



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What's been happening this week

A number of staff have been trained in first aid this week. Children in KS2 were so excited about a Gymnastics online competition in which they did brilliantly with awards ranging from complete beginners 'rookies' to experts 'platinum plus' levels. We have had to be quite inventive about our daily physical activities in the horrendous weather we have not been enjoying!! Lots of indoor active sessions have been taking place from badminton to a Joe Wickes re-run! The weather won't beat us from having as much daily exercise as possible! We were visited by lots of local headteachers last week who were so impressed with how focused the children were in their learning, how much they were enjoying their learning and what a lovely calm environment our school creates – it was a bit of a proud moment for us.



Assembly awards for children making extra effort in great presentation in their learning and helping keep the classrooms tidy

Well done Flame Tree Class for Class of the week – they are an amazing team and have such great working together skills.

And these children have made huge efforts to improve or maintain excellent presentation and pride in their books:

Acorn – Last Friday the Reception class went to the whole school assembly for the first time. Awards for super tidying went to Flo M and Marlin.

Chestnut Tree class- Harper and Matilda

Dove Tree Class – Esha and Willow

Lime Tree Class – Alf and Lara

Willow Tree Class – Tyler and Noah

Beech Tree Class – Lewis S and Zoya, plus classroom super tidiers Dot and Hazel

Mountain Ash Tree Class – Libby and Ivy

Trumpet Tree Class – Albert and Bridget

Flame Tree Class – Hannah and Ebla

Ginkgo Tree Class – Lily GJ and Ru

There was also a special award for Billy in Ginkgo for helping in the dining hall every day with such efficiency and enthusiasm and for Khalid in Lime Tree Class for incredible progress in his reading.

Phonics and Early Reading Workshop - Reception

Reception parents are invited to join us on Monday 6th February from 2.30-3.15 p.m. to find out more about Phonics and Early Reading. The workshop is a chance to see how we use the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds

scheme and how you can support your child at home. There will be time to ask questions and see the resources first hand over a cup of tea.

Potential Teacher Strike days

Just trying to give you prior warning as to what will happen on Teacher strike days. The dates that will affect us are Wednesday 1st February, Thursday 2nd March and Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. Currently it looks like we will be partially opening. If a teacher is not striking then their class will function, if they are striking then their class will not. As soon as I know this information I will let you know so you can make contingencies. I hope that you fully understand the teachers' viewpoints and support them if they are striking – the press say the strike is about teacher pay and it is true that teachers pay has been frozen for many years but one of the main issues is that although the government gave teachers and support staff pay rises this year the government refused to fund it. As a school we lost an approx. £30,000 from your children's education allowance because of this lack of funding. Because the decision was made in September for the pay rise and we set our budgets in April this was an unanticipated amount and will leave the school in a deficit from our planned budget. For some legal reason teachers aren't allowed to strike against this non-funding of pay rises so the angle that is publicised is teacher pay in general. It is also worth noting that teachers would not wish to disrupt children's education in any way unless they felt they had little choice to make their voice heard.

Handball Festival Friday 20th January Years 3 and 4

As a part of PE curriculum your child will be taking part in a Handball Festival at Newton Abbott College. The children will be going on a coach. They will be leaving after morning register and returning for lunch. This is a festival and the children will be participating in a carousel of handball activities with pupils from other schools

Update from our new menu and some photos of the food this week:

Thursday - Sausage and Mash or No-meat meatballs



Friday - Fish and Chips or Halloumi and chips



Example of our salad selection



Monday 16th - Pesto Pasta or Tomato Pasta



Tuesday - Jacket potato with fillings or Tomato soup



Wednesday – Overnight slow roasted ham or Not-meatloaf



Children's University

On Monday your child attended an assembly about the Children's University scheme. More information about this scheme can be found at <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/business-partners/partnerships/childrens-university>
If your child would like to sign up for the scheme, then please fill in the sign-up sheet that was emailed on Monday or alternatively, Rebecca has paper copies that can be picked up from the reception desk.

PTA Fundraising meeting in January

I would like to invite you all to a meeting on Thursday 26th January at 19.30 in the school. There will be drinks and nibbles and a chance to meet other parents but also an opportunity to contribute ideas and suggestions to our fundraising efforts and learn more about where the money raised could be spent. Please let me know if you're interested in coming pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

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

Year 5/6 Non Swimmers every Monday until Easter

Year 5 and 6 Plymouth Ski Centre – Free – Tuesday 7th February

Year 1 and 2 Ibounce Newton Abbot – Free – Wednesday 8th February Lime and Chestnut and Thursday 9th February Dove Tree.

Year 5 Bikeability – Weeks commencing Monday 20th and Monday 27th February – paperwork soon for this

Treecreepers Ibounce, Newton Abbot Free Tuesday 14th March

Robins Ibounce Newton Abbot – Free Wednesday 15th March

Year 3 and 4, Dynamic Adventures – Free – 28th, 29th and 30th March. One class per day.

Year 5 One Night Residential – Thursday 30th March

Extra Bank Holiday, School Closed for Kings Coronation – Monday 8th May 2023

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 - Goldilocks = Jan 25th - Jan 28th 2023

Yes! It is that time of year again when the Totnes pantomime will be on. This year, the pantomime is **Goldilocks & The 3 Bears** and will be running at the **Civic Hall** in Totnes from **Wednesday 25th January to Saturday 28th January**.

Even better, Grove students and their parents can get a **50% discount** on the **Wednesday & Thursday** nights by using the code "**GROVE2023**" when booking.

Details of the pantomime can be found in the **attached flyer** and you can book tickets here <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/taods/>.

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



**TOTNES
DOG
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I have my own dog, Bonnie, who is 1 year old. She is small, gentle and friendly to all other dogs.

I walk dogs in small groups for a more relaxed and calm experience.

I am a driver with a clean licence and am happy to do all pick-ups and drop-offs to and from your home. I'm fully insured and have been DBS checked.

My rates are competitive and I can offer a variety of dog walking packages.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for a chat if you are interested in wonderful walkies for your dog.

Mobile: 07860 862 039

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