



12.04.19

Dear parents and carers,

Attendance

School attendance is 95.7%, we are exceeding the target set. I would like to thank all the families who have embraced the 20-day challenge to improve attendance; we have 382 children who have attended school every day, all day and have not been late.

We continue to address families taking children out of school in term time and since September 2018, 39 fixed penalty fines have been issued or are pending. There have been three Fast Track penalty notices issued. Missing 19 days of school means attendance is 90% over the year. Attendance below 90% is a cause for concern.

We will celebrate good attendance with certificates, badges and prizes for all children who achieved 97 – 99.9% and 100% attendance in assemblies on Friday 3rd May. We have 118 pupils who have 100% attendance so far this year. What an achievement!

Whitemoor Lakes residential

Forty children from year 5 took part in a three-day residential at Whitemoor Lakes. They have shown courage, determination and resilience as they learnt new skills through archery, canoeing, abseiling, zipwire and circus skills.

Online safety

Following the online pupil survey we would like to invite parents to join us to understand the influence of the internet on behaviour and development and the skills parents need to support children to be safe when they use the internet. The dates for the workshops are:

Wednesday 8th May at 9.00am for EYFS and Key Stage One and,

Thursday 9th May at 9.00am for Key Stage Two.

Curriculum experiences

The curriculum opportunities for children continue to be broad and balanced.

Nursery have enjoyed finding out about life under the sea. They have loved swimming in their undersea cave full of sea creatures.

Reception have also swum down under the sea to explore sea creatures. They have enjoyed sharing their non-fiction shark books and writing exciting stories.



Year 1 have worked hard to learn a range of technical human body vocabulary linked to their science topic, 'Who do you think you are?' They enjoyed developing their facial expressions as part of the Hobgoblin theatre visit and acting out the mixed-up fairy tales.

Year 2 children have all successfully grown broad bean plants as part of their 'Ready, Steady, Grow' topic. All plants have been 'sold' to the children in exchange for an act of kindness.

Year 3 enjoyed their visit to the Gurdwara, exploring the initiation rites of the Sikh faith whilst comparing these with their own faith and beliefs. Year 3 have also worked as scientists, exploring how magnets work and how they benefit our everyday lives.

Year 4 have skilfully used j2e5 to present all their work this term on 'Birmingham, our city' topic. They used coding to design Islamic patterns and enjoyed a visit to Birchfield Mosque.

Year 5 worked with Hands on Science to find out about the science of: fingerprints, blood splatters and footprints and how they are used in modern day crime detection. The children enjoyed the project day when Harry Potter was on trial for the murder of Professor Quirrell, they demonstrated high quality debating and speaking skills in a court roleplay.

Year 6 pupils have learnt how shadows are formed and used this knowledge in religious education to create a shadow puppet to retell the creation stories they researched during the half term holiday.

The children continue to enjoy our curriculum themed weeks. This term we have explored and investigated in science and technology week; during book week we broadened our knowledge and understanding of poetry and celebrated a love of reading and books. Do take a minute to look at the images on the school website: www.grove.bham.sch.uk/pupils.

Road Safety

Pupils across school took part in a range of road safety activities during road safety week. Our pupils demonstrate a very good understanding of how to keep themselves safe when out and about on the roads.

Well done to all pupils who entered the road safety competition. The high-quality entries really support the message that illegal parking on double yellow lines and zig zag lines will not be tolerated and will result in a referral to the City Council enforcement team. The school councillors have the very hard task of judging the competition winners in the first week back. Prizes will be awarded in assemblies. Look out for the new banners in the summer term.



Red Nose Day and Book Aid International

Once again our community is responding positively to fundraising for good causes. The school sold 620 red noses for Comic Relief and raised £808.60. During book week we raised £159.09 for Book Aid International, this means 75 books have been donated to children who do not have access to books.

Sports hall

We are looking forward to the completion of the sports hall build; we look forward to the grand opening in the summer term.

Rights Respecting Award

In the summer term we are working towards achieving a bronze award as a Rights Respecting school. Learning in the summer term will have a particular focus on teaching about rights and learning through rights. Our launch week will be Monday 3rd June. If you want to find out more about it please visit: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>

I would like to wish you all a lovely Easter break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 29th April at 8.45am.

Yours sincerely,

P Matty
Headteacher