



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year at The Grove, all the children (302 of them) and staff (48 of them) are all settling very quickly and smiles are filling the school. Please do let us know if your child has any wobbles though and we will do our best to address them as quickly as possible.

Kindness and respect

Last term we had a huge focus on kindness which was truly lovely. We are continuing with this this term and taking it a step further by bringing in the theme of respect. We really appreciate your support at home in encouraging the acts of kindness and showing respect to others and their belongings.

Mental Health and the 'happy pet tree'.

We cover mental health within our school curriculum but it is also nice to do something a little different to highlight its importance and relevance to us all no matter what age we are. This term our 'tree' in the corridor will focus on pets and how great they are for mental health. Pets allow us to focus on another living being and give and take from the love and warmth they give us from the smallest stick insect to the largest of horses! If your child would like to bring in a small picture of their pet or a friend/extended family pet and write on the back how their pet, or connection with a pet they know, makes them feel and then hang it on the 'happy pet tree' this would be great.

Hoovers

Your children may talk about the class hoover and being on a rota to use it at the end of each school day (Japanese style) – this is to encourage the children to respect their classroom space and tidy up after themselves as well as help Peter our caretaker with his managing to keep on top of a very full building! You may even find the children offering to hoover up at home for you now as they do seem very keen!

Staff news

We are completely thrilled to announce three new babies on the way amongst the staff. Mrs Barton Wilkes, Mrs Gratton and Mrs Westrope are all expecting within the December – January period. We are currently advertising for maternity leave cover. We will be sad to say bye to our TA Jo Clarke in Year 5/6 as she takes up a new exciting opportunity in a few weeks time – she has been a great asset to our team. We are interviewing currently for two TA positions.

What's happening in school this week and next

We are all settling into the new school year – please check the website for classes for the term's timetable and curriculum coverage, these will be on within the next week. We will be having a fire drill tomorrow to get all the

new children used to the procedure and the noise! If your child has an issue with loud sirens please let their class teacher know.

Forest school

Class teachers are Forest School trained so your child will have Forest School every week. This is when they may leave the school grounds and explore the wonderful world around them and develop their outdoor skills. It really helps children to develop their confidence in the world and provides them with wonderful experiences. You will be told what day Forest School is for your class and children will need outdoor clothes like wellies and raincoats that you don't mind getting muddy! Volunteers are needed for Forest school activities so please see Rebecca and she will pass on your details to the teachers.

NUTS!

PLEASE NO NUTS IN SCHOOL – due to some severe allergies in school we have been a no nuts school for some time now. We have children with allergies in both key stages so we need to be careful on the playground and in the dinner hall at all times. Please check the packaging for nut information. Packaged in a factory that handles nuts is okay so long as actual nuts aren't part of the ingredient list. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Medications in school

Please could we remind all parents with children that have or need medications on site i.e. inhalers, epipens, antihistamines that these are all checked that they are still in date.

Picking up at 3.15 and messages

Please could you let the class teacher know in the **morning** who is picking up your children. If there is an emergency and pick up has to change then do call and we will try to pass the message on.

Before School Club

Will now be open on a Monday morning before school, starting next week. This means the club now runs Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please get in touch with Vikki Drew on derhamvictoria@hotmail.com

PTA News

Over the summer we have been working hard to raise money for our school by opening our school car park. This has raised just under £1200! Thanks go to Rebecca, Jenni, Cherry, Karen and Kelly G for giving up their time to raise these much needed funds, we really appreciate it.

Thursday Bakes

Our Thursday Bakes will be back **starting next Thursday 13th September with Willow and Bay tree class** taking the first turn to bake. Please look out for the baking rota posters that will be displayed in school. As usual, we would appreciate cake donations from the classes due to bake in the morning of the sale so we can set up before 3.10pm.

PTA AGM

Our AGM is on Wednesday 26th September in our School Hall. If you are interested in joining our PTA please feel free to come and speak with either myself, Kellie Bishop or Jenni Rowe. All parents and friends of the Grove school are welcome to attend our AGM, we really need more help and support to keep our PTA going strong. We welcome fresh ideas and more hands really do make the job easier. One of the important things we will discuss at our AGM is how we spend the PTA money this academic year, so your input is really important. We decide this alongside Mrs Priest, taking into account what the school really needs.

Bag2school

Look out for your Bags2School bag this week. Last time this it raised just under £200! All details of what can be included is printed on the bag, so get sorting! Our collection date is Tuesday 25th September so all bags need to be in school by that date. Thank you for your support.

Shear Soccer

Adam has swapped the year groups around. Tuesdays will be Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Wednesdays will be Years 1 and 2. Information and booking forms are available from reception. The club is due to start next week. Please could all parents fill in a new booking form for this new academic year.

Tuesdays, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 September 12th, 19th, 26th, October 3rd, 10th & 17th

Wednesdays, Years 1 and 2 September 13th, 20th, 27th, October 4th, 11th & 18th

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

Save the Date: September 21st Friday evening
Pub Quiz Party @ Seven Stars

Pub quiz and then dancing to raise money for Year 6 Residential and charity too.
Tickets on sale very soon. Do put this date in your diary as it will be a wonderful night.