



#### Weekly Newsletter

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<http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk>  
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**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Autumn 14**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a whole school team we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
School reopens for the children on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

We have had a stunning lead up to the Christmas break this year with a spectacular Nativity from Reception, Year 1 and 2 were in fantastic voice with their songs and recital of The Night Before Christmas and Year 3 and 4's Christmas performance was fabulous. As well as the Christmassy things, business as usual brought a full day of Forest School for Year 5 and 6 and yesterday Year 1 and 2 showcased their Victorian learning from this term. Thank you for coming to Mince pies and chat last Monday – we hope you find the regular chances to catch up useful.

#### **Christmas school lunch with Marco – tomorrow – Christmas extra jumpers and decs etc**

Any parent volunteers will be welcome. Children can wear Christmas jumpers, hats or other decorations for the day! Thanks very much to the PTA and Morrisons for supplying the crackers to give the meal an extra festive feel.

#### **Party day Friday – party clothes mufti**

Friday is our Christmas party day for all of the children so the children should come to school in their own party clothes.

#### **Come Dine with Me and New Menu for January 2024**

In the New Year we will be running Come Dine With Me again for parents to come in and have school lunch with their children for £2.50 an adult. If you would like to book then please do this with Rebecca. The new menu is now available for you to choose from.

And don't forget to book your child's meals on parent pay before the start of term.

#### **NITS**

So sorry but we are completely inundated with nits at school – could you please all comb through your children's hair to check and hopefully the Christmas break will give everyone a chance to get rid of them – thank you so much.

### **The winning Christmas poems:**

Well done to Ava-Grace M in Trumpet tree class. Father Christmas really could see the depth in this poem – even if a little sad at the end, it does remind us to check in with our older generations:

You know Christmas, everyone does.  
And I'm sure you know what it's like growing up.  
The sweet, festive smell, floating in the air.  
Everything decorated, nothing at all bare.  
Snow six inches deep, carpeting the ground.  
The carollers singing, what a beautiful sound.  
Taking pictures with Santa, at the cold Christmas Fair.  
Happiness spreading about, everywhere.  
But as time shows itself, wrinkles grow.  
Everything aching from head to toe.  
My food goes cold, even the mince pies  
Everything tasteless, no surprise.  
No family left, I close my eyes,  
And the angels take me.  
Up to the cold winter skies...

And from Key Stage 1, Father Christmas loved this warm cosy feeling poem by Aoife in Dove:

Cold frost outside  
Gentle snowflakes falling  
Spiky green holly with red berries  
I skate on the ice

I smell cinnamon sticks and the roasting fire  
Scrunchy wrapping paper  
People singing sweet songs  
Santa saying ho ho ho as his sleigh whooshes across the starry sky  
Robin Red Breasts tweeting

Amazing new presents  
Funny Christmas Jumpers  
Candy canes hanging on the tree  
Sparkling lights  
Shiny baubles  
Different coloured tinsel  
Happy Children playing

Dad burps as he eats the turkey  
I give my mum a big hug  
My family smile at me  
I feel good.

Thank you so much to everyone who entered and also to Father Christmas for sparing his time to judge the poems and choose the ones to put in our newsletter.



### **CHRISTMAS SINGING AT THE RESIDENTIAL HOMES OF TOTNES**

A HUGE Thank you to all the children of Year 5 and 6 who did an absolutely wonderful job of singing their hearts out at Home Meadow, Puddavine and Quayside Residential Homes on Monday. They brought a real sense of the true meaning of Christmas to many. Thank you to all of you x

### **The Grove School Benevolent fund**

We are very aware of the longevity of the financial crisis for us all and appreciate some families are really struggling to make ends meet. We would like to set up a benevolent fund pot in school for parents to dip into if they need help paying for school trips etc. If you would like to donate to this fund to help support others you can use Parentpay (you'll find it under 'view all payment items'). Once we have some money banked we can let parents know how to apply to use some of this money to support additional educational experiences. Many thanks in advance.

On this same subject the school are very happy to do a food bank referral for any families needing some additional support – if you would benefit from this then do let us know. We will be very discrete.

Today also check your emails for the food box scheme recommended to us by some parents – again we are happy to make referrals should you need a food box.

### **Thank you so much for all the Food Bank donations – you are very generous.**

### **Shear Soccer**

The popular Shear Soccer will be returning to the school in the new year. On Tuesdays they will run the football course for Years 1 and 2 and on Wednesdays for years 3, 4, 5 and 6. More info and how to book will be sent out in the new year.

### **DIVERSITY MEETING WITH PARENTS**

Here is a link to the Equality and Diversity meeting that was held earlier this term. If you would like to get involved, there is still time. Take a look at the minutes and see how!

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ufq\\_dwFSFaBuoxUegBho9xv6mlqqhgLNu\\_IUP30NO8s/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ufq_dwFSFaBuoxUegBho9xv6mlqqhgLNu_IUP30NO8s/edit)

### **Governor update**

We were able to properly welcome Richard Gibbon to the board at our full board meeting last week. Richard was elected as a parent governor in October, but this was the first full meeting since then - it's great to have you on the team!

I think it is fair to say that the Christmas break will be a very welcome one after what has been a very full and long term. The excitement in school over the last few weeks of nativities, shows and singing has been wonderful to see. A huge thank you to all staff for your continued hard work throughout this term, and for everything you do to make this time of year so special for the children ... and there's still Christmas lunch to come!

I hope you all have a lovely break with friends and family.

Ian

### **Get FREE meal plans with FiveDinners.com – LIMITED TIME OFFER!**

If meal planning is a faff or you're fed up of choosing what to eat every night or just want to save money on food shopping then this is for you (and it's free if you sign up now!) FiveDinners.com is an online meal planning service created by celebrity TV Chef Theo Michaels. Every week members get a new meal plan with five delicious, mouth-watering recipes with a single shopping list for the week so you know exactly what to get. You can even personalise your meal plans to suit your specific needs, like GF, vegetarian, kid friendly, under 20 minutes and more!

Sign up today to get **FREE lifetime membership** – no catch, just free, to help families around the UK save money on food shopping and make dinnertimes a bit easier. You may remember TV chef Theo and his kids when they did 36 live cookalongs during lockdown with thousands of families around the UK joining in. So he's very committed to helping families and kids eat well!

Simply head to <https://FiveDinners.com> and click the green **Join Now** button now to get free membership!

**Dates for your diary this term**

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

**New Year dates**

Willow Tree class swimming – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January for 5 weeks – On ParentPay  
Years 1 and 2 to Plymouth – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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 detail.*



**Join us as we celebrate the  
True Meaning of Christmas**

**Carols by Candlelight 17th at 5.30pm**

**Christmas Eve Communion at 5.30pm**

**Christmas Day Family Celebration at 10.30am**

**New Year's Eve Family Worship & Prayer 10.30am**

**Happy Christmas.**

**TotnesUnitedFreeChurch**

# CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

3 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

St John's Church, Bridgetown  
on  
Christmas Eve



Everyone is welcome!

## Physical Theatre 10 week Course

Begins January 6th 2024

(no sessions in half term)

Ages 7-12yrs

Saturday mornings

11am - 12:30pm

Totnes Leisure Centre

16 young people will form our Junior Company 2024. We will explore and develop skills in Physical Theatre: drama, acting, contemporary dance and movement and create a new piece of Contemporary Physical Theatre which will be shared with family & friends.



# Playground

Young People's Dance Theatre

Physical Theatre 10 week Course

Facilitated by  
Sarah Veevers  
& Lee Hart



*"Loved the organic, spontaneous, dynamic and child-led ideas. Fantastic to see everyone confident and having a genuinely fun time".*

Limited places Booking Essential

To book or to request an information pack contact  
[playgrounddancetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:playgrounddancetheatre@gmail.com) 07387553237



All welcome - Skirts are for everyone!

# Sew Yourself A Funky Skirt



Upcycle a pair of trousers into a funky skirt of your own unique design using a sewing machine and learning various new techniques for personalising garments!

Work with a young and passionate seamstress in a calm, informal class of only 5 students allowing plenty of 1-2-1 tuition

**Important info:**  
Course starting 9th January  
At The Lighthouse, Totnes  
Running weekly for 5 sessions  
Tuesday 7pm-9pm  
Total cost of term: £140  
Sewing machine provided



For more information, and to book your place  
email: [moof.shroom@proton.me](mailto:moof.shroom@proton.me) - or call 07480401482

**Small classes  
for women.  
A warm  
welcome.  
Working  
together.**



**Classes in  
Totnes,  
Ashprington,  
Dartington and  
Torquay**

## **IT'S BETTER TOGETHER THIS NEW YEAR!**

- **classes for the over 55s**
- **Women's boxercise**
- **Women's abs and kettlebell**

**BESPOKE PERSONAL AND SMALL GROUP TRAINING**

**For more information and a friendly chat.**

**Call Becca- 07445495059**

**[info@bettertogetherbecca.co.uk](mailto:info@bettertogetherbecca.co.uk)**

**[www.bettertogetherbecca.co.uk](http://www.bettertogetherbecca.co.uk)**

Was your child born between  
**1st September 2019** and  
**31st August 2020?**

## How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at  
**[www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)**  
from 15th November 2023 to the 15th January 2024

If you cannot access the school  
admissions website you can get  
more information by calling our  
Education Helpline on

**0345 155 1019**

or email: [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)



Even if you have already given  
details to a primary school, you  
must apply for a place through the  
Admissions Team. This is the only  
way to apply; other forms or lists  
held by schools will not count.

**Devon**  
County Council 