



Grove School

Curriculum report from leaders at Grove.

May 2019.

Nursery

Our topic in nursery has been minibeasts.

We have enjoyed hunting for them in our outside area. We read The Very Hungry Caterpillar and enjoyed singing the caterpillar song.

Tadpoles arrived from the school pond this term. The children enjoyed watching them grow. They were particularly interested to learn that tadpoles grow into frogs. Now they have grown into frogs, some of the children went to the



forest school pond to release them.

Some of the children in nursery have visited forest school. They keenly found real minibeasts to handle and observe. They looked at their habitats, made fairy bracelets and were able to to do some bird watching too!

Nursery visited Ash End Farm to end our learning about animals and their babies. The visit was filled with excitement for everything including travelling on the coach, feeding the animals and exploring the farm playground.



Next term we are looking forward to our topic exploring In the Past- Dinosaurs and Pirates. We will enjoy a pirate picnic in the playground with pirate costumes and pirate fayre.

Reception

Reception children returned from the Easter break to find a garden centre role play area in their classrooms, to support the topic 'The Great Outdoors'. Children have enjoyed exploring their garden centres, taking on different roles and engaging in imaginative role play. This has supported children to develop their speaking and listening skills, as well as personal, social and emotional development.

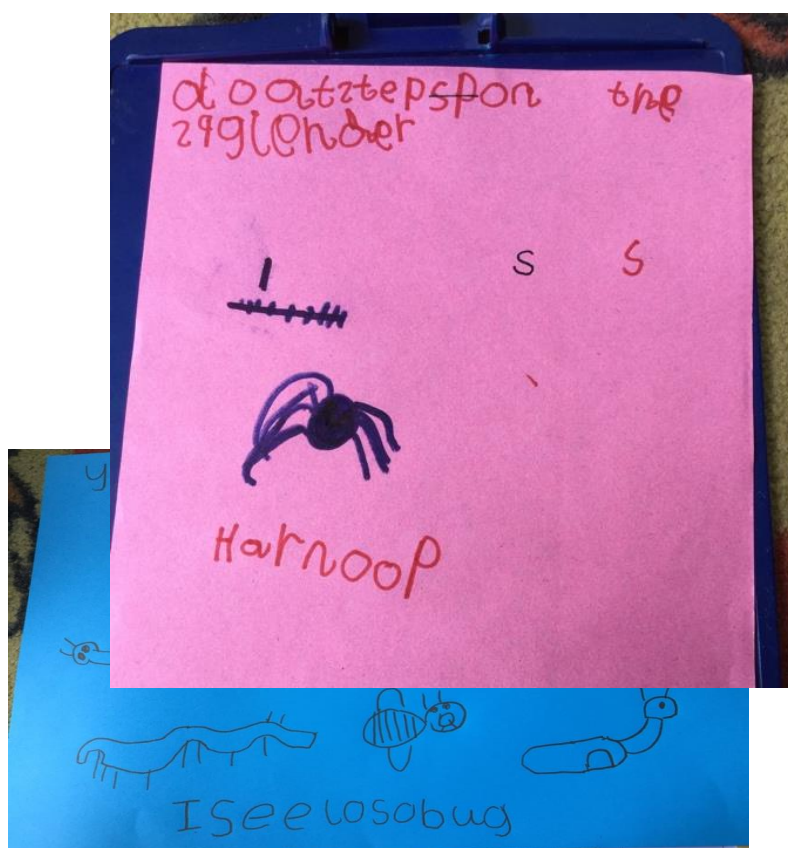
We started our topic by discussing how we treat living things in the great outdoors. The children



made posters for our garden to remind everyone of the expectations.

"You have to feel them gently."

"I see lots of bugs."



"Don't step on the spider."

Staff have introduced a daily wow word. This has been hugely successful and has supported children in developing their vocabulary. Children are eager to use the wow word of the day in their writing and speech. Introducing wow words has also encouraged children to ask for clarification when they do not understand a word when listening to or reading a story.

Weekly key texts such as 'Argh Spider', 'Christopher's Caterpillars', 'Superworm' and 'The bad-tempered ladybird' sparked the children's interest to find their very own mini-beasts at forest school.





As well as unearthing mini beasts, the children in Reception have been fascinated by the real-life tadpoles in our classrooms. The children have been in awe when observing the changes and when viewing first-hand the tadpoles growing into froglets.

The children have continued to settle into guided reading each morning where they develop



their reading, retelling and really understanding skills. Phonics also continues to be a focus promoting children to become confident readers by developing their segmenting and blending skills. We have awarded many phonics badges to children who are able to read their phase 2, 3, 4 and 5 high frequency words in Reception. Children continue to remain extremely motivated to learn to read their high frequency words in order to achieve their phonics badges and be presented with them in our celebration assemblies.

Another highlight for both children and staff during this first half of the summer term has been PE. Children have enjoyed developing their knowledge of the importance of physical exercise and loved participating in a range of activities focusing on speed.



For the final term, we look forward to our topic of dinosaurs and pirates. We particularly look forward to our pirate picnic and graduation. During this half term children will also be introduced to the Rights to Respect Award and we aim to highlight article 24 which is based around the right to the best possible health.

Key Stage One

Year 1

We commenced this half term with phonics very much at the forefront of our minds. With a focus on alien words, over the Easter holiday, the children created their own aliens and had lots of fun in thinking up names. There was a reward of a special sticker for the aliens with the funniest names.

We had names such as Slueger, Mathanhay and Glopeng. The children had thought wisely about their phonics, as well as their creative skills and each alien caused a lot of excitement within the classes.

In art and design we have been practising our sculpting skills and although the teachers were a little apprehensive about this activity, the children were wonderful and their flowers look amazing! We studied how the poppies at The Tower of London were made and adapted it to create our own, unique flowers. Each flower has a positive message attached, so that if any child was feeling upset they can read a message or two to cheer themselves up. The children were very concerned that the Happiness Garden should be a calm and positive space for everyone. The story of The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde was our inspiration for our Happiness Garden and proved popular, as it generated some emotive conversations between the children on how we should treat everyone with respect and kindness.



In maths this half term we refreshed our knowledge of place value and embedded the importance of knowing that two-digit numbers consist of tens and ones. The children then used this developing knowledge to effectively add and subtract using a hundred square. Time is always a tricky concept, but with perseverance and enthusiasm the Year 1 children are becoming time experts!

Year 2

Our topic for Summer 1 was Healthy Me, based around the science topic Animals, including Humans. We have found out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival. We then learnt about exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food and hygiene. We ended this topic by holding our own Sports Day. The children really enjoyed participating in Sports Day, which we linked to the Olympics, especially the 2012 London Olympics, with our very own Opening and Closing Ceremonies.



After our exciting Sports Day, we wrote some fantastic recounts which showed how engaged the children were that day. In literacy, we also stories and poetry written by Allan Alhberg and wrote book reviews to share with the other Year 2 also had their KS1 assessments this term. tried their best and we were very proud of their the “quizzes.” In order to complete the we spilt the year group into smaller groups. were not doing quizzes, the children enjoyed art, social skills and team building games, as well and tasting their delicious smoothie recipes. Our art and design and technology was also Healthy Me, with the children sketching fruit paintings with different materials, designing and making smoothies and creating 3D models of different fruits using clay.



looked at the each class classes. The children attitudes to assessments, While they taking part in as making

Our religious education topic this term has been Islam, so we have learnt about different aspects of the religion and why they are important to Muslims. The children have also had many opportunities to reflect on different aspects of their own lives and why they are important, for example being part of a community or why having a dress code at school or in a social group is important.

We held an E-safety workshop, which was well attended by parents who have said they found it very informative.

Our next topic is all about the seaside. We will look at the history and geography of the seaside, especially Weston Super Mare as this topic will include a visit to Weston Super Mare, which the children are already very excited about!

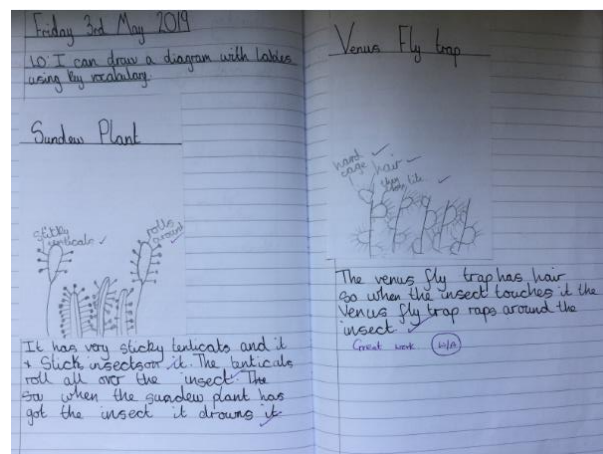
We will also be taking 60 children to a singing workshop run at Symphony Hall. It is the same event we went to this time last year so look forward to another morning of children (and staff) on their feet singing, dancing and clapping!

Next term we are inundated with educational visitors, hopefully having football coaches to support PE teaching and welcoming Sharon Cufin from Link2ICT into Year 2 to support the delivery of computing.

linked to

Year 3

This term, the children have had the chance to explore their science and geography topics in a range of ways. In science, the children have been learning about the key features of plants and what they have to grow. In order to understand this, the children have grown their own sunflower and tomato plants that are sprouting in the classroom! The children have loved watching their plants grow after taking care of them so carefully. This has also engaged the children in taking responsibility for the care of their surroundings. We have incorporated our plant topic into one of the units of writing for this half term. The children investigated and researched different types of carnivorous plants, looking at how they grow differently to the plants that they were growing in the classroom. This introduced the children to new vocabulary that really made their writing exciting for an older audience. In order to develop further interest in the topic, we explored a range of medias such as video clips, websites, leaflets, books and diagrams to deepen their understanding. The children loved seeing the Sundew Plants and Pitcher Plants viciously catching all sorts of creatures such as ant, bees and even mice!



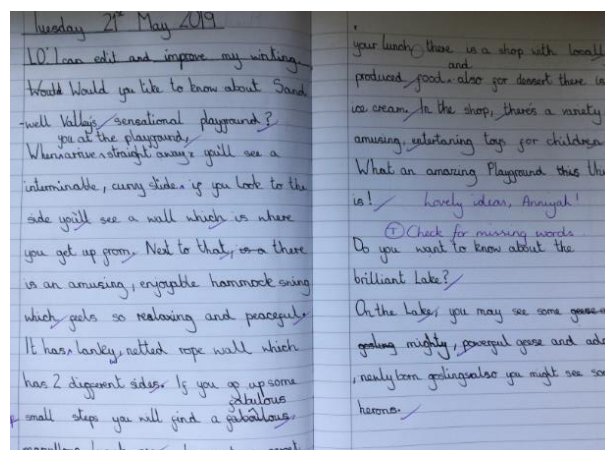
In geography the children have been looking at map work. This has involved the children learning the 4 main compass points and then using them to work out directions to locations. The children have also been



investigating ordnance survey maps of Birmingham to locate the different places that they have been to. The children enjoyed looking at the different symbols and coming up with their own symbols that



they would use if they were to update the maps. At the start of the half term year 3 went to Sandwell Valley. Whilst there the children used their knowledge of maps to discuss the directions they would use and identify which direction different places were in using the 4 points of a compass. It was exciting for the children to see new-born goslings, ducks and even a heron whilst on their walk as many of them hadn't experienced them before. From



this, the children have loved writing their own leaflet to persuade their parents and other families to go to Sandwell Valley.

In art the children have been looking at David Hockney and the different styles that he uses within his art. The children then used these styles to recreate their own images of places that they saw whilst at Sandwell Valley. Additionally, the children have been looking at photography of different flowers that they took and then sketching the flowers. This has allowed the children to look at art in different medias and consider different techniques that can be used. During their visit to Sandwell Valley, the children had the opportunity to sketch their surroundings. The children loved being artistic in the outdoors.



Next half term, we are looking forward to starting our learning about the Ancient Romans. This will include a day dedicated to the disaster that struck Pompeii at the hands of Mount Vesuvius. We will explore the culture of the Romans, creating our own theatre masks that represent the emotions of people that might have been living in Pompeii. Furthermore, we are preparing for an exciting trip to Lunt Fort where the children will be able to experience a day in the life of a Roman gladiator. This will be followed by a day of feasting in which the children will make their own Italian cuisine and share it with the rest of the year group.

Year 4

The start of the summer term has been extremely exciting in year four. We have been learning about rainforests, their location, the climate; the plants, insects and animals found in these habitats; and the issue of deforestation of the rainforests.



In writing, the children have produced work where they have written about the same incident from a different character's perspectives. In this instance they could choose to write from an orang-utan's point-of-view or a human working in the rainforest.

After discussion and research about the deforestation of the rainforests, one of the pupils in year group came back after the weekend and informed the class, quite indignantly, that Iceland shops were still selling items that contained palm oil and proudly proclaimed that she told them that they should not have been selling these items.

Our class novel, Journey to River Sea by Eva Ibbotson, is a story set in Manaus in the Amazon rainforest. This has also been a success with children desperate to continue reading it in every spare moment

In music, we have reproduced the sound of a rainstorm and our art, this half term, has been inspired by Kandinski.

This topic, on the rainforests, has truly captured the imagination of the children.

This term year 4 have visited a venue new to Grove, Safeside at Eastside. This was an excellent trip that really helped the children to understand all aspects of keeping safe in a variety of situations which ranged from fire safety and safety in the house to how to keep yourself safe on public transport and by canals.

Our focus in maths this half term has been statistics, fractions and decimals.



Children of Blue



Watch at Safeside at Eastside

As the last term of the year approaches, the events that we are most looking forward to are the residential to The Brighthouse and the day trip to Anker Wood (formerly known as Plantasia), where we will be exploring mazes; meeting the animals; and taking part in a wild walk. We are also excited about exploring electricity in our science topic.

Key Stage Two upper

Year 5

Due to the term being incredibly short we have had to squeeze a huge amount of activity and learning into year 5.

Lost in Space.

As a year group we have been all about the universe in our science, our reading, writing and even down to exploring negative numbers using the diverse temperatures of the planets in our solar system.

In **science** we have explored the science behind why we have day and night, months and seasons. We've researched and identified information about our solar system and the galaxy we belong to as well as why it seems the sun moon changes its shape.

In **reading** we have been reading the Jamie Equation which is packed full of science yet amazing sci-fi story. Below the children act out their book in the class novel session.

In **art** we are designing a solar system using a marbling technique and then adding our inspired by the artist Peter Thorpe, who started graphic artist and ended up turning space-ships into fine-art.

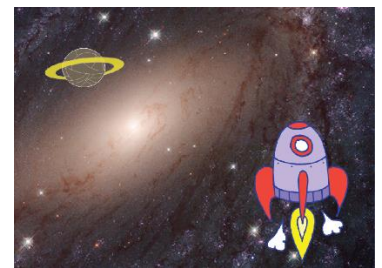
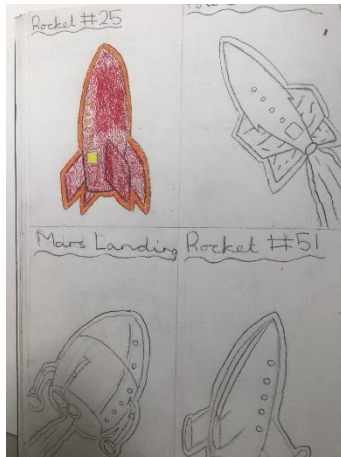


moves and

Drake
written as an
a scene from

background
own rockets
out as a

In **ICT** we have been learning to program our own space animation using Scratch from code club. This term, we have been looking at space animations and games using Scratch online. The children used their skills learned from the Autumn term to create these animations and games. It was great to see the children working independently to work out how to make certain sprites spin, tilt and glide across the background. Many of them also tried to include a timer and a score!



Year 6

This half term in year 6, the pupils have been preparing for their SATs. The children have worked hard and have enjoyed games and treasure hunts as part of these preparations. The teachers are very proud of the way the pupils have approached the tests.

In preparation for the London residential visit and Warner Brothers Harry Potter Experience visit, the pupils have been reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. They have watched the first Harry Potter film and have compiled a first years' guide to Hogwarts in literacy. The pupils have also enjoyed some mathematical wizarding where they have used ratio to calculate the ingredients for different potions. Year 6 are really excited for the visit.

In geography, the pupils in year 6 have been finding out about the geographical features of rivers and explained how ox bow lakes and waterfalls are formed. As well as this, they have considered the impact of the way humans use rivers both positive and negative. They have also found out about the River Thames and the changes in how people use the river including the frost fairs that happened in the late 1700s. Parts of the river became completely frozen due to a narrowing at a bridge where the river was unable to flow fast enough to stop it freezing.

In art, the pupils have designed silk Rangoli patterns. Look out for these in the art exhibition at the end of the summer term.



Next half term we are looking forward to our Shakespeare topic where we will be studying Macbeth and writing our own versions with a modern twist. We are also looking forward to preparing for the end of year production.

Professional development March 2019 – May 2019

Whole school training

Title of training	Date	Trainer
Child Protection and Safeguarding policy	29.03.19	Justine Baker
The Birmingham Pledge	29.03.19	Justine Baker
Equality Objectives	29.03.19	Justine Baker
Rights Respecting Award	29.03.19	Justine Baker/Catherine Dowell/Jacky Williams

Training for groups of staff

Title of training	Date	Trainer	Group of staff
Moderation and book scrutiny – Tigers & Boys	07.03.19	Year Group Leaders/AHT	
Reading and phonics	14.03.19	Amun Bains/Shanana Begum/ Justine Baker	HTLA/ Teaching assistants
Special educational needs	14.03.19	Catherine Dowell/Jacky Williams	Teachers
Mathematics	04.04.19	Katheryn Whitehouse/Emma Mills	HTLA/ Teaching assistants
Reading and phonics	09.05.19		HTLA/ Teaching assistants
Moderation and book scrutiny – Tigers & Boys	16.05.19	Year Group Leaders/AHT	
On line education – curriculum	29.03.19	Emma Mills	Teacher/Teaching assistants

Thinking Skills curriculum	29.03.19	Justine Baker	Teacher/Teaching assistants
Reading	29.03.19	Justine Baker	Teacher/Teaching assistants
Manual Handling training	29.03.19	Andrew Fielding	Cleaners/ BSS
Early Help	02.05.19	Justine Baker/Catherine Dowell	Teachers/Teaching assistants/Admin

Individual professional development

Name of member of staff	Course/CPDL	Date
Emma Mills, Elaine Patel	Budget Management training	28.02.19/01.03.19
Catherine Dowell, Jayne Basnett	Link2ICT conference	05.03.19
Jean Wilkinson, Clarissa Hollyhead	Writing Moderation course	05.03.19
Nicole Leontiou, Christine Willoughby	EYFS profile standardisation & moderation training	06.03.19
Pemlea Matty	National Schools conference	15.03.19
Liz Gallagher, Shana Begum	EYFS profile standardisation & moderation training	25.03.19
Karen O'Mahoney, Patricia Reville, Anita Kumari, Michael Fyffe, Elaine Patel	Educare – Safer Recruitment	29.03.19
Jean Wilkinson	Phonics Screening check – administering the check	02.04.19
Justine Baker, Catherine Dowell	Signs of Safety and Wellbeing update	03.04.19
Pamela Matty	Refresher DSL – Safeguarding & Child Protection update	09.04.19
Michelle Murphy	Spring Attendance Forum	09.04.19
Adam Lucas	Birmingham Children's Hospital Diabetes Home Care Team	10.05.19
Justine Baker	Getting the best out of an Occupational Health referral	20.05.19

After school clubs

Day	Year group/s	Club	Number of children attending	PPG children attending	No of girls	No of boys	Co-Ordinated by
Monday	6 and 5	Keyboard	5	4	3	2	Music service
	6	GCSE	10	3	5	5	Grove staff
	4	Library	9	5	7	2	Grove Staff
Tuesday	1	Boys writing	12	1	0	12	Grove staff
	1	Phonics	12	1	5	7	Grove staff
	1	Maths Girls	12	4	12	0	Grove staff
	3	Maths	7	3	3	4	Grove staff
	4	Maths	12	7	7	5	Grove staff
	5	Reading	15	12	7	8	Grove Staff
	6	Reading	9	5	2	7	Grove staff
	3 and 4	Ukulele	14	8	7	7	Music service
	5 and 6	Brass	3	2	0	3	Music service
	6	Djembe	8	7	8	0	Music service
	5 and 6	Girls Football	16	8	16	0	Grove staff
Wednesday	2	Writing	12	4	6	6	Grove staff
	2	Maths	12	4	5	7	Grove staff
	2	Reading	12	5	8	4	Grove staff
	3	Reading	14	3	7	7	Grove staff
	4	Reading	12	6	4	8	Grove staff
	5	Maths	15	12	9	6	Grove staff
	6	Maths	9	5	2	7	Grove staff
	5 and 6	Dohi	5	3	0	5	Music Service
Number of clubs		22					
Number of children attending			235				
Number of PPG children				112			
Number of girls					123		
Number of boys						112	

External moderation

We look forward to welcoming Sarah Peckett to Grove on Friday 14th June to work with staff in year two to moderate teacher assessment judgments. Each year 25% of schools in Birmingham are selected for external moderation.

Two governors, Mr Theaker and Mrs Kaur observed the administration of the Key Stage Two reading and GPS tests. Thank you to these governors for taking the time to do this.

Mr Axinte, LA Governor, observed the delivery and receipt of the Key Stage Two test papers.