



# CURRICULUM NEWS

2024 Spring Term 2 - Primary

*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](mailto: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!

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

---

## PRIMARY NEWS

### HEAD OF PRIMARY: MR MILLS

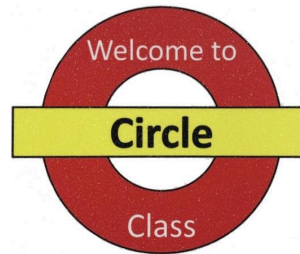
It has been a very short term since we came back in the new year. As the old adage goes, "time flies when you're having fun"!

The primary department has had a busy and fun term engaging in work, building relationships, experiencing new things and making progress in their learning.

The Primary classes have been reading and learning about Stories from other cultures in English. I've seen a wide range of books being read and great creativity from the teachers to bring the stories to life. The science theme has been light, sound and electricity which has been great. I've seen lessons involving pitch, volume and sound waves ranging through to making electricity circuits.

Some classes have been lucky enough to attend swimming sessions which have been fantastic. The pupils love the sessions and it is a fantastic life skill to develop.

Have a great Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on Tuesday 16th April.



## CLASS NEWS

Circle class had a great spring term!

Our theme this term in English is stories from other cultures. Circle class have been reading the story *Grace and Family* by Mary Hoffman. They have moved on to writing a non-chronological report about The Gambia, where *Grace and Family* is set. Pupils have had the opportunity to really understand the culture and geography of The Gambia and how to write their own non-fiction report using bullet points, paragraphs, sub-headings, and captions.

In maths, we have been learning about money. Pupils have been working on identifying different coins, making different values, and comparing amounts of money. They have also been developing their measurement skills, weighing and comparing the mass of different objects.

In Science, we have been learning about electricity. Pupils learned about the different appliances that use electricity before moving on to drawing and building circuits. Circle class have really enjoyed building circuits and thinking about what happens when we change the components.

The topic for geography has been local geography with a focus on London. Pupils have been developing their understanding of the city we live in, identifying different landmarks and planning journeys using Google Maps.

In DT, Circle class have been exploring eco-art and creating objects using recycled materials. They have been able to explore some of the different techniques and materials that are used by eco-artists and are working towards building their own plant pots using recycled materials!

## 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 understanding of money. It would be great to do some activities that involve adding coin and note values and working out the total.



## CLASS NEWS

City class pupils have been very busy this term enjoying a range of new learning experiences and a few school trips. Some pupils visited an art gallery, and they have been attending weekly swimming sessions which have been very successful.

Our theme this term is 'Stories from other cultures'. Across all subjects of the curriculum our focus has been communication, in particular making

requests, commenting and describing. In English, the pupils have enjoyed engaging in exploring sensory activities around the story '[Catch that chicken](#)'. They used sentence strips and symbols to comment on the book, and kept a simple diary with weekly entries. They have been completing fine motor skills tasks and practising letter formation and writing. In Maths, we focused on volume and money. City class learners used their skills to fill containers to capacity and identify full and empty for the first part of the term, and used coins to buy toys for the second part of the term.

In Science, the pupils learnt about Light, sound and electricity. They explored different sources of light, learnt how to turn the lights on and off, and explored shadows. In Design and technology, City class used recycled materials to make a robot. In Geography, we explored London through a sensory story, and we looked at landmarks and transport in London. In RE, we explored the school's SEARCH value of Resilience and ways to cope with changes, and we looked at Judaism through the story of Jonah and the Whale. In Computing, the pupils explored handling data by matching and sorting on a device. In Cultural studies, we travelled to Poland, ate local snacks and listened to and danced to music. Finally, in PSHE, we learnt about changing and growing, and we labelled pictures of babies and children.

Next term, we will continue to explore 'Short Stories/Traditional Tales'. 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 fractions and statistics. In Science we will learn about Everyday materials, States and forces.

## HOME LEARNING

- English - read with your child for at least 5 minutes a day, and ask them to point to characters and images.
- Maths - practise counting steps or toys with them (up to 5 or 10), and encourage them to describe objects



## CLASS NEWS

Elizabeth class has had a great half term! We have been engaging in a range of exciting activities, all about our topic of relating to stories from other cultures. It has been fantastic to see the pupils engaged and enjoying our different learning opportunities.

In English this half term, we have been focusing on the story 'Coming to England'. As part of this story, we have explored English culture and observed different landmarks across England! We have been working on widening our vocabulary when using adjectives. In writing, pupils have been developing their fine motor skills using a range of activities. We have also been focusing on letter formation and different mark making tools and using these to trace and imitate different shapes and lines.

In maths, Elizabeth's class has been focusing on both numbers and geometry. We have been learning about the value of

money and transferring these skills when answering number sentences. We have also been developing our life skills through using money in real life situations for example 'shop role play'. For geometry we have been exploring weight and volume identifying the meaning of full and empty.

During our themed activities, we have explored and engaged in a range of activities around culture! In geography, we explored the landmarks of London. We enjoyed discovering the different tourist attractions within London. In cultural studies, Elizabeth has been exploring Polish snacks which pupils enjoyed looking at, smelling, tasting and feeling. In D&T, we have been learning about different materials and what they are made of, we have also been using recycled materials to make a bottle monster. In science, we have been learning about light, exploring artificial and natural lights and looking at how we can protect ourselves from the sun.

## HOME LEARNING

- Maths: Children could play [money game](#) to refresh their knowledge. They could also listen to this [song](#). Pupils can also touch base on weight and volume 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, [Coming to England](#). Pupils answer who, what and why questions relating to the story. Pupils could also explore diaries and its layout.



## CLASS NEWS

This term Victoria Class have been exploring the book 'Handa's

Hen' as a continuation of our theme of stories from other cultures. We have loved having the opportunity to learn all about Africa in a variety of fun and engaging ways. We have really enjoyed commenting on what we can see, feel and taste using vocabulary boards, and build sentences using our AAC systems to help us understand aspects of the story. We have enjoyed exploring and naming African animals in sensory trays and small world play. Tasting mango, banana and oranges was great too. All of this helped us to create information posters all about Africa!

Maths has been good too! We've been developing our knowledge of money in a variety of ways. We have had lots of fun having a go at printing coins in playdough, engaging in role play to 'buy' our favourite items from the 'class shop', and match and sort images as well as real coins too. We have also loved finding coins in sensory trays and labelling them using our AAC devices.

As well as working on core subjects, we have also been doing some fantastic work in subjects such as Science. We have been exploring the theme of 'Light, Sound and Electricity', with a specific focus on sound. We have absolutely loved exploring making different sounds using different objects and instruments, as well as experimenting with volume and pitch.

Another subject we have really thrown ourselves into is Geography, and the theme of 'London' through exploring the story 'Maisy Goes To London'. Developing our knowledge of the city we live in has been great. We have loved painting red buses, looking at photos of landmarks and creating collages that represent a London map.

## HOME LEARNING

Next term we will continue exploring the theme of short stories and fairytales, through the story of ['Billy Goats Gruff'](#) by Mara Alperin and Kate Pankhurt, which you can listen to here ready for next term. Perhaps you could even have a go at making your very own paper [plate troll](#) on a rainy day. You could even have a go at making a 'Billy Goats Gruff' hat which you can find inspiration for [here](#). We will be focusing on fractions in Maths. There are lots of ways you could start to think about fractions at home, such as making pizzas with playdough and cutting them into halves and quarters. Maybe you could listen to ['Half and Whole' song](#) to help us start thinking about next term. In Science, we will be exploring 'Everyday Materials, States and Forces'. It would be great if you could start thinking about materials through exploring your different toys. You could even begin to think about states through exploring ice cubes by freezing water to create solids and watch them melt into liquids as you play with them.

It has been so much fun this term 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

Waterloo class has had a very busy and fun filled spring term.

The pupils have begun swimming each Wednesday which they have adapted so well to. We are in very good routines now and their swimming is coming along excellently. We had a very busy careers week which started with a visit from BT and a presentation about their apprenticeship scheme. On the Thursday of careers week we visited Pizza Express to learn about the role of pizza chef and made our own yummy creations. To finish off the week we visited a gaming bus in school which was definitely a firm favourite! We are all very proud of how the class coped with the changes and got fully stuck in too.

In English this half term, we have been focusing on writing a non chronological report on Somalia. We have been researching and exploring different information about Somalia to build up our reports. Pupils have been working on their tone, ensuring that they are writing in a professional manner for their report. They have really developed their paragraph writing skills and have also been working on writing clear and accurate subheadings to match. We have become experts in information about Somalia!

This half term in maths we started with a focus on money. We have developed our understanding of how to give change from different amounts and exchange between pounds and pence. We have also been working on adding and subtracting money.

Waterloo have really enjoyed the practical side of our learning this half term and have been really engaged throughout their lessons. We have ended the half term with a focus on measure, particularly converting between metres, centimetres and millimetres.

Waterloo class has loved science this half term. We have been exploring building electrical circuits and learning how to accurately draw these too. The pupils also really enjoyed testing different materials to see whether these were conductors or insulators.

## HOME LEARNING

Next term we'll begin learning about our new topic of **traditional tales**. We are going to be writing letters focused around the stories in 'The tales of Beedle the Bard'. Pupils can listen to the story of '[The Wizard and the Hopping Pot](#)' from the book.

Maths: Pupils could practise their problem solving skills using [this game](#). If the opportunity arises, it would be brilliant for the pupils to use money in the community and practise giving exact amounts during the holidays. They could also help with measuring exact amounts during cooking or baking.

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 research and read different nonfiction books to continue their learning about nonfiction writing.



Subjects: Waterloo class can do their daily brain wake up with [wordle](#), [flagle](#) and [globe](#). They could also plan and carry out a local trip using google maps with the help of an adult.

---

## 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 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.

All primary pupils have the opportunity to attend weekly Rugby Works sports sessions which focus on social skills and working as a team in a sports environment.

Victoria, Circle and Elizabeth classes have also recently started extra dance lessons every Tuesday morning which are led by our Step Into Dance instructor. Waterloo and City classes have started swimming lessons this half term and pupil's water confidence is already improving.

---

## Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymka

### Waterloo

In Music, pupils have been exploring dynamics, looking at the effect this can have in different pieces of music. They have used body percussion and classroom instruments to perform and create different types of music that use dynamics. In addition, pupils have also continued participating in the Drumming Workshops every week with Ben, the drumming teacher.

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

### Circle

In Performing Arts, pupils have been following a theme based on *Weather*. They have begun to learn about how music can represent different types of weather and used voice, body percussion and classroom instruments to create music for a storm based on Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*. They have also learnt how to use their voice and physicality to role play as different characters. In addition, pupils have also continued participating in the Drumming Workshops every week with Ben, the drumming teacher.

### Victoria, City & Elizabeth Class

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 and learning how to play some of the different percussion

