



# The Grove School Newsletter

## *Wonder – Explore - Grow*

Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

Issue 8/2018-19

Headteacher: Ms K Martin

Deputy Headteacher: Miss H Owen

### Key Diary Dates

#### Spring 2

##### APRIL

**3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL** - Reading Cafe 8.45 – 9am

**3<sup>rd</sup> April Easter Celebration** led by Y3/4 to parents at 2.30pm

**5<sup>th</sup> April** – School Closes at 3.15pm for the Easter Holidays

##### Easter Holidays

**8<sup>th</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April** School reopens to pupils

**23<sup>rd</sup> April** St Georges Day Lunch

**27<sup>th</sup> April** Class Photographs

##### MAY

**1<sup>st</sup> May** – Year 5 & 6 Computing Fair

**6<sup>th</sup> May** - School closed (May Day Bank Holiday)

**7<sup>th</sup> May** – School reopens to pupils

**13<sup>th</sup> May** – KS2 SATs week begins

**24<sup>th</sup> May** – School closes at 3.15pm for half term

##### JUNE

**3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Inset Day

**4<sup>th</sup> June** – School reopens to pupils

##### JULY

**24<sup>th</sup> July** – School Closes at 2.15pm for the summer holidays

### Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of another busy term I want to thank all our families who support the school in so many ways – helping their children with homework, coming in and hearing readers, helping with the PTFA and supporting trips are just a few of the many ways our joint partnership impacts positively on your child's attainment, progress and love of school.

Easter is an important time in the Christian calendar and all year groups have been focussing on this festival in RE this half term. Year 3 and 4 pupils will be helping the school reflect on the meaning of Easter from a Christian perspective through songs and dance. The parents of children in Year 3 and 4 have been invited to an afternoon performance but we have a few extra seats so if you want to come along on Wednesday at 2.30pm, please do. We'd love to see you there.

Over the course of this half term we seemed to have gained a lot of items in lost property without names. We are returning anything with names, however if you think your child may have lost clothing, water bottles or any other items please come and have a look through before Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Anything that remains after this date will be included in a second-hand uniform sale, donated to a clothing bank or thrown away.

I wish all our families and staff a restful holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back energised for the summer term on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Kind regards,

Ms Karen Martin, Headteacher



#### Attachments

Spring events at the library

The Grove Summer Menu 2019 – is available to see on our school website.

## Our Value for this Half Term is **HONESTY**



**TO MAKE YOUR CHILDREN  
CAPABLE OF HONESTY IS THE  
BEGINNING OF EDUCATION**

**JOHN RUSKIN**

Respect is  
earned.  
Honesty is  
appreciated.  
Trust is  
gained.  
Loyalty is  
returned.

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### Reading and Writing week

Reading and Writing week got off to a great start with a whole-school assembly, introducing a range of interesting and beautifully illustrated picture books, which were used in the classrooms as the focus for the week. The children were suitably excited to delve into their year group's book and start drafting, writing and publishing their own narratives based around the strange yet beautiful storylines.

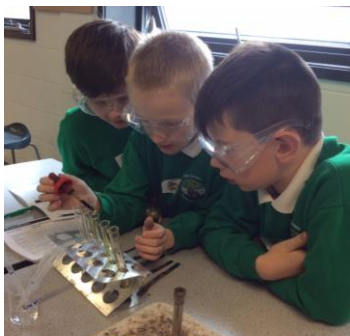
Throughout the week, a number of fun Reading-for-Pleasure activities took place, generating a buzz around reading and developing even further our strong reading community. Each class had a number of visitors appear to read aloud to them at the end of the day as part of the daily 'mystery reader' event, including staff members, family and friends. Another opportunity to promote Reading-for-Pleasure as part of an interactive event, which took place was daily, 'book-blether', giving children and adults to have a chance to discuss their recent reads, recommendations and book reviews. Every day, 'D.E.A.R. time' took place too; each day a bell would ring at random, which meant everybody had to Drop Everything they were doing, And Read! Everyone loved the magic and excitement of the D.E.A.R. bell, even the teachers because it meant they too had an opportunity to read and relax from the busyness of the day! And not forgetting World Book day, which was so much fun! Children and teachers arrived as various book-themed characters, and were able to show their costumes off on the World Book Day catwalk. So a HUGE well done and THANK YOU to all the parents/carers who supported their children with making the costumes. They looked marvellous!

At the end of the week, each year group presented their work to the rest of the school in the Reading and Writing Celebration Assembly. Children shared examples of their work by reading aloud snippets to the rest of the school. The children should be super proud of themselves for their efforts and hard work in their writing and if you are ever in the school library, do take a look at the Reading and Writing Week display, which celebrates the writing and art work completed through RW week. The entire week was very well received by the staff, children and the visitors to the school and we look forward to next year's!



### Year 5 – CSI at The North Cambridge Academy

Year 5 became forensic scientists for the day at NCA. They discovered a gruesome crime scene, investigated blood spatter and took and explored our own and suspects fingerprints. In order to discover who the murderer was, they went into the lab and matched soil samples to the soil found at the scene of the murder. Thank goodness they managed to capture the culprit. They had a busy and fabulous day. With thanks to staff and students at NCA.



### School Meals

**Year 3 – 6 meals cost  
£2.25 per day**

Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a universal free school meal.

Children can have soup as well as a main course.

There is always a vegetarian option available along with pasta/jacket potato followed by a dessert

Fruit, yoghurt and cheese and biscuits are available each day.

Please encourage your child to try one of our delicious lunches.

### Mother's Day Lunch Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you to all the mums, nanas and carers who came along to share a Mother's Day lunch with the children. The atmosphere in the dinner hall was lovely and thank you for all of the positive feedback about the day.



I know that our cooks really appreciate your kind comments.

Thank you also to the PTFA for organising their very popular Mother's Day gifts, the children were very excited to make their choices and I hope that you all enjoyed your day.

### Ms Martin's Reading Challenge Update - to read a children's novel each fortnight.

Since the last newsletter I have read **The Boy at the Back of the Class**, all about Ahmet, a refugee who finds himself in England, having travelled from Syria via Greece. It's a book about friendship and courage. My second novel was **The House with Chicken Legs** is a magical story based on Russian folklore and Baba Yaga.



My current book, **The Ice Garden**, was recommended by the Year 4 Reading Gladiators who were blown away by it - a story of 12 year old Jess who is allergic to sunlight. It reminds me of a memoir I read in the summer called **Girl in the Dark** by Anna Lyndsey. Anna tells of her life since becoming allergic to the sun (scientific name: photosensitive seborrhoeic dermatitis) and how this has and continues to impact on her everyday life.

*What book will you be recommending or sharing with your children during the Easter holidays?*

### Year 5 & 6 Computing Fair Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May

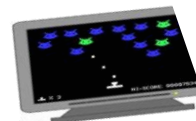
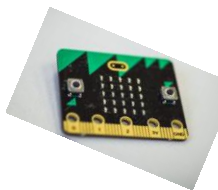


Come and meet the  
programmers of tomorrow!

Early next term, we will be holding a special Y5 and Y6 Computing Fair. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents to come and see some of the wonderful projects that the children have been working on as well as getting hands on with some of our inspirational technology. We will also have on display our robot model from our First LEGO League competition as well as some other surprises!

The Fair is aimed at Years 5 and 6, however younger children are also welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

### The Bradfield Centre



On Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> Year 5 had a wonderful time with a group of fantastic ambassadors from The Cambridge Science Park. We worked in small groups to code micro bits, finally creating an impressive light show using our new-found skills. The ambassadors work in a variety of companies and kindly volunteered several hours of their time to work with our children. After the workshop we spent time with them finding out about jobs from game makers and designers to quality assurance testers and how to have high aspirations for the future. What an awe-inspiring day!



**Thank You and  
Good Luck Mrs  
Courtney**



After many years of teaching Mrs Courtney is going to begin a new adventure as a retired lady. Our school has benefitted from her wealth of experience and knowledge especially in the area of special educational needs. She has always made it a priority to give generously of her time and experience and has helped drive the schools SEN provision. All of us here will miss Mrs Courtney and her contributions to our school will live on.

**Please join us in wishing Mrs Courtney all the  
best in her retirement.**

**Each month we are aiming to say thank you to  
people who are supporting our school in  
a variety of ways. This month we want to say  
a big thank you to .....**



This month we would like to say a big thank you to Sinead Troupe – over the half term break we had a makeover in our Pitstop before and after school club. Sinead very kindly volunteered her time to come in and redecorate the hall area, which involved a lot of preparation and painting. The club now looks fresh and revitalised. Thank you Sinead!