



# THE GROVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

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

**Here are the essentials in summary:**

- ☺ World Book Day
- ☺ Royal Academy of Arts Competition
- ☺ Behaviour as communication - tips and discussions about how to manage behaviours
- ☺ Playground help – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

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



## **World Book Day**

This year we will be celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 6th March** and we have lots of fun things planned for the day. The children will be able to come to school dressed as a book character or in their pyjamas and the PTA will be selling second hand costumes in the reception area from Monday 23rd February.

## **Book Swap!**

We aren't collecting mufti money for this year, but if you would like to donate a preloved, good quality book from your family, then we will be collecting these in from Monday the 23rd February. There will be a box at the front entrance to put your donations in. (Please can we request that you don't donate annuals, colouring books etc) On World Book Day, we are hoping that these books will be available throughout the day for the children to choose a book from should they wish to, but this will depend upon the number of books donated.

## **Reading Café**

During the afternoon of World Book Day (6th March) from 2pm until 4pm we will be running a reading café in the school hall, like we did last year, where parents/carers can come in and share books with their children. There will also be tea, coffee, squash and cakes for sale and parents/carers can come drop in at a time convenient for them.

### **Competition**

We'd like to invite the children to join in with our competition linked to World Book Day by decorating a paper plate connected to a favourite book/character. We will be sending home a paper plate before the half term with every child and they need to be returned by Friday 6th March to be entered into the competition. We will be sharing ideas for decorating the plates and the children can decorate their plates at school on World Book Day if they'd rather.

There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for each key stage and some runners up prizes too. Competition winners will be announced in the week after World Book Day and the plates will be displayed in the school corridor as part of our literacy display.



### **ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS COMPETITION**

The Young Artists' Summer Show is an opportunity for UK-based young artists aged 4-18 to make and share a piece of artwork that truly expresses their own voice. There is no set theme; they welcome submissions covering a range of techniques, including drawing, painting, printing, photography, sculpture, textile, fashion, animation, video, and more.

If your child would like to enter this competition, please email me ( [helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk) ) a photo of their work of art along with the following information:

Full name  
Artwork title  
Description  
Art work type  
Medium  
Dimensions of the actual piece of art

The closing date for this is the 4<sup>th</sup> March. However, I will need time to complete all the entry submissions (quite involved for each entry).

**Therefore, the school closing date for this competition is: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Have fun and good luck.

## **Behaviour as communication – anxiety – Week 2**

Lots of things can cause children anxiety about school and parents often see this before school when time is short, everyone is in a hurry and it's hard to address. If you have had this experience, it is often useful to choose a non-pressured time to chat about things. Bed time can work for some but for those children who don't like to go to bed on time this can be a tactic to extend the bedtime deadline and often everyone is tired and adults still have 100 jobs still to do so patience can be thin. Try a time when you are out for a walk or in the car, children often open up more when they don't feel like they are being quizzed and don't have to look straight at you. Sometimes with older children texting can be a useful way of drawing out worries.

In school we:

Make sure the child has a trusted adult they can talk to when they need to

Operate the meet and greet system to help in the separation process from parents to school

Take a little Lola dog walk with the trusted adult as a chance to talk (Lola works on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

Use picture cues to help express emotions

Consider the usual suspects – friendships, learning, home life, play times, food, illness (or fear of illness), separation anxiety from parents, changes to routines, facing an 'unknown' scenario

Give lots of cuddles and reassurance

Try to tackle the root cause if we can

Please do share your experiences and strategies for others to read about anonymously in the next edition of the newsletter. I will also get some staff perspectives too.

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).



## **PLAYGROUND HELP - SUNDAY 1st MARCH from 10am**

Are you free and up for volunteering to help transform our playground? There is so much that has already been done and also so much more left to do!

Jobs will range from painting, constructing a sandpit, re-inventing our roof terrace and more. The PTA are going to put on food to help keep spirits high and entice you to join in!

If you are free and able to help, please email me so that we know numbers (let me know if you are vegetarian or have any other food requirements too).

[helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)

**THANK YOU**



### **Holiday Club – 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February**

We're delighted to share that our holiday club will be running during the February half term. To secure your child's place, we encourage you to book in advance as spaces are limited.

<https://kalscope.co.uk/product/totnes-february-half-term-holiday-club-at-the-grove-school/>

### **PTA NEWS**

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



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

Today – Mother's Day order forms sent home

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Pre loved World Book Day costumes go on sale

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Final day for Mother's Day orders to be in

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March:

- World Book Day
- Reading café 2pm-4:00pm
- Easter Hamper tickets

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 donation

**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)**



### **Mother's Day**

Mother's Day order forms will be sent out today.

If you would like to order a gift, please can forms be returned by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. Payment – ParentPay, card or cash.

### **Disco**

A massive THANK YOU to everyone that helped with the disco last Friday – the children had a fabulous time. We raised over £700!

### **World Book Day Pre Loved Costumes**

Do you have any book character costumes at home your little ones have outgrown? We are looking for donations of these to sell for £2 a costume to help make sure every child can join in the fun! Please drop any donations off at the front desk, thank you. They will be on sale from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

### **Knitting Needles etc**

If you have any knitting needles, crochet hooks and wool you no longer need, we would love it for lunchtimes for children in the caravan to use.



### **Cake Sale**

Cake sales will resume after half term. The first will be Flame Tree class on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.



### **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 – **Changed** to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March Please sign up on ParentPay

Last day of term – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

First day back – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Mountain Ash swimming – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Please sign up on ParentPay

World Book Day – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

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

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.*

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February

# Community

# OPEN DAY

**FREE**  
activities\*



## Totnes Leisure Centre

- 8:00-10:00 – Racquet Sports
- 10:00-11:00 – Sandygate Martial Arts
- 10:15-11:00 – Group Cycle\*
- 11:00-12:00 – Yoga\*
- 12:15-13:15 – Lane Swim
- 13:15-14:15 – Fun & Floats
- 14:30-15:30 – Family Swim\*
- 14:30-16:30 – Racquet Sports\*
- All Day – Gym\*
- All Day – Sauna\*



Scan to  
book your  
open day  
activities



**fusion**

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>

for more information contact Becca  
07445495059 [info@bettertogetherbecca.co.uk](mailto:info@bettertogetherbecca.co.uk)



# SETSUDO KI AIKIDO

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HARMONY  
ENERGY  
WAY

A toolkit for daily life...  
Beginners are always welcome



at ST JOHN'S CHURCH  
BRIDGETOWN

Wednesdays  
Adults class (14+) 7:30-9:30pm  
Children 7+ 5.20-6pm  
Children 10+ 6.20-7pm

THE INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION OF KI CLUBS  
Plymouth - Totnes - Lyrryn - Liskeard  
[www.setsudo-ki-aikido.org](http://www.setsudo-ki-aikido.org)