



### Weekly Newsletter

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**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Spring 6**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome Back**

#### **Mrs Kneebone – Lime Tree Class**

We are sad to say that Mrs Kneebone has decided to finish her teaching career at Easter this year to join the family business. She has been at The Grove for 17 years and we are indebted to her hard work over the years – particularly her input into PE and sports. For consistency Mrs Westrope, who usually teaches Lime Tree Class on Thursdays and Fridays, has kindly agreed to work full time for the summer term.

#### **Strike day Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

This is a pre-warning that Thursday next week is a planned strike day for teachers – I will let you know as soon as I have details which classes will be affected.

#### **Parent consultations week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> March**

The booking system for the parents' consultations opens tomorrow lunchtime. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> between 2:30 and 5:30 is face to face in the school hall and all the other sessions are online Teams – so please choose your preference carefully. You should get an email reminder tomorrow to book. If you have any problems then please contact Rebecca.

#### **PE Half Way Through the Year Round-Up from Mrs Kneebone**

It has been a busy year so far with lots of children involved in The Dartmoor School Sports Partnership activities as well as their curriculum PE in school.

In school children in KS2 have been playing touch rugby, badminton, handball and learning gymnastic routines and swimming. In KS1 children have been working on their fundamental movement skills, through gymnastics, games and dance. Children from years 1 and 2 have also had the exciting opportunity to experience lots of gymnastic equipment at Torbay Olympic Gym Club, enjoying the sprung floor and trampolines particularly.

Years 5 and 6, have also had the exciting opportunity to have a ski lesson and go sno-tubing and on the toboggan run at Plymouth Ski Centre.

Through the partnership, children have attended a touch rugby festival, a KS1 games festival and a handball festival. They have also competed at the cyclo-cross event and in a gymnastics competition.

We look forward to the rest of the year playing different sports and being active!

### **Mountain Ash class**

Mountain Ash have been out on another litter picking mission, this time along Sharpham Drive. Mr M was thrilled that the children chose this as a class reward for all the kindness they have shown this term. They are not going to rest until all of Totnes is spotless!



### **Fundraising – toys for Reception children**

If you have some toys lying around that may suit reception children (age 4-5) please think about donating them to us for our toy sale. We would like good quality, preloved toys! We are going to use the toys to sell to the children for a donation. All proceeds will go towards the school's kitchen equipment. Please drop off your toys with Rebecca at the front desk by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you in advance for your generosity, the Acorn Team.

### **Meet Dr Emily!**

How do you block a tickle? What weird creature can breathe through its bottom? Did you know we make better decisions when we need a wee? And how can we use this strange fact to help stop climate change?! On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, local science superstar Dr Emily Grossman will be visiting The Grove School to deliver a fun and interactive science quiz show based on her bestselling books, followed by a book signing. If you would like to pre-order any of Dr Emily's books for her to sign and dedicate on the day, please let the school office know by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March. <https://www.emilygrossman.co.uk/>

### **Behaviour at The Grove School**

We are very proud of how the children generally behave in school but we have noticed a few slips of late which we would benefit from your parent-school team approach. We have been working hard with the children to remind them about speaking to each other and adults with respect, to be mindful of other people and what they are doing so as not to disturb them and to remember that we have to behave as a team to achieve the best behaviour the school has always been so proud of. The children have responded very well and we have noted a difference particularly in how the children are speaking with more respect to adults in school – if you could also reinforce these messages at home we would be grateful. We have also revamped our behaviour policy – now called 'promoting good behaviour and relationships policy' see link [http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/policies\\_/138173](http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/policies_/138173) If you would like to help by contributing with your thoughts to the policy they would be gratefully received. PS the polar bear awards are back!! In case you are new since Covid the children can be rewarded by looking after a snuggly polar bear for the day for their great attitude and behaviour in school (they are regularly washed!)

### **Children's University Information**

**GRADUATION SAVE-THE-DATE:** For those children that have got 100 logged hours in their passports, there will be graduation ceremonies on **28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Plymouth University**. More details to follow nearer the time.

**Zog Trail Forestry Commission stamp for Children's University scheme:** more information can be found at <https://www.forestryengland.uk/childrens-university-zog-trail>

### **The Children's Kitchen and the Great Grub for The Grove project turns to gardening next**

Our next step in our vision for food at The Grove is to start growing our own produce that the children can tend to, harvest and then cook for our school lunches. If you are a whizz at gardening vegetables and want to be involved, we would welcome any volunteers to join our planning and then actively gardening group. Please contact me at [head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)

### **PTA News**

Mufti day before half term for cooking equipment for the children raised £257 – thank you so much.

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

Years 5/6 Non Swimmers every Monday until Easter

Treecreepers and Robins – Torbay Gymnastics (Change of venue) – Free - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Years 3 and 4, Dynamic Adventures – Free – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March Mountain Ash, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March Willow Tree and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March Beech Tree class

Year 5 One Night Residential – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Extra Bank Holiday, School Closed for Kings Coronation – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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March to September 2023  
we meet  
One weekend per month on Dartmoor  
One evening per month online

For dates and more information, or to join a team  
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If you would like to pre-order any of Dr Emily's books for her to sign and dedicate on the day, please let the school office know by Monday 20th March. Dr Emily Grossman is a bestselling science author, internationally acclaimed public speaker and TV personality, with a Double First in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University and a PhD in Cancer Research. She is best known as a Resident Science Expert on ITV's The Alan Titchmarsh Show, Sky1's Duck Quacks Don't Echo and Discovery Channel's How Do They Do It? and for her inspirational talks in schools, universities and at live events - as well as her TEDx talk on Why Science Needs People Who Cry and numerous media interviews. Emily is the author of Emergency on Planet Earth, a critically acclaimed, free, easy-to-read online guide to the climate and ecological crisis, and four books for children, including Brain-Fizzing Facts: Awesome Science Questions Answered (shortlisted for the Teach Primary Book Award 2020), Meet the Microbes!; The Tiny Living Things That Mould Our World (winner of the School Library Association Information Book Award 2022) and the Amazon #1 Bestseller World-Whizzing Facts: Awesome Earth Questions Answered, which helps young people understand what's going on on our planet today and how they can help. In 2018 Emily was named as the second Honorary STEM Ambassador, alongside astronaut Tim Peake, for her pioneering work in STEM education and as a role model to young people. Please see accompanying flyer for more info on the talks and workshops that Emily offers in schools, tailored to any age group from 5-18. Dr Emily's books: Brain-fizzing Facts: Awesome Science Questions Answered - Emily's first bestselling book on weird science facts, published by Bloomsbury Children's Books in 2019, was shortlisted for the Teach Primary Book Award 2020. Age 7-13. RRP: £7.99 World-whizzing Facts: Awesome Earth Questions Answered - Emily's follow-up book, published in 2021 and endorsed and praised by a wide range of scientists and celebrities, spent many months as the Amazon #1 bestselling book on global warming, climate change, ecology and green living. Age 7-13. RRP: £6.99 SPECIAL OFFER £13 FOR THE PAIR Meet the Microbes: The Tiny Living Things That Mould Our Lives - Emily's beautifully-illustrated picture book about the wonderful world of microbes was written to reassure children following the pandemic that most microbes are not only good but are in fact very helpful to us and to the planet, and won the School Library Association Information Book Award 2022. Age 5-8. RRP: £6.99 Paperback; £12.99 Hardcover SPECIAL OFFER £11 HARDCOVER