



THE GROVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 9th Sept

SHOUT OUTS TO

Dove Tree Class, Phoenix – Love, for helping the Yr 1's settle in. Ernie - Happiness, what a happy, bright smile you have approached these days with.

Willow Tree Class, Oscar, Love, for being an excellent role model helping show the new children around our class. Lexi, Happiness, for being so lovely and settling in so well into class.

Lilac Tree Class, Talia, Individuality, including others in play, being kind and caring to everyone. Emily, Love, helping new children settle in, showing them around and checking in on them.

Tea Tree Class, Melina, Love, for being such a kind caring member of Tea Tree class. Jack B, Happiness, for such positivity and trying so hard in Yr 3.

Mountain Ash Tree Class, Rain, Learning, what a brilliant start, great owl pellet work! Marlie, Love, being kind to everyone and adding positive vibes to the class.

Holly Tree Class, Elliot B, Happiness, for being so smiley and happy every day, especially as it is a new school. Emily G, Love, helping the Yr 3's settle and being so helpful.

Ginkgo Tree Class, Otto - Love, I love the bravery you have shown already, you are a super member of Ginkgo class. Aaron, Individuality, I am blown away by the creativity you have already shown in your learning.

Whitebeam Tree Class, Toby, Communication, what a fantastic start to term, so commutative, helpful and kind. Hermione, Learning, starting Yr 6 with such a mature and focused attitude, wow!

Flame Tree Class, Arlo W, Communication, for communicating with teachers and students to help everyone to settle in. Elizabeth, Individuality, for settling into Flame like you have always been Year 5 - thank you!

Don't have time to read all the newsletter?

Here are the essentials in summary:

- ☺ Meet the teacher – Monday 14th September 3:30-5:00 - Please pop in to see how your child has settled into their new class.
- ☺ Attendance is very important.
- ☺ Micro, Mini & Junior Duke
- ☺ Mighty Oaks SEND offer
- ☺ Diversity meeting change of date – 11th September
- ☺ Nasal Flu Vaccine – see letter attached for info and to consent
- ☺ PTA news and dates for upcoming events

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

Welcome to the new school year. The children seem to have settled really well and look very happy around school, adjusting to their new year groups and for many, new classrooms and teachers.

If you are new to the school look out for this weekly newsletter every Wednesday. If you need more information about anything then do check our website or ask us. ☺

Attendance

A big thank you to the majority of parents who make sure their children attend school regularly! We do know it isn't easy getting up and out of the door every day but we can assure you it is worth it!

I'm sure you all understand how important school attendance is for your child, you may be surprised to see how much they miss of their learning when they aren't here. We do our best to help children fill these gaps in their learning but with up to 34 children in classes this is hard to achieve.

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

If your child is really unwell or you need them to miss school for any reason then please let the school know before 10am every morning. We are unable to authorise holidays in term time but we do appreciate your honesty when completing the term time absence form prior to any anticipated absences.

If you are worried about your child/children's attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with Early Help, health and the local authority teams who may also be able to help if needed. We are committed to supporting you so it's important you contact us as soon as you have concerns. Jo Counter is our contact for this support jcounter@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk. As a school we will contact you if we are concerned about your child's attendance and you may be asked to attend meetings to discuss this further.



Meet the Teacher Monday 14th September

If you would like to pop in to catch up with how your child is settling in to their new school year then you can do this at anytime between 3:30 and 5pm on Monday. If you feel a more private meeting is needed then please contact the teacher direct.

Email addresses:

Acorns Reception year have two classes – Robins and Treecreepers plus nursery but you can contact Sophie Hedley-Clarke sophie@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk as the early years lead or Liz Luff lizluff@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk who will be lead when Sophie starts her maternity leave in October.

Year 1 and 2 have 3 classes – Dove Tree with Vikki Drew vikkid@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk, Willow Tree with Meris Ward mward@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk and Lilac Tree with Emily Lake elake@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Year 3 and 4 have 3 classes – Tea Tree with Hannah Turns hvitali@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk and Lowenna Sharpe lsharpe@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk, Holly Tree with Natasha Hornby natashah@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk and Mountain Ash with Ken Monro kmonro@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk and Lowenna Sharpe lsharpe@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Year 5 and 6 have 3 classes – Flame Tree with Helen Fernyhough helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk and Vicky MacLeod vickym@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk, Ginkgo Tree with Adrian Gude adriang@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk and Whitebeam Tree with Vic Barton-Wilkes vbarton@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

My email as Headteacher is Hilary Priest head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

The kitchen is Marco Pilloni marco@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Special needs is Alison Caldwell and Jo Counter sendco@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Anything else can be sorted or re-directed by Rebecca Rockett and Sarah Morrison admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk



The Mighty Oaks SEND offer

You may have heard about an exciting SEND resource we have just launched in school which provides additional SEND support. As part of this your child may have talked about using the TreeTops provision which supports children who need a whole-body sensory session and sometimes, they can take a friend. Watch this space for more information about this exciting new venture.

Micro, Mini and Junior Duke

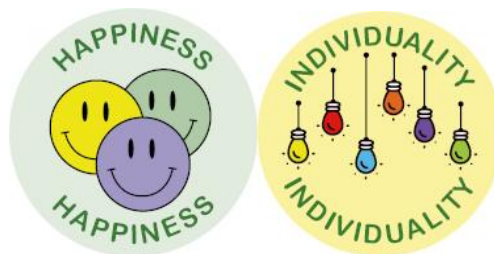
To encourage independence and self-motivation, this year, The Grove School is, once again, running the Award Scheme called the Junior Duke (KS2), Mini Duke (KS1) and Micro Duke (Reception). This is aimed to be like a precursor to The Duke of Edinburgh challenge that your child may wish to take on in Secondary School.

There are four levels: in KS2; (Year 3) Bronze, (Year 4) Silver, (Year 5) Gold and (Year 6) Platinum. There are two levels in KS1; (Year 1) Silver and (Year 2) Gold. Each of these levels has 14 challenges and, in order to complete a level, the children need to finish 10 of these successfully. These include skills such as First Aid, ICT, Languages, Art, Drama, Music, Sport and other life skills such as cookery and puncture repair.

On completion of a level, a certificate and a badge will be awarded in assembly.

There is an £11.00 charge each year to cover the cost of the booklet, certificate, badges and postage.

Please login to ParentPay to consent and pay. The deadline is Wednesday 23rd September. It would be amazing to have as many Grove children take part as possible; the benefits to your child will be huge.



Benevolent Fund

Please support our families in need if you are able. On ParentPay you will find our benevolent fund. We are currently over-spent supporting families to send their children on school trips and pay for some school meals. We have nearly 20% of our school population claiming Free School Meals and many are struggling to make ends meet. We really don't want children to miss these valuable experiences or a hot healthy meal at lunchtime so IF you can afford it we would be grateful for your support to help us to support them.

School Immunisations Team – Nasal Flu Vaccine - 6th November

Kernow Health CIC's School Age Immunisation Service will be delivering the annual nasal flu vaccination programme – For the 2026/27 season, all children from Reception to Year 6 will be offered the free nasal flu vaccine. For more information and to consent please see the letter attached.

The Grove School Whatsapp Community

If you would like me to add you to the community, please send me an email with your number.

helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Diversity Meeting – CHANGE OF DATE

The next DIVERSITY MEETING will now be held in school on Friday 11th September at 10 am.
All are welcome.

Register your interest to help us.

We have a list of people with skills we could call on if we need some help – tradespeople, therapists, handy people, - pretty much anything. Please let us know if you would volunteer with your services or do us a mates rates deal. Please send your details to Jo Counter at jcounter@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

PTA NEWS

Welcome back everyone! We have a super exciting year ahead, jammed packed with events - old and new!
Please put these dates in your diary and watch this space for further information!

**Remember - if you are up for helping with any event,
please let us know by emailing jennir@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk**



Cake Sale

This Friday 11th Sept is Flame Tree's turn to bake.

Next bake sale:

Friday 18th Sept – Lilac Tree cake sale

Friday 25th September: Dove Cake Sale

Friday 2nd October: Willow Cake Sale

Friday 16th October: Mountain Ash Cake Sale

Friday 23rd October: Tea Tree Cake Sale

Friday 6th November: Holly Tree Cake Sale

Friday 13th November: Whitebeam Cake Sale

Friday 20th November: Ginkgo Cake Sale

Friday 27th November: Acorns and KSI Cake Sale

Other Events This Term

Friday 9th October: Autumn Disco

Friday 16th October: Mufti Day - please bring sweets for the Christmas Fair sweet cones

Friday 13th November: Quiz Night

Friday 27th November: Christmas Fair & Mufti

Friday 4th December: Wreath Making for beginners

ANY CHILDRENS OR ADULTS CHRISTMAS JUMPERS THAT YOU CAN DONATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR, PLEASE DROP OFF AT THE FRONT DESK ANY TIME THIS TERM.

Pre Loved School Uniform

Lots of sizes available for sale in the front entrance.



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

Holly Tree swimming – Monday 14th September (New start date)

Visit to Totnes castle – Tuesday 16th September – Dove & Willow

Visit to Totnes castle – Wednesday 17th September – Lilac

Year 6 Residential – 19th – 23rd October

Half term - 26th – 30th October

Yr 5/6 Non swimmers swimming starts - Monday 2nd November

Immunisation team: Flu Spray – Friday 6th November

Year 5 Bikeability - 9th -10th & 16th – 17th November

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.



KALEIDOSCOPE
Clubs and Courses for Kids

NEW KIDS TABLE TENNIS CLUB! Saturday Mornings 10am-12pm @ The Grove School, Totnes

The Benefits?

-  **Great Exercise:** Fast-paced fun that keeps kids active and off screens.
-  **Make New Friends:** A brilliant, social environment for local kids.
-  **Super Affordable:** Only £2.50 a session!



What to Expect:

-  **Fun Drills & Exercises:** Active, high-energy warm-ups that get everyone moving.
-  **Exciting Games:** Mini-tournaments, around-the-table challenges, and wacky games.
-  **Coaching:** Friendly coaching available to help them learn the basics or level up their skills.

Join us for a FREE TRIAL! Simply drop in or book online at www.kalscope.co.uk



Youth Theatre spaces available for September 2026!

Does your child love to perform, create and collaborate, all whilst having fun through games and explorations? They will develop skills in improvisation, teamwork, creativity and public performance through games-based workshops, rehearsals and an annual public performance. These taken place in a range of settings such as Totnes Castle as part of the inaugural Totnes Fringe Festival, the Ariel Centre and The Drum Theatre, Plymouth.

Run by Shanaz John, a teacher and director of performing arts since 2002, including youth theatres, schools, colleges and professional directing.

This successful Youth Theatre is set to return in September and is open to all children in Years 4, 5 and 6 and will also now open to Year 7 children and to the wider Totnes community. If your child is interested, please email: dramallamagrove@gmail.com. This does not confirm a place; it is purely an expression of interest at this stage. It will run on a Tuesday evening, 6-7pm, dependent on space availability. £6 per session. First session: 15th September.

Current Yr 5 Boys

Players Wanted



Totnes & Dartington FC Under 10s Yellows

Join us for our second season of league football! We're looking for committed players who want to improve, compete, and be part of a welcoming squad that works hard and enjoys every minute on and off the pitch.

Contact Coach Damo for more info:
mrdamonfoster@gmail.com





TOTNES RFC
YOUTH RUGBY
MINIS SECTION

COME JOIN THE FUN!

FREE TASTER SESSIONS
FOR 4-10 YEAR OLDS
SUNDAY 13TH & SUNDAY 27TH SEPT
9:30-10:30AM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
ALAN - 07814 792753 • **OWEN** - 07780 701458

TEAMWORK ★ RESPECT ★ FUN ★ COMMUNITY

The poster features a central photograph of several young children in blue and green rugby kits on a grassy field. One child in the foreground is holding a rugby ball. The background is a dark blue gradient with white stars and a stylized white cloud containing the text 'COME JOIN THE FUN!'. The Totnes RFC logo, featuring a castle and the text 'TOTNES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB', is in the top left corner. The bottom of the poster has a dark blue banner with white text.

Saturday Morning Music School is back this Saturday 12th September from 9:30-12:20 in Totnes, and we still have spaces available for children aged 6–18!

It's a fun, welcoming opportunity for children to make music, meet other young musicians and develop their skills.

More information and booking can be found here:

sammtotnes.org



We have seen **record applications** to our College in 2026. Come and see why so many students, parents and carers are making us their first choice school.

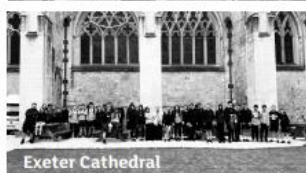


www.kingedwardvi.org.uk



Our Open Mornings this Autumn will include:

- **Student musical performances**
- **A presentation** from our Principal **Alan Salt**
- **Tours of our College faculty areas** led by our current students
- **Opportunities to meet our teaching and support staff**



We look forward to seeing you. To **book your place** at our Open Mornings scan the **QR code opposite**. Book your place now. Find us on **Instagram & YouTube**.

www.kingedwardvi.org.uk





KEVICC CREATIVE DANCE

**£70 PER
TERM**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
DOORSTEP ARTS**

**BEGINS 16TH
SEPTEMBER**

Weekly dance classes for children ages 7 to 16yrs. Build confidence, coordination and creativity through dance. Classes are designed for all abilities.

-
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| ✦ Hip Hop | ✦ Creative Movement |
| ✦ Jazz Funk | ✦ Musical Theatre |
| ✦ Ballet Basics | ✦ Contemporary |
-

EVERY WEDNESDAY (11 WEEK TERM)

JUNIOR - 7-11YRS - 4.15PM-5PM

SENIORS - 11-16YRS - 5.15PM-6PM

LOCATION: KEVICC, DANCE STUDIO, ROOM 24

FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT: POLLY@DOORSTEPARTS.CO.UK

DoorstepArts.co.uk

Let's Talk, Read & Play

Helping your child's speech and language development

When your child has their 2-2.5 year developmental review with a member of your Health Visiting team, you'll chat about how they're doing with talking, listening, and understanding. If your child could benefit from extra support, you'll be offered the LTRP programme - a fun and helpful way to build their communication skills alongside the 'Super Communicator' booklet.



How can you join in?

If your child is in a nursery or preschool, they will be doing fun activities with your child to help their speech and language grow. Staff will share tips from the Super Communicator booklet with you to support your child at home.



Your Health visiting team can offer you some one-to-one sessions

Support from your Family Hub



If you would like to feel more confident supporting your child's speech and language development or perhaps your child doesn't attend a setting, you can join a programme through your local Family Hub or your Public Health Nurse.

You can choose what works best for you:

Group sessions at the Family Hub
- great for meeting other parents!

One-to-one sessions - offered by the Family Hub if you prefer something more personal.



Scan the QR code and fill in your details and your Family Hub will contact you to find out more about Let's Talk, Read and Play.



Your FAMILY HUB



Support for you. For your family.

1



ADVICE & GUIDANCE LINE

0800 5385458



Mon-Fri
10am-4pm

Get friendly advice and guidance from our Family Hub team.

2



SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK



Scan to tell us about your experience with Family Hub services.

3



REQUEST SUPPORT OR REGISTER YOUR INTEREST



Scan to complete a Support Request Form. A member of the Family Hub team will contact you and you can register your interest for any Family Hub services.



Here for you. Here for your family.



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu  **mmunisation**
Helping to protect children, every winter