



Weekly Newsletter

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

Press release! We won a best school food in the country award!!

THE GROVE'S SCHOOL FOOD VOTED TOP BY PARLIAMENT

A Totnes primary school has been recognised by politicians for serving some of the best school food in the UK. The Grove was **crowned winner** at the All Party Parliamentary Group, Excellence in School Food Awards, a prestigious award which sees schools across the UK recognised for their excellence, innovation and commitment to feeding kids well.

The school began overhauling its food a year ago, joining forces with the charity Chefs in Schools to transform the menus, dining experience and food education on offer. Together they recruited renowned chef Marco Pilloni, who'd previously cooked for the Queen, on TV and in Michelin starred restaurants.

Marco now leads a team of two at the school - sous chef Roisin and kitchen helper Anne. Together, they've transformed the kitchen, taking processed and frozen food off the menu, bringing in fresh, local, seasonal and exciting produce.

The children eat local fish, prepped and breaded in house. Sauces are made by hand. Bread is baked at the school and there's an ever-changing salad bar offering the likes of celeriac remoulade.

The new ethos has spread outside - the school fundraised for planters and a polytunnel to grow produce onsite and teach children where ingredients come from.

Head teacher Hilary Priest said: "We're delighted to be recognised at these awards. It's been a team effort transforming the food but all worthwhile. Before Marco joined us, the children were tired and less receptive to learning after lunch, the economic situation meant that food costs were increasing rapidly, food waste was high and children's taste palates were small and unadventurous.

"Now, they're energised and more ready to learn after lunch, school academic outcomes have risen, while school dinner costs remain unchanged but food quality has increased. Children enjoy lunch and don't rush it, they're growing our own produce and they learn culinary skills from Chef Marco.

"Everyone loves the food that the whole school produces together!"

These awards have been extremely competitive this time, with organisations and individuals taking part from across the UK.

The All Party Parliamentary Group Excellence in School Food Awards said: **"Only the best submissions have been shortlisted in each category, and we would like to take this opportunity to commend The Grove School for reaching the finals of this year's awards."**

The Grove was the first in Devon to partner with Chefs in Schools, a charity which helps schools train their kitchen teams to fuel the future. As well as in-depth kitchen transformations, the charity offers online courses to school kitchen teams to ensure they're meeting the school food standards, cutting food waste and educating children about food.

Nerissa Buckley, Senior Chef Trainer at Chefs in Schools, said: "It's been a joy to support The Grove with their transformation and to see their efforts pay off. They are so deserving of this award. We hope their story inspires other schools to get in touch with our charity because the research is clear, if school meals improve, health, attainment and wellbeing all increase too."

To find out more about Chefs in Schools and if they can help other schools too, visit: www.chefsinschools.org.uk

Healthy Eating Recipes Wanted

The Key stage 1 team are hoping to create a 'Grove School' Healthy eating recipe book available to purchase by the Summer Term. If you have any fabulous recipes, please send them in before the start of the Easter Holidays. Please see the flyer on the end of this newsletter for more details...

BBC 500 Words and Author Visit

After half term we are very excited to have two authors, Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre, visiting school to present our in-house prizes for the BBC 500 Words competition. We will be selecting our own winners for the competition within school and Philip and Sarah will present the prizes and run an assembly/workshop for all of the children on Tuesday 20th February.

Philip and Sarah will also be available to sign books after the assembly and East Gate bookshop will be visiting the school next Thursday (8th Feb) to share some of their books and take pre-orders ready for signing the week after half term. They will be positioned in a gazebo on the school field.

We will also be sharing some of Philip and Sarah's books in assembly next week and you can find out more about them on their websites below:

<https://philipreeve.com/>

<https://jabberworks.co.uk/books/>

The results of the actual BBC 500 words competition are due to be announced really soon and we hope to update the children on that at the same time Philip and Sarah visit.

Science Workshops



Year 5 and 6 have had the amazing opportunity to take part in a science workshop run by Dr Juliette from Seadream Education. From learning about icebergs, experimenting with dry ice, to learning about penguin feathers and understanding how diving apparatus works. All involved had a fun filled, inspiring experience.

After School Club

Just to make you all aware, after school club will be closed for staff training on the following Mondays this term: 5th & 26th February / 11th March, many thanks for your understanding,

Sarah Allford

PTA Update

There will be a PTA meeting on Tuesday 6th February at 3.20pm in Lilac Class. This meeting is open for any parents/carers to come and find out more about the PTA, with no pressure to make an ongoing commitment.

We will be discussing:

- What the PTA's spending goals are for 2024
- How we can raise money towards these goals
- What events and activities we can put on for the children and families

We are all really excited about the opportunities this year! If you want to have a say on these issues, or just want to learn more, please come along and get involved.

Join our page 'The Grove School PTA' on Facebook for updates about school and PTA events.

Any questions or suggestions? Email pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Tash Buck, PTA Chair

Nits, nits nits...

They seem to be a very resilient bunch of nits currently – parents are saying that the conditioner and comb method doesn't seem to be getting rid of them this time so you may need to use the chemical solutions. If your child has nits and you can't afford the treatment, then please ask and we will buy some in for you from the benevolent fund. I have known children end up with infections if they are left untreated so it is REALLY important that we win this battle. With thanks.

Dates for your diary this term

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

First day back – Monday 19th February

Mountain Ash class swimming – Monday 19th February for 6 weeks this is on ParentPay

Parent Consults – Week commencing Monday 4th March

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

Year 5 One night residential – Wednesday 27th March

Last day of term for Easter holidays - Thursday 28th March

First day of term – Monday 15th April

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.

Healthy eating recipes wanted!

Calling all Grove School Grown-ups and Children...



WE WANT
YOUR
RECIPES!

The Key stage 1 team are hoping to create a 'Grove School' Healthy eating recipe book available to purchase as a download or a bound paper copy by the Summer Term.

We hope for it to contain healthy recipes for starters, mains, desserts and snacks.

If you have any fabulous recipes, please write or type them or photograph them or and send them in before the start of the Easter Holidays. You can send in as many as you like!

Marco will be selecting a few of his favourites to try in the School lunch hall and will be adding some of his best recipes to the book too 😊

Please ensure you add a name and class to your recipe and email them to Miss Vitali at:

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

Thank you

FEBRUARY HALF TERM FOOTBALL FUN DAYS



THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
VENUE: DARTMOUTH FC, TQ6 9LW

FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
VENUE: KEVICC, TOTNES TQ9 5JX

Age 5-14
10am-3pm



£20 PER DAY FOR INDIVIDUAL DAYS

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BOUNCY FUN IN WARM SPACES

NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Brought to you in partnership with
TQ9: Together We Care Programme

All donations will go to the 'TQ9: Together We Care' programme organised by Caring Town Totnes. Funded by the Paige Adams Trust.



**Sessions available
between 1pm - 4pm on:**

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

The sessions are on a pay-what-you-can basis (free if that is what you can afford). A collection tin will be on the reception desk and 100% of all donations will support the programme.

- No need to book but limited capacity.
 - The sessions are parent supervised.
 - The sessions are for families with children up to the age of 8.
 - Sessions are in the Sports Hall at Totnes Leisure Centre.
- What's available at the centre:**
- Bouncy castle
 - Soft play
 - Music
 - Warm space
 - Seating area
 - Tea and coffee, plus fruit for the kids
 - Free wifi and charging points

Totnes Leisure Centre
Borough Park Road
Totnes TQ9 5XW
01803 862992

