



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The Newsletter

Our school newsletter comes out every Wednesday. It is a crucial vehicle for communication from us as school is a very busy place. If you don't read it, you will miss out on information so please try at least to scan it every week.

SEESAW

You should all have your login code for Seesaw by now so that you can see what amazing learning your child is doing in school. If you wish to download your child's account from last year, please make sure you do this by Wednesday 27th September (next Wednesday) so that we can archive those accounts and avoid confusion. Remember – please email teachers directly and avoid using Seesaw as a means of communication. Many thanks.

What is happening this week and next

As part of their new Geography topic – Exeter & Devon, Years 3 and 4 will be doing a trip to Exeter all day on Tuesday next week. The day will be split in two, with one half of the day being a tour around Exeter Cathedral and the other half being a walking tour of Exeter flood defences, taking in the quay, canals and levees.

On Wednesday next week the new Year 1/2 classes will be going to Paignton Zoo. The Zoo is celebrating their 100th year anniversary and entry to the zoo is free. They will be running an educational session with us during the visit. In addition, it will also be a good opportunity for the new classes to get to know one another.

Parent-staff communication

Thanks for managing to attend Monday's come and chat to your children's teacher session and I hope you found it useful. You should have had information forwarded to you if you didn't manage to attend. If you haven't had this, then please let us know. Remember **Mondays between 8:45 and 9am on the field** is a chance to let your teachers know anything they might need to know from the weekend about your child. If you don't feel the need then that is fine of course or use email if it is easier. Of course teachers are teaching all day so emails aren't always seen until later but teachers all try to access their emails at least once every working day (that they work). Please don't send urgent same day messages this way – please email admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk or phone Rebecca Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays or Sarah on Wednesdays to pass on urgent messages.

Micro, Mini and Junior Duke – Last day to sign up

To encourage independence and self-motivation, this year, The Grove School is, once again, running the Award Scheme called the Junior Duke (KS2), Mini Duke (KS1) and Micro Duke (Reception). This is aimed to be like a precursor to The Duke of Edinburgh challenge that your child may wish to take on in Secondary School.

There are four levels: in KS2; (Year 3) Bronze, (Year 4) Silver, (Year 5) Gold and (Year 6) Platinum. There are two levels in KS1; (Year 1) Silver and (Year 2) Gold. Each of these levels has ten challenges and, in order to complete a level, the children need to finish seven of these successfully. These include skills such as First Aid, ICT, Languages, Art, Drama, Music, Sport and other life skills such as cookery and puncture repair.

On completion of a level, a certificate and a badge will be awarded in assembly. All children who complete the Platinum level will receive his or her badge at assembly as soon as they have completed his or her Award, but their certificates will be awarded at a special ceremony near the end of the academic year.

There is an £11.00 charge each year to cover the cost of the booklet, certificate, badges and postage.

Your child will receive a letter with a form to fill in if they wish to take part. The form and money will need to be returned to Rebecca by Wednesday 20th September. Please look out for the letter. It would be amazing to have as many Grove children take part as possible; the benefits to your child will be huge.

Absences from school

If your child is ill, then please ensure the school knows as early as possible by emailing or calling. The school need to know what symptoms your child has. Children should not be kept off school for mild concerns such as tiredness, headache or tummy ache and not every illness needs to keep your child from school. Evidence needs to be supplied if children have 5 days of illness or if your child's attendance is 96% or below.

A copy of our attendance policy can be found on our website <http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web>

The school is unable to authorise holidays following government guidance but if you want your child to have time off school then you must fill in a form (S2 Absence Request Form) which can be collected from reception. Each term the Education Welfare Officer reviews the percentage of absences your child has had

Late Children in the morning and late parents picking up

We are required to monitor children's punctuality and attendance. On-going lateness (after the class register has been taken) is classified as an unauthorised absence and this is contrary to The Education Act.

All late children need to be signed in by the parent that is bringing them to school.

If you are experiencing difficulties with punctuality and would like to talk to us please come and make an appointment.

PTA AGM Tuesday 3rd October 7pm in the School Hall

I would like to welcome you all to attend the PTA AGM. The Grove School PTA is a registered charity run by volunteers. Our PTA Committee consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurers, these are a legal requirement of our charity status. To support these roles we have a core team of parents/carers and staff. This amazing team do incredible work to support fundraising activities with their primary focus to enrich the children's time whilst at school. Our aim is to support the school and the children to learn and thrive, whilst raising funds and strengthen the school community. Money is usually spent on things that the school budget does not cover. Last year we supported the equipment for the school growing project and supplied individual classes with resources.

Being a part of the PTA is a good opportunity to get involved in the school and meet other parents whilst helping to raise much needed funds that make a difference to the children. This also gives the opportunity for you to help make decisions on how and where funds are spent. Please email me if you would like more information or to let me know if you can attend the AGM (so I can make sure there's enough yummy nibbles!).

I am stepping down as Chair of the PTA at this AGM after 4 years. I've really enjoyed the opportunities that I have had within this role and the relationships with other parents and staff at the school. There is also a vacancy for the Vice Chair. We would really welcome current members who would like to take on these roles or new members with ideas and enthusiasm to develop projects and ideas. Please email me or come along. Many thanks, Emily Rowley (pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)

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

Year 3 and 4 Exeter Cathedral Trip – Tuesday 26th September (ParentPay)

Years 1 and 2 Zoo Trip – Wednesday 27th September (ParentPay)

Tempest Photos Individual and siblings – Thursday 12th October

Year 6 Residential to Okehampton Adventure – Monday 16th October 4 nights

Half term – Monday 23rd October

First day back – Monday 30th October

Nasal Flu Vaccination – Thursday 2nd November

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.

Interested in joining a fun social Netball group?

Every Tuesday, 7-8pm, at Totnes Kevicc main sports hall.

Come and give it a try, any age and ability, escape from the kids for a bit of team exercise and a good laugh.

Email: sallygdixon@hotmail.com

Tel: 07813 937217

Katies yoga collective

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www.katiesyogacollective.co.uk

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