



# THE GROVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

## Don't have time to read all the newsletter?

### Here are the essentials in summary:

- ☺ World Book Day thanks
- ☺ Thank you to School Council
- ☺ Update on Mrs Priest
- ☺ Polite reminder – please refrain from walking through the private court yards on Heaths Way
- ☺ Easter holiday club booking link
- ☺ Behaviour as communication - tips and discussions about how to manage behaviours
- ☺ Year 6 Leavers Hoodies link <https://forms.gle/jYg7DAcynRt6XsWe8>
- ☺ PTA news and events

More info on all these below or ask at the front desk



## **World Book Day**

A great day was had by all. We all had great fun in and out of the classroom - author activities, book creations, quizzes and much more. Thank you so much for all the effort that went into creating the amazing costumes. Thank you too for all the book donations for the book swap. It was wonderful to see so many parents at the Reading Cafe. Thank you to the PTA for all their help with refreshments. We have had so many entries for the paper plate competition - it is going to be incredibly hard for the judge to decide on the winners. Winners will be announced on Friday. Watch this space!

### **Thank You School Council**

A huge thank you to the following School Council members who ran around helping Rebecca gather children for the Reading Cafe when their grown-ups arrived.

Ava, Daisy, Maddie, Hattie, Merla, Meriel and Bea - Rebecca says that she couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

### **Update on Mrs Priest**

Mrs Priest is recovering well after her operation; the surgeon is pleased with how it went. We all send her lots of love and wish her a speedy recovery.



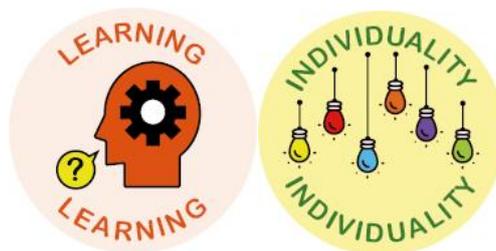
### **Polite reminder**

We have been asked by a resident on Heaths Way to remind people that the pathways in front of the houses are private property. Please refrain from using them on your way to and from school. Many thanks.

### **Easter Holiday Club**

We are delighted to share that our Holiday Activity Club will be running during both weeks of the Easter holidays. To secure your child's place, we encourage you to book in advance as spaces are limited.

<https://kalscope.co.uk/product/totnes-easter-holiday-camps-at-the-grove-school/>



### **Behaviour as communication – Refusal / task avoidance – Week 5**

Children usually refuse tasks for a few predictable reasons: The task feels too hard, they feel overwhelmed, they want control, they're anxious, they're tired, hungry, or overstimulated OR the task has no meaning or reward for them. Understanding the "why" helps you choose the right strategy rather than escalating the conflict.

#### **1. Stay Calm and Neutral**

When adults escalate, kids escalate. A calm, predictable tone reduces the emotional load and keeps the situation from becoming a power struggle.

#### **2. Break Tasks into Tiny, Winnable Steps**

Many kids avoid tasks because they can't see the path from start to finish. ie. instead of "Clean your room," try breaking it down into short tasks eg Put dirty clothes in the basket. Put books on the shelf. Put toys in the box. etc as small steps reduce feeling overwhelmed.

### **3. Use “When–Then” Statements**

This gives structure without threats. Eg “When your shoes are on, then we can go to the park.” It’s predictable, calm, and avoids negotiation.

### **4. Offer Limited Choices**

Choices give kids a sense of control without giving up your boundaries. Eg “Do you want to start with maths or reading?”. “Red shirt or blue shirt?”. “Brush teeth before or after pyjamas?”

### **5. Use Visual Schedules or Checklists**

Many children respond better to visual cues than verbal instructions. It reduces nagging and increases independence.

### **6. Use Timers and Routines**

Timers create urgency without pressure from you. Perhaps make it into a game “Let’s see if you can beat the 2-minute timer.”

Routines reduce decision fatigue and resistance.

### **7. Connect Before You Direct**

Kids comply more when they feel seen and connected. Eg A quick hug, sitting next to them, a warm comment: “I know this is tough.”

Connection lowers resistance.

### **8. Validate Their Feelings**

Validation doesn’t mean giving in—it means acknowledging their experience. Eg “I hear that you don’t want to do homework. It’s hard when you’re tired.”

Validation reduces defensiveness and opens the door to cooperation.

### **9. Use Collaborative Problem-Solving**

For repeated patterns of refusal, involve the child in finding solutions. Ask them “What part is tricky for you?”, “What would make this easier?”

Kids are more likely to follow a plan they helped create.

### **10. Reinforce Effort, Not Just Completion**

Praise the process, not the outcome eg “You kept trying even when it was hard.”, “You started right away—that was awesome.”

This builds resilience and reduces avoidance.

### **11. Keep Instructions Short and Clear**

Long explanations overwhelm kids. Try “One step at a time.”, “First coat on.”

### **12. Know When to Pause**

If a child is melting down, pushing harder rarely works. A short break can reset the nervous system and lead to better cooperation.

If you have any areas of behaviour that you may like guidance on, or if you’d like to share some top tips or guidance with others, please do email in your suggestions to [head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk).

### **Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies**

Please could you make sure you order your child's Leavers' Hoodie before 25th March through the link below:

<https://forms.gle/jYg7DAcynRt6XsWe8>

### **PTA NEWS**

Please put these dates in your diary and watch this space for further information!

#### **PTA dates for your diary**

This Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Mother's Day gifts home

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Easter disco

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Bingo night

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:

- Easter bonnet/hat competition
- Easter hamper raffle
- Mufti £1



**Remember - if you are up for helping with any event, please let us know by emailing [jennir@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:jennir@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)**



#### **Cake Sale**

This Friday is Willow Tree Class' turn to bake.

We look forward to their delicious treats!

After school in the hall. Cakes are 50p each (card/cash)

(No bake sale next week because of Disco!)

#### **Easter Raffle**

Tickets are on sale, available from the front desk, £1 per ticket.

Fantastic prizes, come and get your tickets!



### **Easter Disco - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Permission have been sent home. You can pay on ParentPay, cash or card.  
Please pay by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Let Jenni know if you can help.



### **Easter Bingo - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Get your dabbers ready for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March!  
Doors open at 6:30pm. Eyes down at 7pm

This is open to everyone not just Grove Schoolers so please let family and friends know. Children are welcome - probably more suited to Year 3 and above, but it's up to you.  
Come along and enjoy the fun!  
If you know of any business or friends etc that could donate a prize, that would be amazing!

### **Rainbow Prizes**

It's an ask please. If you could donate items in your child's year group colour that we can use for prizes at our Easter bingo. (No fresh food items please)  
Please bring them in to school from 16<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you!

Acorns - Pink

Year 1 - Red

Year 2 - Orange

Year 3 - Yellow

Year 4 - Green

Year 5 - Blue

Year 6 - Purple



### **Easter Bonnet Hat Competition - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

(Last Day of term)

Get designing your hat - we can't wait to see your amazing creations!  
This is also a mufti day for £1.

Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> - Reception/Nursery, Years 1/2, Years 3/4 & Years 5/6



### **The Grove School PTA Facebook Page**

The Grove School PTA Facebook Page will also keep you up to date on events - e.g. discos, fundraisers, bake sales etc.



**Dates for your diary this term** <http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/calendar/256154>

Flame tree planting @ Sharpham – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Please sign up on ParentPay  
Heights and Weights Reception and Year 6 – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
Yr 1/2 Spring Concert - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April  
Year 5 Residential Okehampton Adventure - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Kind regards, Hilary Priest

*Adverts – please note that the school is neither recommending nor supporting the adverts below. If you wish to advertise in our newsletter then please contact the school for details.*

**RAINBOW PRIZES**

Please bring something in your year colour - we will make them into hampers for our Easter bingo - between 16-25<sup>th</sup> March!  
Thank You.

ACORNS  
YEAR 1  
YEAR 2  
YEAR 3  
YEAR 4  
YEAR 5  
YEAR 6

Sweets  
Drinks  
Easter Eggs  
Food  
Books  
Biscuits  
Toiletries  
Gifts  
Toys

THE GROVE SCHOOL PTA  
PRESENTS

# DISCO



**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

ACORNS, Y1 & Y2 : 3.15PM - 4.15PM    £4

Y3 & Y4 : 4.30PM - 5.30PM    £4

Y5 & Y6 : 5.45PM - 6.45PM    £4



# Easter *Bingo*

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Doors Open  
6.30pm

Grove School Hall.

Eyes Down 7pm

Bingo Caller **Rob Ashford!**



# EASTER HAT

## COMPETITION

THURSDAY 2ND  
APRIL

GET DESIGNING  
YOUR FABULOUS  
CREATIONS!

Prizes for the best Easter  
Hat!

Mufti for £1!



# EASTER RAFFLE

Lots of Fabulous Prizes!

Tickets £1 each from the  
Front Desk.

TO BE DRAWN  
ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> OF  
APRIL.



**THURSDAY**

**FITNESS CLASSES FOR**

**WOMEN**



at Totnes Methodist  
Church Hall

**5.30-6.30pm**

A fantastic, stress busting way to get fit for all fitness levels!

non contact boxing drills.

Circuit style workouts.

**LADIES**  
**BOXERCISE**®

**6.45-7.30pm**

Easy to follow, great energy aerobics style workout. Judgement free- pressure free. And a whole lot of fun!



£9 per class. Discount for block booking.

Booking : <https://bettertogetherbecca.co.uk/wp>

[booking-calendar/#/events](https://bettertogetherbecca.co.uk/wp)

for more information contact Becca

07445495059 [info@bettertogetherbecca.co.uk](mailto:info@bettertogetherbecca.co.uk)





# OPEN EVENING 2026

**Tuesday 17th March 5-7pm**

Totnes Independent School is a non-punitive, independent school for children aged between 11 & 16.

Our school gives students the confidence and support to enjoy their learning and realise their full potential.

**No need to book.**

**Just show up  
and explore  
our incredible  
school!**

+44(0)1803 864484  
office@tap-school.co.uk  
www.totnesindependentschool.co.uk



This is for free school meal eligible children, free of charge, with lunch provided and a great opportunity for the children this Easter  
<https://eequ.org/book/totnes-multi-activity-camp-with-sporty-stars-24948>



# EASTER HAF PROGRAM

TOTNES LEISURE



HOLIDAY CAMP



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
8:30am - 13:00pm  
Ages 5-12  
6+ Activities Planned Everyday

## LEARN. PLAY. SHINE



[www.sportystars.co.uk](http://www.sportystars.co.uk) | @sportystars\_uk

# RIVERSCHOOL

Where nature is the teacher & the river is our guide



## HOLIDAY CLUB

**2026** Easter: April 13-15th  
Half-term: May 26-28th  
July 27-29th  
August 3-7th, 10-14th, 17-18th, 24-26th  
October 27-29th



£40/£45  
Tax Free Child Care  
-Free HAF-funded places-

- Travel by Canoe to our woodland basecamp
- Paddlesports
- Bushcraft
- Nature art and craft
- Raft building
- Wild swimming
- Fishing
- Campfire cooking
- Story telling
- Wildlife and river care
- Games + free play

Activities may include



Where are we? From the quayside Stoke Gabriel

## RIVERSCHOOL

Our provision is delivered by Canoe Adventures Ltd, operating since 1999 with a proven, accredited safety track record.

We are a registered child care provider with Ofsted (Reg. No. 2731749).

EMAIL:

[hello@riverschool.org.uk](mailto:hello@riverschool.org.uk)

TEL:

07706 343744

[www.canoeadventures.co.uk](http://www.canoeadventures.co.uk)



SCAN HERE TO BOOK:  
or FIND US ON [EEQU.ORG](http://EEQU.ORG)



Canoe Adventures

