF SECONDARY WEST

This term has been very short but we seemed to have crammed so much into it! Pupils in Secondary West have been working hard towards meeting the SEARCH values Acceptance and Resilience. I see both staff and pupils on a daily basis supporting each other, negotiating challenges with each other and displaying resilience all around school.

The pupils in Secondary west have looked at a range of themes and topics which include literature from other cultures in English and money in Maths. In Science, pupils have been learning about electricity and circuits. Some have even been 'electricians' which were given the job of fixing problems with circuits.

The pupils have been lucky enough to attend fantastic offsite activities including climbing and swimming sessions which they have all really enjoyed. We also had the gaming bus come to The Grove for the day which pupils loved - they could play consoles with their friends and even immerse themselves in virtual reality headsets which was great.

Have a great Easter holiday, see you in the Summer term

Mr Mills



CLASS NEWS

Maths:

In maths this term our focus has been on money, weight and volume. Pupils engaged using cubes to find out the mass of various items and also using measuring jugs to find out the volume of containers. When learning about money, pupils were able to find and match different coins and notes. They also enjoyed engaging in 'shopping' role play activities, exchanging specific coins for objects.

English:

The story book this half term has been *Anna Hibiscus' Song* in which Anna lives in "amazing Africa" and celebrates the joy of life and happiness. Pupils wrote about characters, pictures and the setting as well as being stretched to include adjectives.

Pupils explored and practiced writing in the first person. They wrote simple diary entries based on Anna and what she had been doing.

Humanities:

In **geography**, pupils were learning about a country in South America - after exploration of both Brazil and Argentina, the pupils chose to learn about Brazil in more detail. Pupils looked at both physical and human features of Brazil as well as its geographical location, landscapes and food.

In religious education we have been learning about Judaism through the story of Jonah and The Whale. Pupils

enjoyed using props to develop and understand key aspects of the story, they were then able to write about it in their books.

As part of **independence and life skills**, pupils continued to use the food tech room once a week, reading adapted, pupil-friendly recipes to practice skills such as mixing, pouring and weighing. Pupils followed recipes to make apple crumble and shortbread biscuits.

HOME LEARNING

- Pupils will be choosing books for pleasure to take home as well as having their *Little Wandle* phonics reading books. For history, pupils will be conducting local history study on the London Olympics. Pupils could use the internet to pre-research sports, events, watch opening ceremonies on YouTube and even take a visit to the Stratford Olympic Village.



CLASS NEWS

Hello Central Class families!

We hope this newsletter finds you all well and we hope you are all looking forward to the holidays. It has been a busy Spring term. We are continuing to work hard to get AQA certificates in all our subjects.

In English, we finished our reading module on folk-tales from Africa such as 'How the Rhino got his grey skin' and 'Anansi and

his skinny legs'. We have also completed a more general reading module using Grimm's Little Red Riding Hood as our focus text. Next term we'll be moving on to writing modules.

In Maths this term, we have completed a module on number 'facts' increasing our confidence with addition and subtraction. In Science, we have completed a module relating to our topic of 'light, sound and electricity' with a focus on shadows and light sources. We found understanding shadows quite challenging but it was a fun topic to explore! Next half term our topic will be 'Everyday materials. States of matter. Forces'.

In PSHE, we have been learning about puberty and friendships - we learnt about how our bodies change as we get older as well as how we can enjoy spending time with our peers. Next term we'll be learning more about healthy lifestyles. As part of our thematic learning in KS4, we have all been 'Creative Citizens' and have been enjoying DT this half term. We built our own junk model cars which everyone really enjoyed. Pupils got to design and make choices about how they wanted them to look. In the Summer term, we will be 'Working Citizens' with a focus on careers and work related learning.

As part of our SEARCH values, we have been focussing on Resilience and have talked about successfully adapting to difficult or challenging life experiences. Next half term we'll be focussing on Compassion which means being kind to ourselves and others.

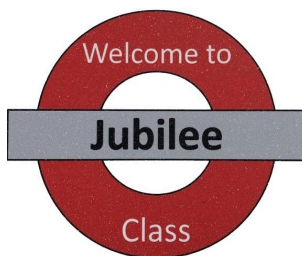
We hope you all have a restful holiday.

Warm regards,

The Central Class Team

HOME LEARNING

Keep enjoying reading together at home. Reading stimulates children's imagination and expands their understanding of the world. There are also lots of resources available online that can help support our learning. Keep trying some number fact games [here](#) and practise reading skills [here](#). There are some activities [here](#) and ideas [here](#) to learn more about healthy eating.



CLASS NEWS

It's amazing how much Jubilee have fitted into this Spring term.

In Maths we've been reviewing our skills with money. Pupils have worked on coin and note recognition, adding and subtracting amounts of money and have worked on their shopping skills, calculating change and considering budgeting at an in-class fruit shop.

In English we have been working towards the Entry Level non-fiction reading paper on the topic of hobbies and leisure. Pupils have been developing exam technique with a focus on reading and rereading the text before answering questions.

These core topics have linked really nicely to the Life Skills topic of play and leisure. Pupils have considered how they like to spend their free time and have been challenged to engage in activities alongside and with their peers as well as trying out some new skills.

In Art we have been learning about graffiti art and are soon to complete our final canvas to show off the skills we've developed. Meanwhile in DT we've continued to work on our junk-modelling topic and have built, tested and evaluated a range of boats.

We've also had the opportunity to be creative in Science where we've been learning about sound and light. The unit has culminated in a shadow puppet show which was a lot of fun!

Alongside all of this we've had weekly trips to the Stronghold climbing centre where pupils have really worked on their problem-solving and resilience skills. It has been incredible to see what the pupils can achieve and we are so proud of them for always accepting a challenge.

HOME LEARNING

- Keep reading your guided reading and choice reading books at the weekend!
- - Why not try a new activity during leisure time? It's always good to try new things.
- - Look out for graffiti when you are out. Maybe take some pictures of it. Can you copy it onto paper when you get home?
- - Why not make your own shadow puppet show at home to share with your family?
- - Pay for items with coins and notes in the shop. Collect and count any change.



CLASS NEWS

A big thank you to all Northern class pupils and families for a fantastic half term.

This half-term we have continued to develop our functional communication which has not only taken place in the classroom but through a range of contexts from the playground to the dinner hall. Within English, we have again explored literature from other cultures through the Brazilian story 'From my Window'. Pupils have demonstrated their understanding of new and pre-mastered vocabulary through identifying nouns, using them in a range of sentences and searching on google to make a fact file about Brazil. Geography was a firm favourite with traditional food, music and football all on the cards as we further explored Brazil. Science focussed on sound, developing an understanding of loud, quiet, high pitch and low pitch, needless to say we made a whole lot of noise! Finally, DT introduced recycling materials for a design project. We explored smooth and rough as well as soft and hard, then chose appropriate materials to build our class recycled tree.

Next term we'll be exploring states of matter in Science, reading *The Enormous Turnip* by Katie Daynes for English and finding practical fractions in maths!

HOME LEARNING

- Please continue to focus on core-language to give instructions around the house and over the

holidays, all pupils should have a core-vocabulary board including: give, want, go, look, help and stop.

- Also introducing our story 'The Enormous Turnip' by Katie Daynes through youtube read-alongs would be great: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ay7XYBr0qwU&t=128s>



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, counting in coins, finding the total of a group of coins, making a given total using coins and comparing amounts of money. We are now also looking at measuring mass and volume.

In English, Piccadilly class continued their focus on the book, *Grace and Family*. The book is set in The Gambia and pupils have been researching the geography, food and animals of the country. They have been working towards writing their own non-chronological reports.

In geography, Piccadilly class have been learning about South America. Pupils have identified it on the map, named the countries in South America and explored the physical and human features of the continent.

In Science, we have focused on electricity. Pupils have explored simple series electrical circuits and have named and described their parts. They have enjoyed being 'electricians', identifying what has gone wrong with circuits and fixing them.

In DT, we have been looking at eco-art. We

have focused on artists, Jane Perkins and Jason Mercier, and have created art out of recycled materials inspired by them! We have used buttons, newspaper, cardboard boxes and many other materials.

In RE, we have been focusing on Judaism and the story of Jonah and the Whale. Pupils have described the characters, ordered the events of the story and are now beginning to retell the story in their own words.

Well done on another excellent half term Piccadilly Class. Have a lovely 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 videos, games and information about fractions can be found [here](#).
- This term in computing, we have been using [this website](#) to make pictograms. Your child might like to explore this at home.

PE News with Mr Proctor

Secondary West department pupils focus on specific gross motor skills every half term during PE lessons. This half term pupils focused on developing their skipping, hopping, jumping, throwing and catching skills. Pupils have also explored dance and handball this half term.

Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed exploring handball which supports hand eye coordination development and pupils have engaged very well with these sessions. Dance lessons which have also included yoga movements have been a highlight of the term with pupils thoroughly enjoying these sessions.

Bakerloo, Jubilee and Piccadilly classes have also enjoyed attending extra weekly dance lessons every Tuesday led by our Step Into Dance instructor. Jubilee class have continued to attend climbing lessons at Stronghold Climbing Centre every Monday afternoon which pupils have found extremely engaging and exciting. A number of pupils across Secondary West have also recently started their Sports Leaders Award by leading and supporting primary pupils in PE lessons. Pupils from Northern and Bakerloo class have been attending horse riding lessons every Tuesday morning which the pupils find very exciting!

Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymka

Piccadilly & Jubilee

In music, pupils have been continuing to develop their Ukulele skills. After reviewing the pieces they learnt in the previous units they have been learning how to play the chords of A minor and F major. We've also been singing songs together and learning about how different instruments sound.

In Drama, we've continued exploring the story of *'Where The Wild Things Are'* using different techniques - freeze frames, thought-tracking and role play.

Northern, Central & Bakerloo

In Performing Arts, pupils have been following a theme based on *Spring*. Pupils have performed different types of musical patterns using tuned and untuned classroom percussion based on Vivaldi's '*Spring*'. They have also been singing familiar songs, learning how to play some of the different percussion instruments together and learning some dances.



Performing Arts Enrichment

Instrumental Lessons

Haringey Music Service have been continuing to offer one to one piano lessons to some of our gifted and talented music pupils. It is incredible to see how much progress they have been making in these lessons and how their confidence has grown. In addition, violin lessons are available provided by Miss Emily. As with piano, lessons take place during the school day but please note that pupils will need to provide their own instrument as these are not available in school. If you would think your child might want to begin violin lessons please contact Miss Emily to discuss further.

Drama Workshops with *Fourth Monkey*

Pupils in Hammersmith, District, Metropolitan, Piccadilly, Northern and Circle took part in some Drama workshops with Fourth Monkey. It was fantastic to see how positively and enthusiastically they responded to the activities lead by the facilitators and how well they worked with their peers. A great day in Performing Arts!