



Grace Cook Gazette

GRACE COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND
NURSERY



A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the November issue of the Grace Cook Gazette. As always there's been a huge amount of learning that has taken place this month. Here's a small dose of what it looks like across the school from Moon Room in our Nursery to Venus class.

We started November with Odd Socks day- celebrating diversity and making sure the children could express themselves, celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! We also showed respect and thoughtfulness as part of the Poppy Appeal and remembrance.

We are on the brink of December and look forward to a festive treat of activities and learning at Grace Cook. More details to follow throughout the rest of term on Dojo.

November 2023

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th December - Christmas Carol Concert @ St Peter's and St Mary's Church - 6.00pm

Friday 15th December Sun Class Trip to Colchester Zoo

Monday 18th December - Penguin Plod and Christmas Raffle/ Bake sale.

Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Dinner and Jumper day.

Wednesday 20th December - Last Day of term

Wednesday 3rd January 2024- PD Day - no pupils today

Thursday 4th January - First day of Spring Term

Mr Dediccoat - Headteacher



Nursery - Moon Room

We have introduced Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle sessions in moon room which uses dance and large movements to develop the fine and gross motor skills the children will need to write. After having a little dance, the children go to floor level and use crayons or pencils to mark make on some paper. The children enjoyed flapping their ribbons and creating lots of wonderful marks!

We used our senses to explore pumpkins, using our hands to feel the different textures and comparing the sizes of the pumpkins. We also read a lovely book called 'Little Pumpkin' which is about how a pumpkin grows from a small seed to a big orange pumpkin!



The children used colourful loose parts such as pom poms and match sticks to create their own fireworks.



Nursery - Star Room

This Autumn term we discovered what was inside the squash and smaller pumpkins. We thought about ways to scoop out the seeds and flesh, we talked about size, texture and why we have seeds? Touching on the life cycle of a plant. Despite the wind and the rain our wonderful Star Class managed to get outside, when the rain had stopped and created the most amazing artwork on the playground.

We have been looking at the story, Hovis the Hedgehogs Bonfire Night, the drawings were all about fireworks, mermaids, hedgehogs and straight lines, a wonderful outdoor moment full of imagination and wonder. Finally, we have been using our natural world to help us sort and sequence items in to size order, using shells, stones and corks. This has also enabled us to count to 6 too. (Amazing!)



Sun Class

Since returning from half term Sun Class have explored two texts with links to Pirates and have used this theme to support their learning across all areas of the curriculum. In literacy we have focused on learning the meaning of some key vocabulary from each of these books, Island, tide, aboard and stealthy and took on the role of a pirate on our pirate ship in the classroom. Some of us even built our own pirate ship outside during 'discover and do.' One day, we think the Pirates tried to steal some things from our classroom, but they left the bag behind! As we move through November we will explore the festival of Diwali then look at texts about going on a journey to space!



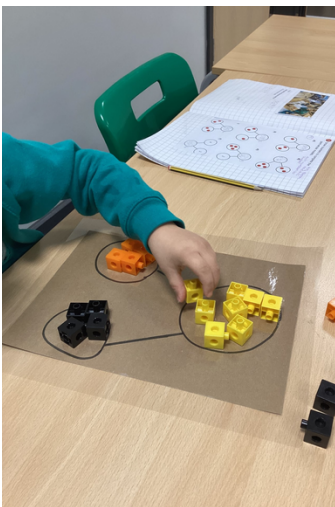
Mercury class

This Autumn term we have been busy working on our addition skills. We began by learning about number bonds, and parts we can add together to make a whole number. We always looked forward to our challenges in Maths and have now begun looking at addition word problems.

In English we covered setting descriptions; learning new vocabulary through our exploration of adjectives. In November we started our new story writing topic.

In History and Geography we have been learning about the past (changes in toys), our 7 continents and 5 oceans and about the word 'community.' We thoroughly enjoyed our stroll around our housing estate to identify features of a community in early November.

So much learning happening in Year 1. It is a busy, but exciting year ahead!



Venus Class

In Venus class we have been learning about lots of different exciting topics. In maths we have been learning about addition and subtraction and we love using the different resources to help us solve different problems. During this half term we have also started learning about the Christmas story, beginning with the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary. We role played the story and thought about how the different people involved would have felt. We have also been practicing our team work to build confidence in working well in groups.

