



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Dog Project

Research shows that young people can become nervous and stressed when reading to others in a group. However, when a Reading Dog enters the group, they often become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as the dogs are non-judgemental. Before long the young people are starting to look forward to the reading experience as they are going to read to their new friend, the Reading Dog. Reading Dogs provide comfort, encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire young people to have fun.

Because of this, and our work towards involving the children in mental health awareness to equip them with skills for their futures, we have decided as a team that we want a reading dog in our school so that every child can reap the benefits of this type of positive experience. The class teachers are so determined to achieve this for our children that they are all coming up with ideas of how to fund raise specifically to have a trained reading dog especially for our school.

Our first idea has been thought of by Willow, Lime and Beech classes but will be open to the whole school. On **Friday 19th October we are having a 'Be Happy' Mufti Day** – children should wear the clothes they feel happiest in and bring a toy or teddy that makes them feel happy and comforted. Donations towards our Reading Dog Project will be very much valued and if we are quick and raise enough funds we could have our own reading dog in the new year.

The Key Stage 2 School Councillors have also come up with some brilliant suggestions. Yoko and Flo from Ginkgo class would like to organise a 'biggest toy competition', get your thinking caps on and look out in the newsletter for the date! Mati and Sam from Flame would like children to wash their parent's car at home and bring the donations from that into school. Ben and Ava from Chestnut, Danny and Seema from Mountain Ash, Lacy and Ellis from Guava and Bella and Oli B from Bay are planning their fundraising ideas with their classes.

Tempest Photography

Tempest Photography will be in next Tuesday 9th October to take individual photos and sibling photos. They will set up at 8.15. **Sibling group photos will be taken between 8.15 and 9am and will be on a first come first served basis.**

Website

We have been working hard on our school website trying to show some of the fun we have at school with learning. Mr Brudenell has put together an amazing radio clip of the children and what they love about our school – check this out and the class and subject pages. http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/the_grove_learning_treasure_trove/368607

Watching Football

It has been noted that parents who are watching shear soccer football club have been leaning and even sitting on staff cars – Please respect the staff's property and refrain from doing this. Parents are unable to stay in the school grounds after 3:30 to watch the clubs so that we can ensure the site is locked down to protect all children left on site after school but we are happy for you to watch from the carpark if you can avoid touching or obstructing the cars. Why not bring a fold up stool to perch on? Many thanks for your understanding.

News from the Governors.

The Governors had their first full meeting of the school year last Thursday. At this time of the year we sort out our roles for the year. I will be continuing as Chair, and we have two new Vice Chairs – Laura Partridge and Suzanne Bryant. Our safeguarding leads are Maddie Eaton and myself (Mike Waterson). We also welcomed on board a new governor, Ian Stewart.

We looked at the School Improvement plan, which lists all the areas of the school curriculum and activities. The school is always evaluating its work and looking at ways of getting better and does not want to sit still. We looked at the outcome data for the last year, which was all very good with an improvement in most areas.

The governors also looked at their programme of visits to the school, to see the school in action and to see how the improvement plans are working out.

We heard that the new 5/6 classes are working very well together with benefits to both year 5 and year 6 pupils. The school budget is still very tight and children numbers have increased more than expected; this will be beneficial next financial year. The school has done very well with the increased numbers of children, integrating them well in our school community

We are hoping to put more pen portraits of the governors on the school website, so everyone can know a bit more about us.

Mike Waterson

Chair of Governors

Year 5 children

The Mayor of Totnes, Cllr. Judy Westacott MBE, will be holding her Civic Service on Thursday 11th October at 12.00 at St. Mary's Church, High Street, Totnes. The Year 5 children have been invited to participate and will be attending the service as well as singing a favourite song from Singing Assembly. The service will be held during school time. If you would rather your child didn't attend the church service, please let their class teacher know so that we can make alternative arrangements.

Year 6 children secondary school transfer

Devon County Council would like to remind parents and carers of Year 6 children that the application for secondary transfer needs to be completed by 31st October. This can be carried out online by visiting www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline for families who don't wish to or can't apply online, they can contact our customer service centre on 0345 155 1019 to request a hard copy of the form. Forms were giving out to all Year 6 children a few weeks ago.

Sponsored Read

Please ensure that all sponsorship money is given into your child's class by Friday (5th) and that all reading has been recorded in their reading record books. There will also be a prize for the most interesting book selfie.

Please email these in to

derhamvictoria@hotmail.com.

Book Fair

Apologies for the slight delay to the book fair orders. Books will be delivered by the end of the week.

Year 3/4 Quadkids Athletics Competition

Last Friday two teams from year 3 and 4 took part in the Quadkids Athletics Competition against others schools in the Dartmoor School Sport Partnership, this included schools from Paignton and Newton Abbot. The activities were a 60m sprint, 600m run, a Howler throw and standing jump. Evie from year 4 said, "At first I was nervous, but when we started I really enjoyed it. We did the long jump, which was my favourite."

Football League Reminder

The next fixture is on Monday 8th October, 4:00-5:30 at KEVICC. Please let Rebecca know if you are unable to play.

Children's School Disco

We will be holding a Children's Halloween Disco in the School Hall on Thursday 18th October. Posters will be going up around school this week. Timings are as follows:

Reception, Year 1 & 2 at 4.15pm-5.15pm

Years 3 & 4 at 5.45pm-6.45pm

Years 5 & 6 at 7.00pm-8.00pm

Entry is £2.50 which includes drinks and a biscuit. Fancy dress is optional, nothing too spooky please!

All proceeds go to the School PTA. We will need volunteers to ensure this event can go ahead, so if you can help please email Rachel Gillespie gatesrachel@hotmail.com or speak to Kellie Bishop or Jenni Rowe.

AGM Update

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM last Thursday. The only change to our committee is that Vikki Drew is stepping down as Treasurer but staying until Christmas to provide support. We would like to thank Vikki for doing an amazing job these last few years. We are really pleased to say that Karen Jarvis was voted in to take over from Vikki as Treasurer.

PTA Fundraising

We have been donated a selection of Joanna Martins Bronze Hares. So we are holding a 'Lucky Square' competition where you can get the chance to win one. Each square costs £1.00 and you will be entered into the draw. The draw will hopefully take place before half term. The Hares are on display in the staff room window, they really are beautiful. We have a first and second prize on offer. Squares will be on sale after school.



Thursday Bakes

Thank you to Lime and Mountain Ash for baking last week, we raised over £110.00. Tomorrow is the turn of Chestnut and Flame to bake, please can your cake donation be given to Rebecca at reception or to your child's class teacher in the morning. Cakes will be on sale from 3.10pm. We are always desperate for helpers with the cake sale, if you can offer half an hour of your time, please let us know. Maybe you can help when it's your child's class to bake?

Leechwell Gardens Help Needed

Help is needed because the sandpit has become so incredibly popular that it now needs regular raking and cleaning which is a bit beyond our current manpower. There is information from the Leechwell Gardens committee at the bottom of this newsletter.

Praise assemblies

Praise assembly this week is Flame Tree class on Friday 5th October at 2.45pm. Next week's praise assembly is Ginkgo Tree class at 2.45pm.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

Free this Saturday at Totnes Library

Where can you do baby signing, build towers with spaghetti and marshmallows, learn Spanish, do toddler yoga and play with micro:bit micro computers? All at the library this Saturday! Just drop in to the Totnes Library Fun Palace for all ages from 10-12, it's all free!

Totnes Town Council presents
**switch on the
Christmas
lights**

carol singing & bouncy castle

free fun craft workshops

free tea & coffee

from 3.30pm to 6pm

thursday 29th nov

free entry

totnes civic hall

HELP LOOK AFTER THE LEECHWELL GARDEN SANDPIT

JUST AN HOUR OR SO A MONTH WOULD BE ENOUGH

The Leechwell Garden Group installed the sandpit and new play area in the garden in 2016 and we also care for the garden more generally.

The garden is growing more and more popular with families and children who love the freedom to play and particularly (very rare these days) the provision of a sandpit for toddlers. Now, after a year and half of use, a few issues have emerged:

1. The sand gets compacted and collects rubbish and needs a regular rake and clean every month. Raking aerates the sand and a light spray with Milton (as used for baby bottles) helps to keep it clean.
2. The cover is sometimes left off overnight, a temptation for visiting cats.
3. Children are putting sand from the sandpit into the pool and stream below, blocking the water flow.

We think that the sandpit is a very special and valuable part of the garden and would like to work together with parents/carers/garden users to make a plan to look after it. There are easy solutions which will help to ensure its future survival.

So, if you could spare just an hour or so each month to help look after the sandpit we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Contact us on 07791276150 or email us via shirley.prendergast@gmail.com

<http://leechwellgarden.org.uk/>