

THE GROVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 4th November

Don't have time to read all the newsletter?

Here are the essentials in summary:

☺ Label your child's clothing
☺ Parent Consultations
☺ Tempest photography next week
☺ Useful phrases for building social skills
☺ Shear Soccer awards
☺ PTA news and dates for upcoming events – preparations for the Christmas Fair

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

Label your child's clothing

Please, please label your child's clothing – particularly coats and jumpers – you wouldn't believe the size of the pile of unnamed jumpers we already have since the summer. If it has a name it will make it back to you. Also, whilst you are washing your own child's jumpers please check the name is still visible – and that it is actually your child's name in the jumper as sometimes they take home the wrong one! On top of this we have lots of lost items on mufti days/ birthdays etc and these are never labelled – so if you can name these on school days too you will get them back.

Tempest Photography – Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November

Tempest Photography will be here next week to take individual photos and sibling photos.

Wednesday – Individual photos

Thursday – Siblings photos

If you wish to include children that do not attend Grove i.e. pre-school, nursery and babies, please bring them on Thursday at 8am These photos will be taken between 8.00 and 9am and will be on a first come first served basis.

Parent Consultations in November

You can now book your parent consultations on eschools – you should have been sent a message. If you have any difficulty, just contact Rebecca or Sarah on the front desk.

Thursday 5th
Y5/6 Flame online

Monday 9th
All classes face to face in classrooms

Tuesday 10th
Y3/4 (Holly, Tea Tree and Mountain Ash) face to face in classroom
Y5/6 Ginkgo online
Y0 Reception (Robins and Treecreepers) face to face in classroom

Wednesday 11th
Y5/6 Whitebeam online
Y1/2 (Dove. Lilac and Willow) face to face in classroom

Choir Performance Dates

Light switch on event- Civic Hall 3pm
Singing outside St Marys Church- Tuesday 8th December 7pm start singing (Arrive for 6:45pm)
Choir Showcase - Tuesday 8th December 7:30pm
School Assembly – Friday 11th December (school pupils only)
Family Performance – School Hall - Friday 11th December 3:15pm- All welcome!



Useful Phrases for building social skills

In school we have been working on developing the children's go-to phrases to help them with social skills. You might like to try them at home.

Sharing
Q: "Can I have it when you are done with it, please?"
A: "Yes, I will let you know," "I'll bring it to you," "In 5 minutes," or "When I'm finished."

Checking in on others
Q: "Are you okay? Do you need anything?"

Responding to behaviour they don't like
"Stop it. I don't like it when you…(be specific about the behaviour you don't like) because it makes me feel…"

Including others in your games
Q: "Could I play with you?"
A: "Yes, everyone is welcome."

Say no to bullying
Stand up for others by using: "Stop it. I don't like it when you are unkind to..." and then tell a grown-up.

Personal space
People like a bubble of space around them, especially near their face and the back of their head. This is more about being aware of personal space than using a specific phrase.
Hugs
We also looked at hugs (we love hugs at The Grove), but you should ask first: "Can I give you a hug?" and wait for a reply.
Don't hug for too long, as it can make people (outside your family) feel uncomfortable. We can say inside our heads, "Hug, 1, 2, 3, let go," to give us an idea of a good length of hug! 😊

Food Bank

Totnes has a great food bank and we can do referrals if you need a bit extra. Cost of living is very tough at the moment. Email me at head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Shear Soccer Awards for last half term

Penalty Champions
Phoebe T
Idris H
Jude R
Seth G
Seth G-J
Jack R

Player of the Course – for excellent effort, application and positive behaviour
Jiya M
Ellio C
Jack B
Arthur D
Elsha N

Grove Diversity Group

Open to parents and carers from The Grove and St John's, the Diversity Group meets twice each term with the aim of supporting children from all backgrounds to feel recognised and included within our school communities.

We welcome all parents and carers who would like to contribute, and particularly value perspectives and experiences relating to diverse cultures and faiths, LGBTQ+ identities, adoption, fostering and care experience.

Our next meeting is at The Grove School on Thursday 19th November, after drop-off



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.



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**

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 could 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 week is Holly Tree's Cake Sale

Next bake sale will be Whitebeam. On the field - or in the hall if wet.

Friday 13th November: Whitebeam Cake Sale
Friday 20th November: Ginkgo Cake Sale
Friday 27th November: Acorns and KS1 Cake Sale

Other Events This Term

Friday 13th November: Quiz Night
Friday 27th November: Christmas Fair & Mufti
NEW DATE - Saturday 28th November: Wreath Making for beginners

Fun Quiz Night – This Friday

Friday 13th November – 7:30pm in the school hall.
Team of 2 – 6 max
£7 per person to include a cheeseboard.
Bar / soft drinks are available to purchase.
Please register your team by Friday 6th Nov
Email: helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk



If we don't get enough teams by this FRIDAY 6th we will have to cancel this event!!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 27TH Nov 5pm – 8pm

We urgently need donations please!

Raffle Prizes
It's that time of the year again! If you are a business or know anyone who could donate a raffle prize for the Christmas Fair, please let me or Helen Fernyhough know. Thanks, Jenni.

Christmas jumpers/clothes
If you are having a clear out, we would love donations!

Teddies and soft toys
We would love donations of clean teddies and soft toys.

Year 6 Stall
Year 6 would like any good condition toys books puzzles or games. Please no bric-a-brac or household items.

Tombola Mystery Bag Stalls
Unwanted gifts, candles, toiletries, bottles, chocolates, stationery etc. Please drop to the front entrance to give to a member of staff on the field.

Thank you for your support!

Christmas Wreath Making – Please book by this Friday 6th
Saturday 28th November
The Grove School Hall
£25 pp
6pm arrival for 6:30 pm start.
Everything supplied, including a glass of mulled wine and mince pie.
Please book by Friday 6th November; please find a form at the front desk. Payment by cash, card or ParentPay.
Limited places.



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

Tea Tree Interactive Puppet Show at St. Mary's church – Thursday 5th November
Immunisation team: Nasal Flu Spray – Friday 6th November
Parent Consultations – Week commencing 9th November (Flame 1st one on 5th November)
Year 1/2 Christmas Performance – Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December, 2.15pm in the hall
Year 3/4 Christmas Performance at KEVICC Aerial centre – Tuesday 15th December, 1pm and 6pm
Reception Nativity – Wednesday 16th December, 2pm in the hall
Last day of term – Friday 18th December
First day of Spring term – Monday 4th January

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.



Our Saturday morning table tennis club is now up and running. The first session is free!
More info here: https://eequ.org/book/table-tennis-club-saturday-mornings-with-kaleidoscope-clubs-and-courses-32163

The Grove School, Totnes

Fun QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 13th November

The Grove School

Teams of 2 - 6 people

£7 per person

to include a cheeseboard

Refreshments available

7.30pm start
Doors open at 7pm

Come along for a fun evening



Please register your teams by
Friday November 6th
email helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Christmas WREATH MAKING



Saturday 28th November

The Grove School Hall

6pm for a 6.30pm start

£25 pp



everything supplied includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Please book by Friday 6th November

Payment taken when booking , please find a form at the front desk , payment by card or cash .

Limited places

TOTNES BIKE HUB

BIKE KITCHENS ARE BACK!



COME AND FIX YOUR OWN BIKE USING OUR TOOLS + STANDS. A MECHANIC WILL BE ON HAND BUT IT'S A DIY SESSION!



FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH STARTING ON 7TH NOVEMBER

THE MANSION, 36 FORE STREET. WALK PAST THE CANTEEN AND LIBRARY AND WE'RE ON THE RIGHT

UP TO 1 HOUR £7
UP TO 2 HOURS £12


JOIN US FOR THE
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON
TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 3PM-6PM
TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON AT 5:30PM
CIVIC HALL AND MARKET SQUARE
Free Entertainment and Crafts
Inflatable Snow Globe
Elfic the Jester
Bubbles the Pixie
Kids Christmas Crafts
Stilt Walkers
Carol Singing
Brass Band
Make a lantern
Please bring your own Jam Jar
Pizza £9 each or £5 for half
Free Bob the Bus service 4pm - 7pm between Bridgetown Spar -The Market Square - Follaton Stores
For more information and bus times look here:
www.totnestowncouncil.gov.uk/
or contact Lisa at mayor@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk
Donations for The Mayor's Charities
Food For Children and Bob the Bus
would be welcomed

🌟 ❄️Winter HAF 2026: Activities, Trips & Festive Fun Await! ⛄ 🎄

🎄 ❄ We're delighted to let you know that bookings for the **Winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme** will open on **Monday 2nd November at 12pm** via EEQU:

👉 Eequ · After school. In place of school. Beyond school.

This Winter, more than **100 locations across Devon** will be offering fun, safe and engaging activities for children and young people. Alongside many of the popular activities from the Summer programme, we're pleased to welcome back opportunities for **pantomime tickets**, as well as **festive trips** and **seasonal hampers** offered by many providers. 🎭 🎁

Children and young people can enjoy a huge range of activities, including:

🏊 Swimming, climbing, martial arts and riding

⛵ Water sports and outdoor adventure

⚽ Football, rugby, tennis, archery and volleyball

🎨 Cooking, crafts, drama, music and dance

🌈 Specialist SEND provision

🎄 Festive outings, panto tickets and seasonal fun

There really is **something for everyone**, whatever their interests!

❄ **Important Eligibility Update for Winter 2026**

Some families may be aware that the Government has recently changed the criteria used to determine eligibility for **benefits-related Free School Meals**. As a result, some children who have previously been eligible for HAF may no longer automatically qualify under the new arrangements. We understand that this may be concerning for families who have accessed and benefited from HAF in the past. To help support families through this transition, **Devon HAF will temporarily extend its eligibility criteria for Winter 2026**.

❄ **If your child has previously been eligible for HAF but no longer meets the new Free School Meal criteria solely because of these changes, they may still be eligible to access Winter HAF activities.**

💙 This additional transitional arrangement is being offered alongside our existing discretionary criteria and will apply **for the Winter 2026 programme only**. We hope this measure will support families who may otherwise have missed out under the new rules, while we await any wider changes to the national eligibility criteria that may be introduced for 2027. By providing this temporary extension, we want to ensure that families affected by the recent changes have an opportunity to continue benefiting from HAF during the Christmas holiday period.

Food in Community

Pay What You Feel Cafe

Saturday 7th November

Teas, filter coffee & cakes from 11am

Hot vegetarian lunch with vegan options

12 noon until 2pm

United Free Church, Totnes TQ9 5RP

Live music, free entry, no need to book

Our food is local, surplus, organic. All profits support local families in crisis with fresh food.

Food in Community

... let's bring it to the table

Totnes Dance Collective Youth

'A Space for Young Movers, Sparked by Imagination'



A space for young movers to dance, sparked by imaginative prompts and creative tasks. This class is all about supporting young people to move in their own way, there are no set moves to learn.

An opportunity to relish in the joy of moving, and bask in the myriad of well-being and developmental benefits dance offers!

The co-facilitators, Saskia and Eliza, draw on their backgrounds in contemporary dance and somatics/conscious dance to deliver fun, challenging, and engaging sessions. Creating opportunities for children to grow and learn, about themselves and others, within a kind and creative group container.

What time? 4:15pm-5:30pm

When? Wednesday's (during term time)

Where? Totnes Civic Hall

What age range? 7-12 years

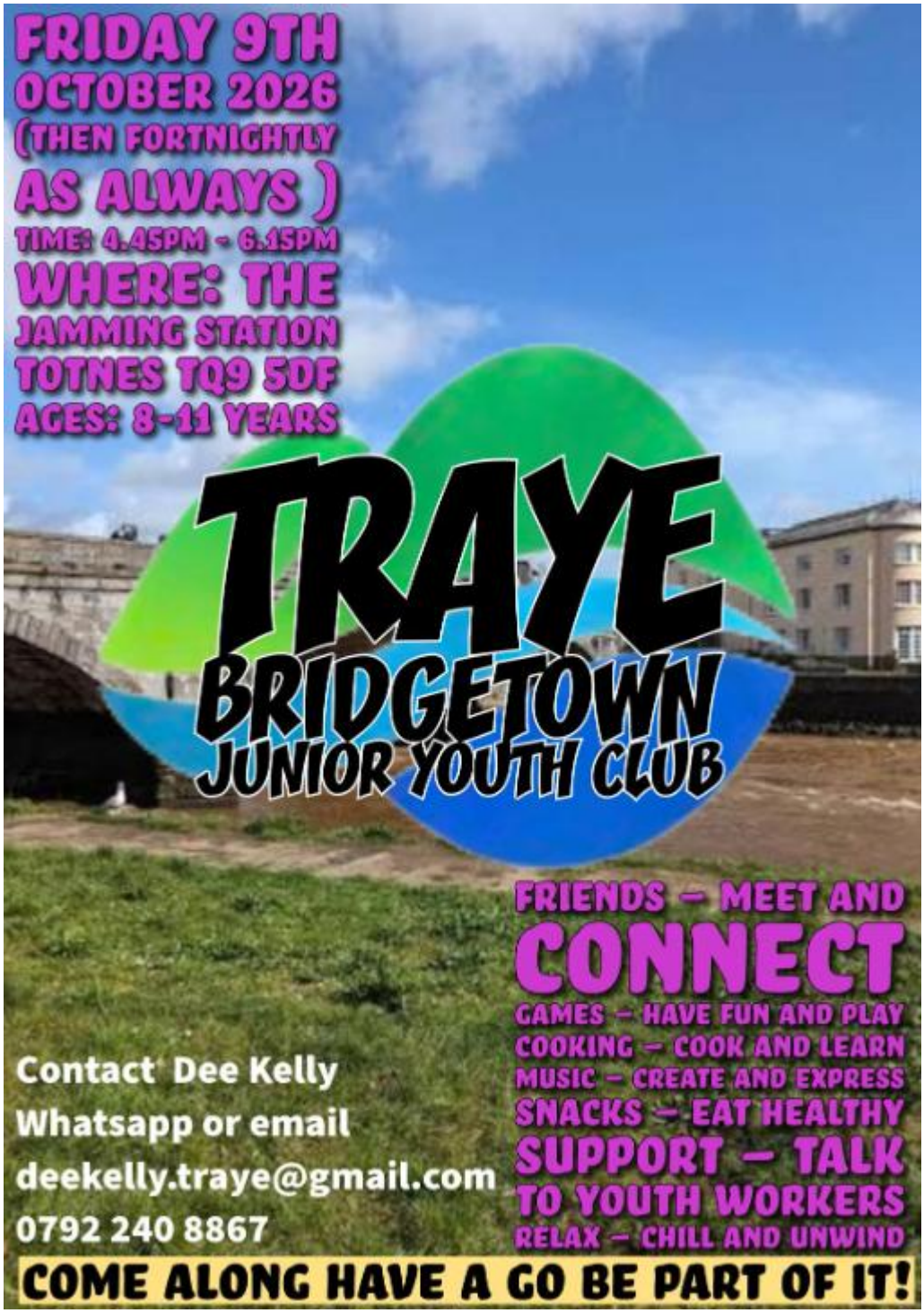
No one turned away due to lack of funds: you can buy a half term block at a discounted rate, or email us to hear about bursary options.

To find out more, follow this link:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/totnes-dance-collective-youth-wednesday-class-tickets-1990956158465

Or email us at: youth@totnesdancecollective.co.uk

With warmth and excitement,

Eliza and Saskia


FRIDAY 9TH
OCTOBER 2026
(THEN FORTNIGHTLY
AS ALWAYS)
TIME: 4.45PM - 6.15PM
WHERE: THE
JAMMING STATION
TOTNES TQ9 5DF
AGES: 8-11 YEARS
TRAYE
BRIDGETOWN
JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB
FRIENDS - MEET AND
CONNECT
GAMES - HAVE FUN AND PLAY
COOKING - COOK AND LEARN
MUSIC - CREATE AND EXPRESS
SNACKS - EAT HEALTHY
SUPPORT - TALK
TO YOUTH WORKERS
RELAX - CHILL AND UNWIND
Contact Dee Kelly
Whatsapp or email
deekelly.traye@gmail.com
0792 240 8867
COME ALONG HAVE A GO BE PART OF IT!