



Friday 18th February 2022

Dear parents and carers,

World Book Week

Our annual book and reading week is the first week after the half term holiday. Teachers have planned activities to promote the love of reading and encourage the children to explore new books and authors. The teachers plan to lead the way by photographing themselves reading their favourite children's books in unusual places.

Friday 4th March is dress up day. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Attendance and punctuality

We are really pleased with attendance this term. Attendance for the whole school is 94%.

Well done to these classes, you are our best attending classes:

2 Yellow 95%, 3 Green 97%, 4 Green 95%, 4 Yellow 95%, 5 Yellow 96% and 6 Red 95%.

The punctuality incentive has made a huge difference to the numbers of pupils arriving on time for school in the last 10 days. 542 pupils have arrived on time for school. Each pupil has received a wristband in recognition of this effort and one pupil from each year group has been selected for a special prize. Their photographs can be seen on the school website: www.grove.bham.sch.uk/parents/attendance.

Phonics and reading

Our systematic, synthetic phonics scheme is Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. Thank you to parents who joined the virtual workshops in January. We will be holding virtual workshops again on 15th March and will send out links to parents. If you want to find out more about how we teach phonics and how you can help your child get off to the best start in reading the link is:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

After school clubs

Year 3 and 4 have continued to excel at their water skills. This has been shown through the number of swimming certificates given out in assembly. This half term we have continued to offer children at Grove after school sports clubs. We have



provided children with expert coaching for dance and football through our sports providers. We have now provided 320 children with extra-curricular opportunities. Next half term we will extend this provision to 5 after school clubs across school. This will include, street dance, tag rugby, basketball and Commonwealth Games activities.

Educational visits and experiences

The children have experienced visitors to Grove and educational visits to enhance their learning. Year 3 have participated in an exciting Hands on Science Elastic Racers workshop where they investigated forces, energy, friction and structure. The children constructed vehicles and then competed in a Grand Prix final. Reception were visited by Hobgoblin theatre and watched "The Greatest Fairy Tale Ever Told". The children enjoyed the performance with live actors, and experienced the wonder of a theatre production. Year 6 visited Soho House as part of their History of Handsworth topic and enjoyed the learning about the life of Matthew Boulton and James Watt. Year 1 enjoyed the 'Hands on Science' workshop 'Will It Float?' The children learnt what properties everyday items have and whether these items can float. Year 2 went on a visit to Handsworth Park to support their Geography topic. The children used their map reading skills and planned their route to the park. They used their senses of smell and sight to look for things along the way.

Residential – Year 5

Year 5 have a three day visit from 23rd – 25th March to Whitemoor Lakes where they will be able to explore outdoor challenges and team building. Children in school will work with Challenge Academy.

Residential – Year 6

Looking forward to May, Year 6 have an exciting visit to London planned. They will be able to visit Harry Potter World along with historical sights, including the Houses of Parliament. Letters will be emailed to parents in March.

Just 3 Clicks

Year 5 pupils have taken part in the Just Three Clicks Drama programme. This six-week programme follows the story of a 12-year-old girl, Aisla, and her decision not to tell someone about her brother being part of an extremist group, The Elders. Throughout the programme, pupils learned to use their moral compass when deciding whether to do the right thing. They have a deeper understanding of who is on their hand of support and who they can go to if they need help. Pupils have also developed skills such as empathy towards others, how to stay safe online, what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable and how to spot signs of grooming.



The pupils in year 5 thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this programme and teachers are very much looking forward to seeing the pupils' new skills being used in daily life. Our year 5 pupils also took part in a knife awareness workshop with PC Talabani.

Art Exhibition

The children have displayed their artistic talents in preparing their art work for our school exhibition. Our new art curriculum has enabled them to develop their skills in drawing, painting, printing and sculpture. The children have studied the work of famous artists and created skilful and exciting pieces reflecting the style of these artists and the skills they have learned. We now eagerly await the visit of an artist to judge our efforts.

Early Years

This term we have welcomed our newest members of Grove school in to the nursery. The children have settled and begun to explore the exciting learning on offer in our indoor and outdoor environments. They have particularly enjoyed singing nursery rhymes and learning traditional tales which they have acted out; tales which include The Gingerbread Bread and The Three Bears.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line.

Ms J. Baker
Deputy Head Teacher