



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What is happening this week and next

Beech, Lime and Dove tree classes have been so excited about their trip to Plymouth. It's the first proper school trip they have actually managed because of Covid so they were thrilled to bits just to even get on a coach – let alone go to a theatre and a city! Virgin Care immunisation team will be here next Thursday to deliver the Nasal Flu vaccination.

COVID

This week has been a close shave with going into staffing crisis with 7 staff off with Covid from Beech, Lime, Chestnut, Trumpet, Mountain Ash and Flame. Furthermore, the testing after 5/6 days doesn't seem to be coming back as negative for our staff so we need to plan for staff absence for 10 days. Thank you for being patient with us as we cover the classes as best we can. The children have been completely magnificent and have adjusted so well and you can really see the team mentality from our staff who have all pulled together to do what they can. The main symptoms we are seeing with this strain vary a bit from the national guidelines – we are seeing stomach pains/upset tummy, temperature and sore throat – not necessarily all together! Please be as vigilant as possible with your children and if they are displaying any of these symptoms we'd be grateful if you could test them just to rule out Covid. We currently have 27 confirmed cases amongst the children – across every class.

KEVICC Consultation – Local secondary school

There is a letter at the end of this newsletter with information regarding KEVICC and the consultation on them joining The Academy chain - Education South West. The consultation runs until 18 February.

Reception children part time

We have checked with guidance and parents can choose to keep their children as part time until the beginning of the term after their 5th birthday as we don't formally have a current policy on this, but we would really encourage parents to ensure their children are full time by the start of the Summer term at the latest. We have noticed that children who attend part time in Reception can end up with gaps in their knowledge having missed crucial phonics input and reinforcement and also key maths concepts. This can impact on them for years. This is also true of holidays in term time – whilst the families of children under 5 years old who have holidays in term time will not be fined the children do miss massive chunks of their education by doing so. Again this is also true of children with low school attendance. It is also very difficult for children to fully settle socially into class if they are not experiencing the whole week with their class mates and teachers. We are happy to talk this through with anyone who wants to discuss more – please contact me at head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk. We will be developing a school policy laying down our guidelines for September 2022.

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.

KING EDWARD VI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

learning to flourish

18/1/22

Dear Year 5 or Year 6 Parent or Carer,

We hope this letter finds you well, and that you had a restful Christmas break.

We are writing to you about an exciting development at KEVICC which we would like your views and feedback on.

Many of you will be familiar with schools becoming part of larger groups, commonly known as trusts. As governors we have been looking closely at the advantages that KEVICC could gain from joining other local like-minded schools and working together to continue to improve everything we do for our young people.

We feel that joining a strong local trust of primary and secondary schools, which shares the values and ethos we hold and have developed over time, will help us to ensure that our college continues to develop and flourish.

This is why we are formally consulting with all our stakeholders on KEVICC becoming part of Education South West, a local trust of primary and secondary schools across South Devon.

This is a hugely exciting step for our college, and one that we anticipate having great benefit for young people in our school both presently and in the future. It is of course an important decision, and one that we want to discuss with you and hear your views on. The views of parents and carers of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in our community are especially important to us.

All details of the consultation, including a detailed paper setting out our thinking on why we feel this is an exciting and positive step forward for KEVICC, are on the College website: www.kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk
The consultation is open until 18 February.

We would like to invite you to join KEVICC parents and carers in asking any questions you may have about the proposal to ourselves in an **online meeting on Tuesday 25 January from 6pm-7pm.**

This meeting will be accessed via google meets on the code <https://meet.google.com/pvj-cmah-xrn>

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,



Jim Lodge
Chair of Governors



Alan Salt
Principal



Principal Alan Salt

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@KEVICC



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.