

Grace Cook Gazette

GRACE COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND
NURSERY

* DREAM * BELIEVE * ACHIEVE *



A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we approach the festive season, we reflect on the wonderful achievements and memorable moments from the past term. It has been an exciting and busy time for all, filled with learning, growth, and a strong sense of community. From our classrooms to the outdoor learning spaces the enthusiasm and dedication of our children have been truly inspiring.

In this newsletter, we are delighted to share highlights from the term, important updates, and a glimpse of what's ahead. We also look forward to celebrating the holidays together, with gratitude for all the support you provide to make this such a vibrant and nurturing school environment.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas season ahead.

Mr Dedicoat - Headteacher

Christmas Carol Service

It was a delight to see families at our Service earlier this month. The children performed beautifully and it was a very proud moment reflecting on this as their Headteacher.

Parent Governors

I'm please to announce that Jemma Bean was elected to be our new Parent Governor. I know Jemma will bring alot of experience to the LGC at Grace Cook and look forward to working with her in the new year.

Autumn 2 - 2024

Diary Dates

2025

TERM DATES FOR 2024/25

Spring Term 2025

7th January 2025 – 4th April

Spring Half Term 2025

17th February – 21st February

Easter Holiday 2025

7th April – 21st April

Summer Term 2025

23rd April - Friday 18th July

Summer Half Term 2025

26th May - 30th May

2025 - PD Days (Non Pupil Days)

6th January 2025

24th February 2025 (Nursery open)

22nd April 2025 (Nursery open)

*Friday 4th April and Friday 18th July
(School/ nursery closed at 1.30pm)

Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy, the Trust reserves the right to change these dates should it be necessary to do so.



A message from the Headteacher/ continued



Friends of Grace Cook

We have had a really great start to the year with the Quiz Night and Spooky Disco. We continue to receive more and more interest in volunteering and lots of support with donations. The 'Christmas Bake Sale' and 'Carols with Santa' events this week are going to be wonderful and festive so please do join us. All of the money raised from the events goes straight back to the children, whether it be in the form of resources, visitors, trips or equipment. Your support is hugely appreciated and we look forward to continuing to grow the PTA next term.

Kicks and Tricks - update

It has been another great term for us at Grace Cook with the wraparound provision growing and the children enjoying the activities and forming friendships across year groups. From January, we look forward to being able to offer a long session until 5:30pm on a Wednesday now also. We are also thrilled to be back offering the PE and lunch provision where the children will learn a range of skills either in gymnastics, dance or yoga as well as the fundamentals in Reception.

Out-of-school hours, we are still pleased to be able to offer Gymnastics and Junior Football - please visit www.kicksandtricks.co.uk for more information.



Nursery - Moon Room



We have had a great term in Moon Room and the children have been superb at adapting to the new routine with toothbrushing. We began the 'My Smile' accreditation, promoting good oral health through fun supervised toothbrushing sessions and eating tooth friendly snacks and drinks. The children chose their own coloured toothbrushes and enjoy brushing for two minutes with our special song!

We said goodbye to Autumn and hello to Winter and have embraced the cold, icy weather by exploring the frozen water in the pots and crunching on the frosty grass. We have enjoyed our story books 'Pick a Pine Tree' and 'The Snow Thief', along with the winter sensory books, to learn about about seasons and adapting to changes.

With Christmas fast approaching, our activities have included decorating Christmas tree with festive loose parts, painting and mark making with pine leaves, exploring cinnamon scented playdough, and singing festive songs with our friends. We also welcomed our parents in for our Christmas craft afternoons this week where we decorated pinecones, created beautiful patterns by bauble rolling, and painted a Christmas masterpiece on a canvas. Thank you to all that joined us, have a lovely Christmas break!



Nursery - Star Room



This term Star room have been investigating the changes in the weather. As Autumn explorations finished, winter curiosities began, and children were eager to explore the recent frost and ice.

As the class shared wintery stories, they introduced their own narratives using recall from some of last terms texts. They used their phonetical knowledge to proudly write some of the letters from their names in the snow.



As the activities continued, the children shaped snow people using peppermint dough and loose parts. They enhanced their fine motor skills by adding "sparkles" to carefully crafted icicles and filled "snow" cups using tweezers. Children investigated frozen numbers, using the warmth from their hands to melt the ice before placing the numbers into ascending order.

Miss Williams

Sun Class

As the end of the Autumn term approaches there are so many wonderful things to be proud of in Sun Class. The class have settled into school life extremely well and I often receive comments about their positive learning attitudes from visitors that come into the school.

As we get closer to Christmas, we have so many exciting things to look forward to. This week we are joining the whole school at St Peter's and St Mary's church for our carol service. Next week we are off to Colchester Zoo to meet the reindeer and then the last week of term we have our Reindeer Dash sponsored event. As we end our theme of Jolly Journeys, we focus on one of my favourite texts 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers and we immerse ourselves in penguins! Merry Christmas Everyone!

Mrs Mayes



Mercury class

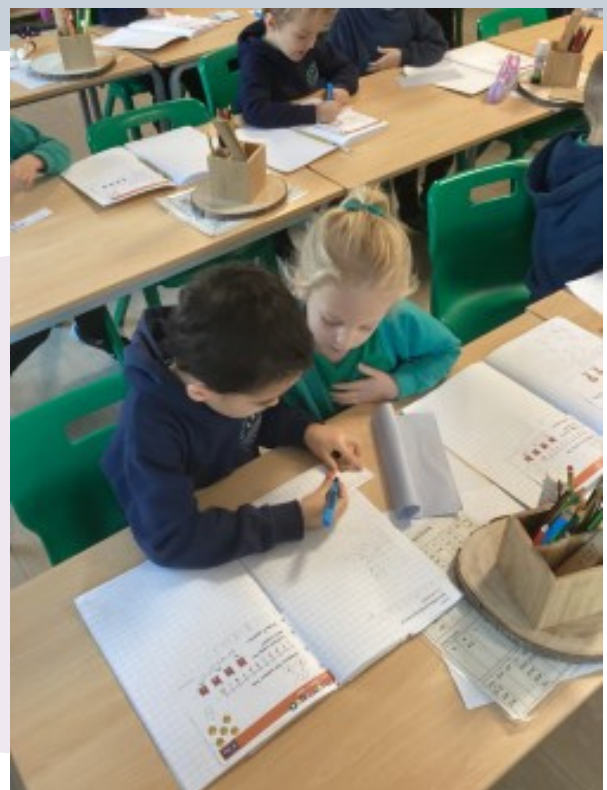


Autumn term is such a busy time in Year 1. All children have adjusted to their new way of learning and are throwing themselves into all areas of the curriculum. They have worked hard!

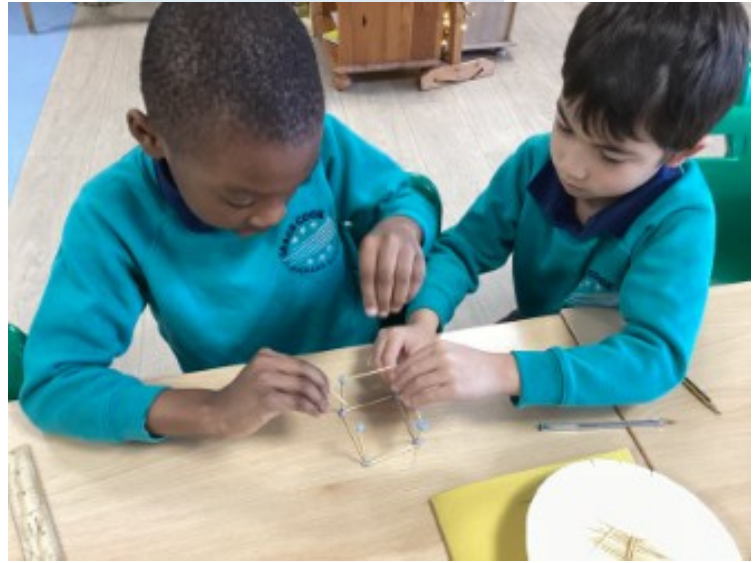
As a class, we have enjoyed getting outside during Science, exploring the seasons, including learning more about plants and trees. We have loved the Art sessions; using paint to create different pieces of art based on our focus artist. We are continuing to work on our writing skills, and we have learnt loads of new concepts in Maths!

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a well-deserved rest.

Mrs Brown



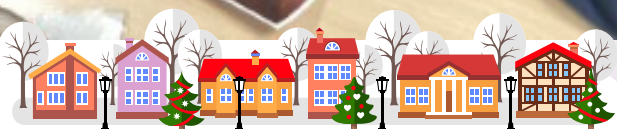
Venus Class



Venus class have continued to amaze me. Everybody is working so hard and have a great attitude to learning.

This half term we have been completing lots of very exciting activities. The children worked hard during our shape topic in maths. We completed lots of practical activities to build different shapes and to discuss the properties of shapes.

We have also been completing lots of paired work this half term. In both history and geography, we have been discussing images to aid our learning. In history we have looked at different forms of evidence for the Great Fire of London and in geography we have been learning about Kenya.



Earth Class



We have worked so hard during our second half term in Earth class. We have been stepping our maths game by looking at our times tables. We are trying to be times tables experts and have been playing lots of TT rockstars to help us. In English, we have written a variety of genres including a historical warning story and a letter of complaint to the 'Café of Doom'.

Science we managed to finish off all our learning about rocks and start learning about our own bodies. We looked at the job of our skeleton as well as muscles and bones. We are still learning about Prehistoric Britain in history and started looking at life in the Bronze Age and Iron Age, we even made our own Iron Age tools.

We are continuing our Ukulele practice on Monday and I am sure you have enjoyed hearing the children practice their Ukulele's at home. Finally, we have started some DT which has been looking at a healthy balanced diet. We made some fruity yoghurt and some healthy popcorn.

Have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Mr Smith

