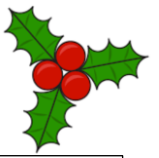




Miss Shaw's Newsletter



Dear children and families,

Here we are at the end of the Autumn Term. The term has flown by and there have been so many amazing times. Thank you for all that you have done to support us – from the changes to the start and end of the days to parent/carers evenings by phone. Without your support, all of this would not have been possible.

Of course, with the continuing Pandemic, we have not been able to open our doors and welcome you in to celebrate Christmas with us. Covid has provided us with all sorts of challenges and ensuring that we keep The Grove's Christmas traditions going has been one of them. Without a second thought, the team here at The Grove just put their minds to how we could do it. You should have received a link yesterday to our Christmas offering and we hope that you enjoy it – as always, the Nativity brings a tear! My thanks go to all the children, their teachers and TAs; to Miss Owen for writing and directing it; to Mrs Robinson for the loan of her camera and Mr Cumberland for his production/creative skills in putting it all together.

As we remain in Tier 2, we will need to keep our current risk assessment and way of working going. We don't need to make any changes or tweaks - everything will remain the same as it has been this term. I have everything crossed that we all stay healthy over the Christmas and New Year period but should any of our children become unwell and test positive for Covid 19, please email the school as soon as you know. I have a duty to support track and trace until the end of the 21st December and to inform the Local Authority of any positive case during the holidays. Please email office@grove.cambs.sch.uk as soon as you have confirmation of the positive test result. If this happens before or on the 21st December, I will contact you to find out any further information Public Health need.

There have been reports in the press that schools will be asked to stagger their reopening in January. This only affects Secondary Schools so we will reopen as planned on the 5th January 2021.

Next term looks incredibly busy! I will publish the full set of dates in my first newsletter in January and these will include NSPCC Number day on 5th February, Healthy Lifestyles week starting Monday 8th February and Book Week (week commencing 1st March). We will also be holding Parent/Carer meeting by phone again.

That just leaves to wish you, on behalf of all of us at The Grove, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Stay safe,

Miss Shaw

Congratulations to.....

The winners of Miss Shaw's Christmas Hat competition who were George (Duckling), Arthur (Gosling), Alice (Wren), George (Flamingo), Julia (Ostrich), Emily (Kiwi), Ezmae (Woodpecker), Austin (Kingfisher), Katelyn (Eagle), Lucy and Lily (Kestrel) and Max (The Aviary).

Jamie in Kestrel Class, who was awarded second place in Daniel Zeichner's Christmas Card competition, for his stunning watercolour design. More details can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/news/mp%E2%80%99s-christmas-card-winner-announced>




Miss Shaw's Newsletter



Attendance



Please say hello to Ozzy, The Grove Owl!

Class Name	% attendance from Monday 7th November to Friday 11 th December 2020.
The Aviary	88.3%
Duckling	98.5% 
Gosling	91.6%
Wren	93.0%
Flamingo	96.5%
Ostrich	97.8%
Kiwi	94.7%
Kingfisher	92.9%
Woodpecker	95.2%
Kestrel	96.0%
Eagle	94.6%
Whole School	94.7%



Well done to Duckling Class!

HOUSE POINTS

The house captains have been busy adding up the total house points earned across the school this term. The totals earned this term are:

House	Total to the end of term:
Trinity	898
Churchill	877
Darwin	737
Fitzwilliam	623

Congratulations to Trinity who have won this term's house point competition!

House points are currently awarded in Years 2-6, for doing good pieces of written work and following our school rules.

PTFA Christmas Carol and Song Quiz – reminder!

Don't forget that, for a bit of family fun, the PTFA have put together a quiz based on Christmas carols and songs. Song title has been abbreviated to their initials, can you guess what they all are? Get the whole family involved, and maybe phone a friend if there are some you can't guess! You're welcome to print this at home for your family to complete, or post to friends and relatives. No cost, no prizes, no need to return - it's just to spread a bit of festive cheer. The answers will be posted on the school Facebook page at the end of the Christmas holidays. The quiz is attached to this email again for you!





Miss Shaw's Newsletter



Rosettes at achievement assembly were presented to:

Friday 18th December 2020

Kestrel: Jamie, Filip

Eagle: Haleema, Freya

Kingfisher: Ellie, Fraser

Woodpecker: Kyra, Dawid

Kiwi: Adele, Andrei

Ostrich: Alisha, Daniel

Flamingo: Simon, Devraj

Wren: Areeba, Alessandro

Gosling: George, Rosie, Yuan Yuan

Duckling: Martha, Polly-Anna

The Aviary: Jake, Max



End of Term Round-Up

Duckling and Gosling Classes

Another busy half-term in Ducklings and Goslings! In Maths, we've been learning about addition and subtraction, and shapes. We've looked at many stories, including Bog Baby and The Tiger Who Came to Tea - the tiger even visited the school and had tea with Miss Rattray, Miss Wade and Mr Simkin! We learned about animals in Science (and had a visit from Molly the dog), made puppets in DT, and so much more... not to forget all the Christmassy stuff! Each week the children surprise us with their creativity and joy, and it's been amazing to watch their skills and confidence grow - especially as they begin to write. We hope everyone has a wonderful break and we can't wait to see what you do next term.

Wren Class

This half term in Wren Class we have really enjoyed our learning and have loved exploring new topics in all of our subjects. In maths we have looked at addition and subtraction, using practical resources and real-life contexts to help us. We have used a range of texts in our Literacy learning, such as The Bog Baby and The Naughty Bus – The Naughty Bus even turned our classroom upside down and we found our very own bog baby outside in the pond! In History we learned all about toys from the past and got to look at and touch toys from over 100 years ago! Our Science topic allowed us to explore new information about animals, their habitats and what they eat, as well as exploring what our brilliant human bodies can do. We have designed and sewn alien hand puppets in DT, created stories with sound effects in computing and learnt about Advent in RE.

It has been a very busy term fitting all of this in, as well as taking part in many Christmas activities such as Christmas Decoration Day, Christmas Dinner, watching pantomimes in class and even getting to play in the snow! We are really looking forward to seeing what the new year brings and can't wait to start more fantastic learning!

Flamingo and Ostrich Class

Ostrich and Flamingo classes have had a brilliant term! We are so pleased with how enthusiastic and ready to learn the children have been; they have had lots of fun whilst making good progress.

In English, the children enjoyed writing diary entries about a giraffe's journey from Egypt to France, based on *Zeraffa Giraffa* by Dianne Hofmeyr. They also have loved exploring the exciting plot and beautiful language of *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg and writing their own versions of the story. In Maths, they have learnt about many different topics, including 2D shapes, money, multiplication and statistics.

In Science, the children have found out lots about animals, including humans! They particularly enjoyed thinking about what essential items we'd need to take on a mission to space and examining the lifecycle of a frog. We have been so impressed with how sensitively they have thought about the creatures that live around them. In History, they have learnt about trains, planes and automobiles, from early flying machines and steam cars to bullet trains and driverless vehicles. In D.T., they have put this knowledge into practice by building moving model cars and using tools safely to do so.

They had lots of fun recording their Nativity play and we're looking forward to sharing this with you. We wish everyone a restful Christmas break and can't wait to welcome the children back in the new year!



Miss Shaw's Newsletter



Kiwi Class

Kiwi Class continue to work well together in our Year 3 bubble. We have welcomed more children to our class this term and have enjoyed getting to know our new classmates.

We have been working on our times tables in maths and also fractions and time. In English, we have particularly enjoyed reading and doing work surrounding the book 'Cloud Tea Monkeys'. Within this unit we got to become Deputy Royal Tea Tasters and wrote and published some instructions on tea tasting in the most unusual manner!

Our Mountains topic has included lots of map work and we have learnt lots of new vocabulary. This has been supported by our learning in science, where we have been finding out about rocks and their amazing history and uses and discovered how fossils are made. In Design and Technology we have also been looking at how simple machines are used to help people do daily tasks.

Kiwi class love to sing and did a great job of their part of the Christmas Production. Well done everyone!





Miss Shaw's Newsletter

Kingfisher and Woodpecker Classes



We have had a very busy Autumn term in Year 4. We ended last half term with our immersive Romans Day. The children had a fantastic time making laurel wreaths, eating Roman food, exploring Roman Numerals and forming the Tortoise battle formation. Many of the children chose to dress up and they looked brilliant! Thank you for all the time and effort you put into making their costumes, we had a fantastic day.



In English this half term, we studied "The Tin Forest" by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson. Through this book we had the opportunity to write letters, diary entries and poetry.

Within our maths we developed our multiplication and division skills and were able to apply this knowledge to fractions. Science has been all about sound, we conducted experiments to explore how sound is made and whether sound has a higher decibel reading inside or outside. Additionally, we discovered which materials are best for muffling sound and why. We had lots of fun using the decibel reader on the iPad when conducting our experiments.

We have also enjoyed learning all about Brazil in our topic lessons this half term and why it is such a vibrant and interesting country. During this topic, we explored the similarities and differences between our lives in Cambridge and the lives of two children our age in Rio de Janeiro. It was interesting to see that children in Brazil have many of the same interests and hobbies as we do.



In RE we have continued to learn about Christianity, but this time looking at the stories of Noah and Abraham. Through this we have understood that Christians try to be selfless to support others in as many ways as they can. Finally, in Art we have explored the meaning behind famous statues and we have taken inspiration from the Christ the Redeemer statue in Brazil, when creating our own out of clay.

On a final note, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have a restful holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2021!

A few of our statues and their meanings

Investigating how sound is made.



Love

Friendship

Respect



Miss Shaw's Newsletter



Eagle and Kestrel Classes

Eagle and Kestrel classes have been extremely busy this half term. Much of our learning has focused on the Victorian Era including English, Topic and Art. We have loved reading 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty as it has given us an insight into the life of a poor Victorian child.

Steam trains were invented during the Victorian Era and we have read two poems about them. After listening to a performance of the poem 'Night Mail', we thought about how we could perform it using our voices, bodies and instruments. We looked at the rhythm, rhyming patterns and structure of the poem and then worked to create our own poems in a similar style about emails.

In Art we have been exploring the work of William Morris. We learnt about his life and work as an influential designer. We sketched our own designs in the style of William Morris wallpaper and fabric and then learnt how to tessellate our designs to make a repeating pattern. We were thrilled with our results!

In Science, we have been investigating materials and reactions. We got messy making muddy puddles with mysterious ingredients and then were challenged to reverse the changes. We also investigated the effects of oxidation by placing nails in petri dishes with different liquids to see whether the nails would rust.

In addition to building on our fluency of number using the four operations, we have spent the last few weeks grappling with fractions! We had great fun using brand new fraction resources, working collaboratively, and playing Maths games to improve our fluency and consolidate our learning.





Miss Shaw's Newsletter



The Aviary

We have had a fantastic first term in The Aviary! The children have achieved so much, both academically and in their skills in turn taking, perseverance and independence. We are a very proud team!

Our KS2 children have been inquisitive and asked lots of interesting questions about the country Brazil. We enjoyed learning about the Rio de Janeiro carnival and having our own mini carnival and dance. As part of this topic, we also looked at the statue Christ the Redeemer and used this as inspiration for our own sculptures.

The KS1 children have been classifying different animals. As the weeks have gone by, we have been really impressed at how they have been able to describe animals as being amphibian, reptile or mammal. We have also noticed how much more they are writing – a big well done to them all!

To finish the term, we have enjoyed looking at Christmas traditions and how the season brings people together even during these tough times. We have shared meals together, engaged in 'small talk' and played classic board games – a lovely way to finish a busy year!