



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What's happening in school this week and next

Thank you to everyone who donated in the Bags2school we raised £88. Yesterday Years 3 and 4 went to Kents Cavern to become experts in the Stone Age. We investigated the cave system, discovering a range of historical artefacts including Stone Age tools and Neanderthal skulls. We also learnt about the essential skills you would need to survive in the Stone Age and did some archaeological digging. It was a great day and we learnt so much. Thank you to all the volunteers who came with us. Club letters confirming your child's place will be sent home tonight and tomorrow. Please sign the consent form at the bottom and return it to Rebecca.

Staffing news

We were delighted to make three maternity leave covers last week. Miss Hoskins will be taking Mrs. Gratton's maternity leave, Mr. Kirby will take Mrs. Barton Wilkes's and Mrs. Drew will take Mrs. Westrope's. They are all experienced and very passionate about teaching and will be a great asset to our team.

School reading books and Bookbags

In Reception, Years 1 and 2 we are finding lots of school reading books are being damaged. This is happening because the books and reading records are being put in rucksacks instead of book bags. Book bags can be purchased off the MAPAC website <https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/thegroveprimaryschooltq95ed/primobookbag>. If you do not want to use a book bag then please could you supply a tough plastic wallet to put the books in. We will have to start charging people to get books replaced and we really don't want to start doing this.

Basketball and Football Central Venue League

Last Wednesday was the first competition in the basketball league. Two teams represented The Grove, playing against schools from the Totnes Learning Community. Both teams played brilliantly, showing great sportsmanship and determination! Well done.

The Astro at KEVICC was the venue for the first football league games on Monday evening. The Grove had two teams playing and it is great to see lots of girls joining the team this year. I look forward to the next meeting on Monday 8th October.

Dart Hockey Primary School League

A letter will be going out shortly for players from Years 5 and 6 who want to play in the Dart Hockey Primary School League. The league takes place over 5 weeks, Monday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th November and Monday 3rd December. Children do not need to have played hockey before, it is a great opportunity for the children to develop their hockey skills. The teams are mixed 7-a-side and need to contain 3 boys and 3 girls. The children will need gum shields and shin pads, the club will provide sticks. Please let Rebecca know if your child is interested or you would be able to help.

Dartmoor School Sports Partnership Cyclo-cross Competition

Fifteen children bravely raced in the cyclo-cross competition at South Dartmoor Community College. The course was long and challenging, it included a tricky uphill section and a gravel downhill section. Well done to all the children who took part in the competition, particularly Danny, who was given the incorrect position after cycling an extra lap! He had actually finished in third position!

Usborne Book Fair

Thank you for all of your orders so far. The school will be receiving lots of lovely free books as a result of your orders. Please can any remaining orders be sent into the school office by **tomorrow morning**.

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.

Thursday Bakes

Thank you to Beech and Guava Tree classes for their lovely cakes last week. This week is the turn of **Lime and Mountain Ash**. Could we kindly ask that all cake donations are left in school on Thursday morning ready for selling at the end of the day. Cakes will be available from 3.10pm, get there early to avoid disappointment.

PTA AGM – Tonight

Our AGM is on tonight in the school hall with access through the main front doors. Tea and coffee will be available.

All parents, staff members and friends of the Grove are very welcome to attend, it would be lovely to see some new faces. We really need all the help and support we can get to keep our PTA flourishing. You can choose how involved you would like to be, from taking on a role as a committee member or simply being added to our emailing list in order to keep up to date with events and decisions.

After the usual AGM formalities, we will chat about how we are going to help the school this academic year and begin planning our annual Christmas Fair. If you have any ideas or thought about these topics and are unable to make the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will happily chat with you or alternatively send us an email on pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk We really do value and appreciate your input.

Praise assemblies

Praise assembly this week is Lime Tree class on Friday at 2.45pm. The next praise assembly is Flame Tree class on Friday 5th October at 2.45pm.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

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/>

House to rent

3 Bed 1930's semi with garden and garage in Farwell Road, Totnes
Contact Will 07803037063



**Want to get fit and have fun? Feel out of place in traditional fitness classes?
Looking for a way for all the family to get a bit fitter? Try dad dancing...!**

**Coming this autumn, a new fitness programme aimed at men, families and children
based on the tunes and the dance moves you all love!**

**Dad Dancing Fit Club classes will be running across Torbay, Plymouth and South
Devon from September 2018, and then nationally. Come along with the kids.**

check www.daddancingfitclub.co.uk or email: info@daddancingfitclub.co.uk



Dad Dancing Fit Club is a new way of getting fit. It's not a traditional fitness programme - no shouting, no lycra - just good tunes. DDFC has been designed for adults, in particular men, with children of all ages and levels of fitness. It is a fun, easy way to get healthy. Classes this autumn will be subsidised. Contact us to find out about when Dad Dancing Fit Club will be starting near you. e: info@daddancingfitclub.co.uk or 07731795160

