



Weekly Newsletter

admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk
<http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk>
www.facebook.com/thegroveschool

Headteacher: Hilary Priest
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Telephone 01803 862018
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Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

Come dine with me

As promised we will be offering 'Come Dine with Me' experiences for school lunches after half term. This is a bookable event with a maximum of 5 adults per day on a first come first serve basis. The second week back starting the 27th February and the third week beginning 6th March are now open for booking – please contact Rebecca face to face at the front desk, by email on admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk or call 0180386201. We are happy for adults from the same family to attend and if you have more than one child at school, we are happy for you to eat with all of your children. The cost for each adult is £2.50 and will be the same menu as the school lunch for the day so you will have to also pre-order. Your table will be booked for 12 midday. The menu for after half term will be coming soon.

Teacher Strike days

On Wednesday 1st February the school will be partially closed due to strike action. These classes will not be functioning on that day:

Robins, Ginkgo, Willow and Flame. Beech will only be open from 11:45pm.

The children from all of these classes will not be able to come to school on that day but for all other classes children are expected to attend school as normal and Beech from 11:45am.

Below is a message from the staff who are striking on that day. Future possible dates are Thursday 2nd March and Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March but I will inform you of those once I have that secure knowledge.

Strike Action

We are very sorry to announce that we will be striking but feel that we have been put in an impossible situation by the government. There are, unfortunately, a variety of teaching unions and only one of the unions have voted to strike – the NEU. The teachers that are striking are members of the NEU and we feel that we need to support our union.

The issues that we are striking over are:

1. The current pay increase that we have been awarded is NOT funded by the government and is being funded by the existing school budget – this will have drastic implications on our budget and your children's education.
2. We are currently really underfunded to cope with the increasing needs post COVID and need more funding for supporting the children and not less.

3. The current pay offer is heavily skewed towards encouraging new teachers and not retaining experienced teachers – this has implications on staff retention and the quality of teaching in the coming years.

We totally understand that this is a hugely disruptive process and also feel that it is the only way to highlight the current crisis in education and for any meaningful change to occur.

We understand that the effect of this will depend on which class your child is in – this is because we are members of the striking union. Your support means so much to us. As ever – the children are and always will be our main priority.

Governor vacancy - Update

Following the recent announcement of a vacancy for a parent governor in the school newsletter, accompanying this newsletter are a letter and form to formally invite nominations. Please do think about becoming a governor, or encouraging others to volunteer. Do let me know via chair@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Gymnastics Competition

Last Tuesday nearly 40 children took part in a Dartmoor School Sports Partnership Gymnastics Competition, the standard was extremely high! Unfortunately the entry was limited, so a mention to all of the children who wanted to take part and competed in the intra school competition, well done. It is great that so many children were keen to take part.

The top 2 from each routine and each year group will go through to represent the Dartmoor School Sports Partnership on Friday 10th March (details to follow). Well done to all of the gymnasts for entering the competitions.

Handball Festival last Friday – Years 3 and 4

A very cold start to the Handball festival, with temperatures well below freezing. We decided to move back the start time by half hour to allow the astroturf to thaw out and to let the sun start to melt the ice a little!

130 pupils attended the festival from South Brent Primary School and The Grove Primary School. It was great to see so many pupils at our Totnes Learning Community event.

Pupils were divided into 14 groups, where they rotated around 7 activities each. There was a variety of skills, tactics and games learning all about the game of Handball. Activities included, Beat the gladiators, shooting, attack v defence, tower cone game, battleship game and full games of handball. Pupils were engaging and looked like they were having fun, despite the cold conditions.

20 pupils from South Brent did a fantastic job at leading the activities. They were confident, showed great communication and demonstration skills, as well as being very supporting to the pupils that took part. Without their help I wouldn't have been able to run such a great event, so a huge thank you to all of them.

I must also thank Newton Abbot College for allowing us to use their astroturf so we could accommodate such large numbers. The next Handball event is the 9th March, where pupils from the Totnes LC will play against each other in a tournament, where the top 2 teams from each age group will go through to represent the Totnes LC at the Dartmoor School Sport Partnership finals.

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

Thursday - Sweet potato curry or Borek



Friday - Chicken and Chips or Sweet potato croquette and chips



PTA Fundraising

A parent of the school applied for match funding for the Christmas fair from her employer Microsoft. This was accepted and so we have doubled our amount raised from the event. We are so grateful for this generous donation. If anybody has similar opportunities with their employer please get in touch.

I remind that we are having a meeting this 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>

Years 5/6 Non Swimmers every Monday until Easter

Years 5 and 6 to KEVICC to watch Grease performance – packed lunch please – Monday 30th January

Years 5 and 6 Plymouth Ski Centre – Free – Tuesday 7th February – packed lunch please

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

Half Term Monday 13th February. Last day of school is Friday 10th February and first day back is Monday 20th February.

Years 5 Bikeability – Week commencing Monday 20th and Monday 27th February – paperwork soon for this Treecreepers Ibounce, Newton Abbot – Free - Tuesday 14th March

Robins Ibounce Newton Abbot – Free – Monday 13th March

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

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 AMATEUR OPERATIC
TAODS
 AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY
 PRESENTS

Goldilocks and the Three Bears



25th -28th January 2023

7.30pm, Matinee Saturday 2.30pm
 Civic Hall, Market Square, Totnes TQ9 5SF
 Adults £10 - Concessions £8
 Wednesday night tickets all £8

Tickets available www.taods.com




Script by T.L.C Creative
 Director - Dave Walstridge
 Musical Director - Dave Holland
 © 2008 by T.L.C Creative www.lazybeescripts.co.uk

scan me to buy tickets



The After Christmas Tree

Children's event with
 illustrator & author
 Bethan Welby

Award-winning illustrator and author Bethan Welby will be reading her book, 'The After Christmas Tree', and drawing some of the characters from the story. There will also be the opportunity to do some drawing and colouring-in of your own.

Suitable for ages 3+.
 All children must be accompanied by an adult.
 Places are very limited so booking ahead advised.

Sunday 19th February
 11am - 12pm | Children £3 (adults free)
 Dartington Trust Bookshop, Totnes




Book your tickets at the Dartington Trust Bookshop, by scanning the QR code, or at dartington.org/whats-on

Job Vacancy 'Training Coordinator'

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3 x days per week

Office Based on Dartington Estate, Totnes, Devon
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Apply here: <https://www.charityjob.co.uk/jobs/talk-action/training-coordinator/880641?tsid=2>

Full details jelliott@talkaction.org or 0203 488 7010



Closing date for applications is 5th February