



The Grove School Newsletter



Wonder – Explore - Grow

Newsletter 12th October 2018

Volume 1, Issue 2

Headteacher: Ms K Martin

Deputy Headteacher: Miss H Owen

Diary Dates for Autumn

October

17th -18th Parent Consultations

18th Harvest Festival

22nd-26th-Half Term

29th- School Closed Inset Day

November

14th – Flu Vaccinations Rec- Year 5

December

17th Christmas Jumper Day

17th Christmas Lunch

19th-2.15pm School closes for Christmas holidays

Please visit the website for the school annual diary

Attachments

PE kit reminder

Update letter re Fairer Funding for schools

Dear Parents

Already we are coming towards the end of the first half term and what a busy half term it has been.

I have had the pleasure of observing all the children in each class and it was delightful to see how much progress they are making already. Observations included children working collaboratively in maths to problem solve, use of questioning skills to find out about the time Mr Kingsford had encountered a ‘mysterious visitor’, children working in sketch books to develop and appraise artwork. The list could go on.

As a school we have been fortunate to be selected by the science park as their school of the year. This means that children, across the school, will have the opportunity to work with businesses

Year 5 visit the Bradfield Centre

Year 5 had a wonderful time at The Bradfield Centre on the Science Park last week. After a brisk walk through the landscaped gardens, the Director of the Science Park, Jeanette Walker, showed us around the Centre. We loved the neon colour-changing lights and the smart open plan offices.

After a snack, we had fun answering questions about our hopes and aspirations for life after school by building Lego models and asking and answering questions about them. All the adults joined in too!

After our busy Lego session we were given a delicious pizza lunch to give us the energy to walk back to school.

based at the science park in a variety of ways. Year 5 were the first year group to be involved, read about their exciting Lego project below. We have a couple of other projects lined up for this term – do watch this space.

A number of parents have raised concerns about parking near the entrance to the back gate. Please can parents take extra care when bringing children to school by car. There are many pedestrians walking in this area and we don’t want an accident to happen.

Kind regards

Ms Karen Martin

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival assembly is approaching and this year we will be donating our food collection to the Cambridge Food Bank. Due to space, this celebration is for children only.

If you would like to donate something please could you choose items from the list below:

Tinned vegetables, rice pudding, fruit. Long life items such as fruit juice, milk (not soya/almond etc.), long life puddings. Jars of pasta sauce, instant mash, instant coffee (small jars), pasta and sauce mix, instant noodles, cooking oil 500ml preferred or 1 litre, 500g granulated sugar or 1kg, jams and spreads, biscuits, packets or tins of instant custard, snacks: crisps, nuts fruit bars, sweets.

Please could donations be brought in on Thursday, 18th October 2018

Thank you for your support

Parent Consultations

Wednesday, 17th October 2018 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Thursday, 18th October 2018 3.30pm – 4.30pm and 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Our Value for this half term COMPASSION

**“If you want others to
be happy, practice
compassion.**

**If you want to be
happy, practice
compassion”.**

Dalai Lama

We are holding consultation meetings on Wednesday 17th October 2018 between 3:30pm and 6:00pm and on Thursday 18th October 2018 between 3:30pm and 4.30pm and 5.30pm and 7.00pm.

This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child’s class teacher to discuss how your child is progressing and continue to think about how you, your child and the staff can work together to ensure your child achieves to the best of their ability and reaches their end of year targets.

Please log on to our school website www.thegroveschool.net and choose your preferred **day** and **appointment time**. The booking slots will open at 7pm on 8th October 2018 and closes at 10.00am on 18th October 2018. Usernames and passwords were sent out last academic year, your username will be your first name.surname. If you have any difficulties please contact the school office.

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We’re on the Web!

www.thegroveschool.net

School Parliament

The Grove School Parliament have had and have an important role within the school. In previous parliaments the elected school members have worked closely with school staff to choose new lunchtime meal providers, worked with the PTFA in identifying school playground markings, drawn up lunchtime and playtime charters.

The parliamentary members of The Grove School Parliament have recently been elected. There are two parliamentary members representing each class with the exception of EYFS.

One of the first tasks that they have to undertake is a discussion with their respective class members on the following

- **Newton’s Space Saplings; can you give them space to grow?**
Seeds from Isaac Newton’s apple tree, which were blasted into space with Tim Peake, are now young trees /saplings and in need of a new home.
The School Parliament is tasked with writing a letter to say why we at The Grove Primary should be given the trees/saplings.
- **Children in Need**
The Grove School will supporting Children in Need 2018 and the school parliament have to discuss with their class members how as a school we should raise funds for this needy cause.

The Grove School Fair

Thank you to everyone who was involved in our PTFA Autumn Fair. As always the weather was kind and the sun was shining. We also had a Steel Band playing lovely summery music. There were many stalls with Mr Tinkler trying to save goals, lucky dips, raffles and the ever popular cake stall. Thank you for donating so many cakes! We also donated a percentage of the money taken on the cake stall to Macmillan Cancer. The fair raised a fantastic £300.

Attendance

New Grove Football Kit

Don't our footballers look smart?



Thanks to sponsorship from Travis Perkins we now have a fantastic Grove kit.

The kit was worn for the first time yesterday when our Year 5 team competed in the Inter Schools Football tournament.

The team did really well and reached the final. They ended up as runners up on penalties. What a fantastic start to the sporting year.

School Meals

Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a universal free school meal.

Year 3 – 6 meals cost £2.25 per day.

Children can choose from two main courses, a jacket potato/pasta or a baguette option. A dessert, fruit, yoghurt and cheese and biscuits are available each day.

Please encourage your child to have one of our delicious lunches

We have had a great start to the year with lots of children attending school every day. We want to maintain this throughout the year and hope to reach our attendance target of 96% by July 2019.

At The Grove we believe that attendance is directly linked to achievement. Therefore it is essential that your child is in school every day in order for them to achieve their full potential. School, along with our Education Welfare Officer, regularly reviews attendance so that children whose attendance is below the government threshold level of 95% are identified quickly. The parents of these children will be contacted by school and should attendance levels fail to improve they will be invited in for a meeting with the attendance team.

In the case of persistent absences and especially those which are unauthorised, penalty notices will be issued, in accordance with recently updated County procedures. For this reason it is important that you inform school from the first day if your child is absent, so that the correct marks can be entered into the register.

We believe that in order to make the best progress possible, children need to be in school every day. However, we understand that there may be occasions when you need to request a leave of absence for a special reason. If this is the case an 'Exceptional Leave Request Form' (available on the school website) should be completed and returned to the school office. This does not guarantee that the leave will be granted, as requests are dealt with on an individual basis. If the leave is not agreed, any absence will be recorded as unauthorised and will count against your child's overall attendance percentage. In the case of unauthorised term time holidays, penalty notices will be issued- in accordance with county guidelines.

Punctuality is also important. Arriving at school in time for **learning at 8.55am** means that your child will be ready to start the day with the rest of their class. Remember that children should be entering their classrooms from **8.45am** to begin their early morning work and maximise their learning time.

Our breakfast 'Pitstop' club is available from 8am if you need to bring your child to school earlier (ask at the school office for further details).

School registers close at 9.15am and should your child arrive after that time they will be recorded as having an unauthorised absence for that session. This will count against their overall attendance percentage.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE GROVE



Safeguarding

Ms Martin is the designated lead for child protection and safeguarding at The Grove.

There are 3 deputy leads for child protection – they are: Mrs Hardy, Miss Owen and Mrs Courtney.

Please speak to any of these people if you have any concerns.