



### Weekly Newsletter

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**Newsletter No: Spring 1**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**5th January 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone. We hope you had a great Christmas and hope 2022 treats you well.

#### **What is happening this week and next**

Mountain Ash will have their last swimming lesson on Monday next week. A letter has gone out today about the Year 1 and 2 trip to Plymouth.

#### **Keeping school informed**

Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes that may affect your children e.g. family circumstances, significant illnesses of close relatives/friends, change of home etc. It is really important that we know so that we can help support your children. We will maintain confidentiality unless told otherwise.

#### **Year 1 and 2 Trip to Plymouth**

Years 1 and 2 will be going on an educational visit to Plymouth Hoe and Plymouth Theatre Royal on **Tuesday 18th January (Dove)** and **Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> (Lime and Beech)**. The visit is linked to our current Geography topic and is a perfect opportunity to experience spending time within a city environment different to our school town of Totnes! The children will be watching the show 'The Man Who Wanted to be a Penguin' at the Theatre Royal in the morning and then walking from the theatre along the Hoe and to the Barbican area.

#### **Reception and Year 1 New Phonics Scheme Little Wandle Letters and Sounds**



We have purchased a new Systematic, Synthetic Phonics scheme which is called Little Wandle. This scheme will help us achieve our ambition that all children will leave KS1 being able to read.

The key difference you will notice as Reception and Year 1 parents is that quantity of books that your child brings home will be less but the fluency and confidence in your child will be increased. To ensure that reading at home is an enjoyable experience and does not feel like a chore we will be sending reading practice in which your child can read 95% of the words. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. Please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Your role will be to listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

In addition to the Reading Practice book your child will bring home a Sharing Book. In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

For further information, here is a link to provide you with information about the new scheme.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

In order for us to assess your children and ensure they read the correct level books we will not be sending home Reading Practice books for a few weeks. In the meantime we will be sending home picture books for you and your child to enjoy together.

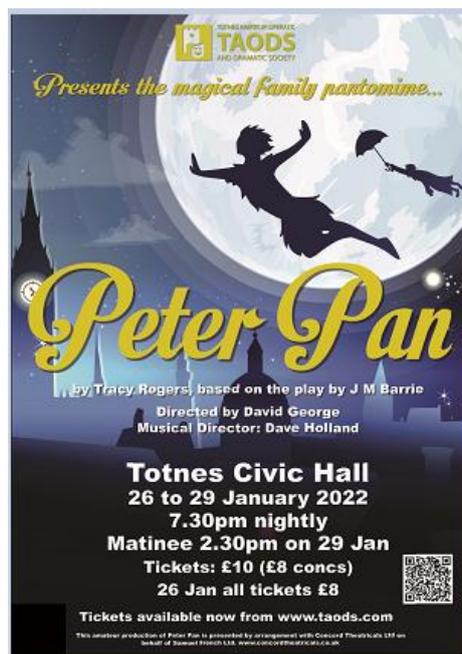
Kind regards

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.*

### Totnes Pantomime - Peter Pan Jan 26th - Jan 29th 2022

**50% discount for Grove School parents on Wednesday and Thursday night**



Yes! It is that time of year again when, Covid permitting, the Totnes pantomime will be on. This year, the pantomime is **Peter Pan** and will be running at the **Civic Hall** in Totnes from **Wednesday 26th January to Saturday 29th January**.

Details of the pantomime can be found in the **attached flyer** and you can book tickets here

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/taods/>.

Even better, Grove students and their parents can get a **50% discount** on the **Wednesday & Thursday** nights by using the code "**GROVE2022**" when booking.

We hope you'll attend and enjoy what should be a barrel of laughs to set us up for the New Year.