



17.12.21

Dear parents and carers,

The children have had a brilliant end to a successful half-term. Attendance for this term is 93%. Thank you for your support in communicating so effectively with our administrative team when your child is ill or when you have results from a PCR test.

Our reception children sang nativity songs, which they really enjoyed. Their singing is beautiful. You can hear their enthusiastic efforts on the school website <http://web.grove.bham.sch.uk/nativity-2021> Scan the QR code on your telephone to listen as you admire the children's wonderful artwork.

Year 4 visited The Midlands Arts Centre to watch a production of 'One Snowy Day' by Nick Butterworth. Back in school the children worked on a production of music and singing for Year 1. We certainly have some talented singers and actors in Year 4.

It has been positive to celebrate all things musical in our annual music festival. Pupils in Years 3-6 have composed and performed musical pieces, do look at the school website to find out more: <http://web.grove.bham.sch.uk/music>

All the children have really enjoyed their sports this half term. With the Commonwealth Games just around the corner, all children have taken part in class sporting activities with the aim of winning points for their class country.

Year 3 and 4 have continued to show a passion for swimming with over 90 swimming certificates being given over this term. Well done to year 3 and 4 who are working towards the target of being able to swim 25m unaided.

140 children have participated in an after-school sports club this half term. Children in Years 1-4 have thoroughly enjoyed the after-school cricket and football clubs. Next term we are offering dance clubs for pupils in Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and football club for Years 5 and 6. School hope that all children will have the opportunity to participate in an after-school sports club this year.

In Year 5, we have launched our Girl Power program. The girls in year 5 will work with children in year 3 and 4 in the spring term and we will share more information later in the year.

Our Year 5 and 6 school council are working with Miss Malvenkar; they have some brilliant ideas. In January 2022 they are working with staff to open our library club in the newly refurbished library.



In reception, Year 1 and Year 2 we are using a new phonics scheme, Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. We know many parents are keen to find out more about how we teach phonics at Grove. We will be holding online workshops on 'How to help your child to read' on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 9.30am, 1.00pm and 2.00pm. More information will be available in the new term.

Next term the children in Key Stage Two will have a class novel to bring home and read. Reading the class novel at home helps pupils know and understand what they are reading in the class novel lesson and at story time.

The class novels are:

- Year 3 - The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
- Year 4 - The Night Bus Hero by Onjali Rauf
- Year 5 - Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo
- Year 6 - Freedom by Catherine Johnson

Our curriculum this half term has been enhanced by a visit to Blakesley Hall for Year 2 and a visit to Thinktank for Year 6. Year 4 pupils continue to learn the ukelele with a music specialist and Year 5 have worked with the Welsh National Opera. Do visit the school website to find read and hear about what the children have been learning: www.grove.bham.sch.uk/curriculumjourney.

Next term we have visits planned to Soho House and visits from Hands on Science and Hobgoblin Theatre.

I hope all our families have a restful and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you all again when school opens for the spring term on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 8.30am.

Yours sincerely,

Ms J. Baker
Deputy Head teacher