



## Weekly Newsletter

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**Newsletter No: Autumn 2**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Next Tuesday all Year 3 and 4 classes are going to Exeter. 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 given a guided tour/ workshop at the Cathedral as well as a planned route around Exeter city. Some of the Year 5 children have been busy rehearsing for the Warmheart Community Project 'A Totnes Tale' for the grand procession which takes place in Totnes on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Today Y1/2 are having an exciting visit from Frazie Hubert and her collection of unusual pets! The children are being introduced to a variety of reptiles including a royal python, a panther chameleon and a crested gecko! The children will be given the opportunity to handle some of the animals if they choose to and find out all about what the animals need to survive. The visit is part of our excite and inspire aspect of the curriculum which seeks to ignite the children's interest in our topics. Look out for lots of pictures on Seesaw!

### **Label clothes, water bottles and food boxes please**

If you pick up early from the playground you'll see that Mrs Wilkinson and I seem to spend considerable time collecting and sorting through clothes, water bottles and food boxes left on the field. Most are labelled but some are not – please check the labels in all your child's clothes, put them on water bottles and food boxes and rewrite them if they are faded. Primary school teachers are very good at reading less well formed handwriting but there is a limit to our skills!!

### **The Grove 100 experiences**

The school is in the process of redesigning the curriculum currently. We are working on ensuring the knowledge all children should leave the school with at the end of Year 6, is well embedded and useful for their next stage in education. Not that our older curriculum didn't do this but our new one will have more focus on the individual subjects and the building upon knowledge through the years. The curriculum will still be fun, creative and exciting but we are working on ways to make the learning more retained in the long term memory. As part of this process we are looking also at the challenges and opportunities within our school context. We know that the vast majority of our children do not readily have access to large cities for instance, that children come from a huge diversity of backgrounds and wealth and opportunities. Some children have had first-hand knowledge of visiting other countries, some have not been outside Devon or the South West. This list is endless because of the context within our school but within our new curriculum we want to level the playing field for all of our children ensuring that all children have at least experienced our Grove 100 of important first hand life experiences. We are in the early stages of creating this list and working out what is within our possibilities as a school but we would be grateful for any ideas to put towards our long-list of experiences. Email [head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)

### **Calling Y6 parents to help fundraise**

I am a parent of a child in year 6 who would like to support parents who may find it difficult to pay for the cost of the upcoming residential, end of year 6 hoodies etc. Please could you email me, if you are interested in working together to fundraise eg. bag packing in Morrisons, sponsored walk/cycle etc. Thank you!

[alisonjaldwell@hotmail.com](mailto:alisonjaldwell@hotmail.com)

### **Dartmoor School Sports Partnership Years 5 and 6 Cross Country Competition, Fun Run and Walk and Wheel at Stover School Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 1pm – 3pm**

It is really exciting that we can be taking part in competitions again! The first competition is a cross-country running event at Stover School. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience this activity! The format has changed, so there are three events, X Country Competitive – 1 mile, X Country Fun Run – 1 mile fun run in fancy dress with your friends, Walk and Wheel – A shorter course you can do with a friend. Parents have been emailed the details about this event. If you would like your child to go you will need to take your child and stay with them at the event.

### **Nasal Flu Vaccination**

All children in school from Reception to Year 6 are eligible for the Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination. Virgin Care will be in on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to administer this vaccination.

Flu vaccination is one of the most effective interventions we have to reduce pressure on the Health and Social Care system which is going to be more important than ever this year. For this reason, it is essential they deliver the vaccine to as many children as possible to prevent the spread of infection to those most at risk in society. As soon as we receive the link for you to consent then we will email this to you.

### **PTA AGM**

Hello all and welcome to the new parents and carers that have joined us. We are a really friendly group in the PTA and would really welcome any support or help. As you can imagine fundraising options are limited at the moment but we have an exciting project to develop the play equipment that we are working towards. I would like to invite you all to the PTA Virtual AGM on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30. This will be on zoom and if you would like the invitation please email me on [pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk) so I know who to expect. There is no obligation to become a committee member but it will give you an idea of what we have achieved this last year and what we plan to do with the year ahead. I would love to see some new faces and continue to be thankful to those already involved. Emily Rowley

### **PTA School Lottery**

For those that haven't already signed up for the school lottery this is a really easy simple way to raise money for the school whilst also giving you the chance of winning the guaranteed local weekly prize or scooping the £25000 jackpot. There are also regular additional prizes, the current one is a bundle of Harry Potter goodies including tickets for the Warner Bros studio tour and theatre tickets. The link to sign up is <http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/the-grove-school-totnes>. We are also going to promote this to the local community and have printed some flyers to try and encourage Totnes residence to support our fundraising efforts. If any of the children would like to post some flyers through neighbours doors please get in touch with me ([pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)). Thank you!

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.*

# Leechwell Garden Association

Dear Parents, can you help with  
moving sand on the morning of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October!

We are renovating the Leechwell sandpit, which has provided a wonderful play area for local children over the last four years. It now needs a bit of TLC!

- On the morning of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October we need your help to move 4 dumpy bags of sand into the sandpit
- The sand will be moved by wheelbarrow from the car park into the sandpit then raked flat
- Then the renovated sandpit will be refilled with lovely fresh new sand-ready to play again!
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**A little sand table to go inside the sandpit?**

We are hoping to add a special little wooden sand table to go inside the sandpit. Do you know of anyone who might be able help with this? If so we would love to hear from you.

Leave a message for Shirley on 07791 276 150