



28.3.18

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy half term. With lots of progress in reading, writing and mathematics. For us at Grove it is important our children develop confidence, broadening their vocabulary and understanding.

Nursery have enjoyed their first experiences at forest school. They are adept at searching for bugs and spotting birds and wildlife. Nursery have been busy preparing to share their songs and dances in the Easter assembly.

Reception have explored how ice melts during science week. Great fun was had, attempting to get at frozen toys. The Lego workshop was a real success. There was a lot of Lego in our halls. More recently, reading club visited Handsworth Library. It was good to see all the children take a library book home with them.

Year 1 enjoyed Little Red Riding Hood performed by a live theatre group. Year 1 have also shown some super maths skills on the trails devised by our Year 5 pupils.

Year 2 learnt about weather and climate around the world through a live theatre performance. During science week pupils from Year 2 participated in experiments set up by older children in school. Year 3 set up a whole range of magnet experiments for Year 2 pupils and Year 5 challenged them to balloon races.

Year 3 have visited the Gurdwara on the Soho Road as part of our religious studies curriculum. Year 3 pupils have shown their teaching skills when working with Year 2 on magnets. Currently Year 3 are designing an electronic book on magnets for younger children.

Year 4 visited the canals of Birmingham, walking along the Birmingham and Fazeley canals. With lots of opportunities to learn about canal art. Year 4 have been reading The Spiderwick Chronicles. The visiting theatre company performance really brought this to life.

Year 5 enjoyed a visit from a jeweler showing pearls and diamonds. Jewellery is an important part of Birmingham's heritage. Pupils have shown their own talents of jewellery making in school. Pupils' singing skills are developing very well through their work with Welsh National Opera. We look forward to their performance in the summer term. This week Year 5 pupils have been exploring a whole range of different adventure activities at Whitemoor Lakes in Staffordshire. The three-day residential was a resounding success.

Year 6 have shown their musical talents this half term. Their work on Elgar's Enigma Variations has been really creative. Year 6 enjoyed learning first hand in the Think Tank light dome. Scientists from Think Tank visited Grove, allowing the pupils to explore light and shadows in the dome. Our pupils have also visited Holyhead School and learnt how to use a Bunsen burner in their science laboratories. More recently, Year 6 pupils have debated plastic pollution and the potential impact on our world. They show really good oracy skills.

Whole school events this half term include science week, safer internet week and world book week. Photographs from all of these events are on our school website. In world book week authors visited Grove,

events such as 'read before you sleep' were a real success. Whilst a snow day delayed our dressing up day, we held the event a week later. All pupils had a free book and voucher as part of world book week.

#### Sports Relief

Thank you to everyone who helped to raise £376.73. School councilors organised sporting challenges for pupils in school. The zumbathon led by Miss Knight was not only energetic but also thoroughly enjoyed by all.

#### Sports hall

We are working closely with the local authority on our new sports hall. The new building will be at the back of lower school where there are currently two temporary classrooms. Next term we will put a display up in school of the design plans for the new sports hall. As soon as I have any update on progress with the sports hall I will let you know.

We have been very pleased to welcome Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Proud back from maternity leave this half term.

I would like to wish you all a lovely Easter break. I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Yours sincerely,

P Matty  
Headteacher