



## Weekly Newsletter

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

[www.facebook.com/thegroveschool](http://www.facebook.com/thegroveschool)

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**Newsletter No: Autumn 9**

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**10th November 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Robins and Treecreepers**

Last week the Reception children had a workshop entitled 'Minibeasts in the Compost Bin' with Alex Mack who works for Devon Waste Education Team. The children learnt what happens to their waste and the key message 'Reduce, Re-use, Recycle'. They found out what goes in the compost bin and which minibeasts help to break down the waste to make new soil. They had great fun pretending to be minibeasts and learnt a new song. Then they learnt how the compost can be used to grow plants, including fruit and vegetables for us to eat. Thank you so much Alex for this fun and memorable workshop.

### **School start and finish times**

Just to clarify all children should be in school by 9am at the latest. We open the gates at 8:45 to allow for a decent window, but gates will now be shut at 9am. 9am is when lessons start so it is crucial your child is on time. At the other end of the day all children should be collected at 3:15, we try to bring the children out between 3:05 and 3:15 to allow for a window to avoid crowding but the gates will be closed at 3:20pm. Any late children will need to come to the front of the school and will be registered as late for arrival or for collection at the end of the day. (PS – I will also mention this to the teachers who sometimes send children out a bit late!)

### **Parent consultations**

We always have a great take up for parent consultations so we hope you all managed to make an appointment. If you didn't and haven't contacted us, then staff will be calling to catch up as it is important that parents and school work as a team around their child.

### **Governor Vacancies**

We currently have space on the board for new co-opted Governors to join the board - could this be you or someone you know? A co-opted Governor is someone from outside of the current school community of staff and parents, but from within the local community, helping us to make the link between the school and the local area. There is no requirement to be an expert in education, much more valuable is your passion to work for the children and the school's future direction. If this sounds like you or someone you know then please get in touch via [chair@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:chair@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk). Thank you, Ian Stewart.

### **Smart School Council**

You may recall that we started a new initiative with the Smart School Council this term. See <https://home.smartschoolcouncils.org.uk/> for more info. We also use <https://bigdebateclub.com/> to develop children's voice and opinions. For younger ones we use BBC Bite size debates which model debates really well <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zngg87h>

Recently in the school council (which involves every single child in school) we have been looking at the issues around litter, recycling and committing to doing our bit for the planet. You can help the children to make this commitment by supporting and facilitating the things they decided to try to do:

Most popular choice – use re-usable or paper instead of clingfilm for snacks and lunches

2<sup>nd</sup> place – have a re-useable drinks bottle and label it so it doesn't get lost

3<sup>rd</sup> place – pack my own packed lunch so there isn't any waste

Children also suggested other ways to show commitment to looking after our planet and following some of these suggestions we are buying more bins for the playground including a general recycling bin and a food waste bin.

We are also buying a composter for the food waste from playtimes. The children want to set up litter picking systems and they will discuss this next meeting. We are also buying better bins for the classrooms for children to actively recycle.

### **Jumpers and plastic pots**

In the same vein as above, we have countless school jumpers with no names on that have been lost. With 325 children in a school all wearing the same colour jumper there is no way children can identify their own jumpers without a name in them. PLEASE LABEL JUMPERS TONIGHT!! Also again, we have countless plastic lunch/snack containers with no names on... Let's not give all this to landfill!

### **Reminder for Nasal Flu Vaccination – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**

Please use this link to book your child in for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2021/devon>

Even if you do not want your child to receive this vaccination, please complete the consent form stating “no” consent. You will also find answers to your FAQ's on this link.

### **PTA Christmas Raffle**

A very big thank you for the generous donations we have received so far! I really appreciate the generosity and thoughtfulness. We are keen to have the most fabulous Christmas Raffle and have always been so grateful for the very kind and generous support from local businesses and we are hoping this year will be no different. If any other parents/carers/companies can make a donation this would be warmly welcomed; a bottle of wine, box of chocolates, a voucher, an unwanted gift (!) or a hamper that you've made up of treats. We will be selling raffle tickets and will have the key prizes/companies advertised on them. I would really appreciate your help and support, please drop off any donations directly to me or to Rebecca at the front desk with my name on it. Many thanks, Emily Rowley ([pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk))

### **PTA Christmas Plans**

**CHRIMBO JUMPERS:** We would love to see if we can recycle, reuse and re-sell any unwanted/outgrown Christmas jumpers or t-shirts or dresses in adult and children sizes. If you have any to donate we would love this and then we can arrange a table top sale in early December.

**LUCKY DIP:** We are inviting you all to have a small plastic toy amnesty. We will welcome your bags of small plastic/wooden toys that I have no doubt are cluttering your cupboards and then we will have a lucky dip stall alongside our Thursday bake stall throughout December to offer an alternative to the sweet treats options. Please have a clear out and drop off your bags of “treasure” at the front desk with my name marked on them.

### **NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. online programme**

I am pleased to tell you that this term we will be participating in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. online programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. Speak out. Stay safe. is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

In the online assembly, the Speak out. Stay safe. messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like to know more about the Speak out. Stay safe. programme you can find information on the NSPCC website [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout) or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

Adapted assembly for home use

The NSPCC has also developed an adapted version of their assembly for parents/carers to use at home with their children. This can be found here: [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/safety) . With the help of celebrities, the film focuses on how a child can get support if they have any worries or concerns.

To complement the assembly, there are some resources that can be used to enable further discussion whilst doing activities with your children. These are hosted on the NSPCC website [www.nspcc.org.uk/activities](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/activities) .

Childline Under 12's Website

Childline also have a website with age appropriate advice for primary school children on topics such as bullying. It also has games and other interactive tools. Your child can visit it at [www.childline.org.uk/kids](http://www.childline.org.uk/kids) .

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website [www.nspcc.org.uk/parents](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents) .

Talking PANTS with your children

Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep your child safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides a simple but valuable rule that can help keep your child safe. You can find out more and download the free resources at [www.nspcc.org.uk/pants](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants) .

Penguin and Ladybird have partnered with the NSPCC to create a brand new Pantosaurus book aimed at children ages 4 - 8. You can find copies of the new book on sale, either in Matalan's selected stores and online, selected SPAR stores or at <https://shop.nspcc.org.uk/> . All profits from the sale of this book will support the NSPCC.

Support the NSPCC while you shop

You may also be interested in the NSPCC's new selection of BUDDY goodies available from the NSPCC shop at <https://shop.nspcc.org.uk/collections/buddy> which make perfect gifts for children - and all profits go to help keep children safe.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

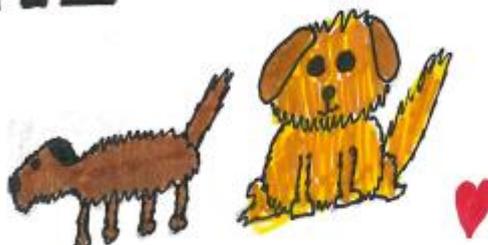
Adverts – please note that the school is neither recommending nor supporting the adverts below. If you wish to advertise in our newsletter then please contact the school for details.

VICTORIA GREEN - 07860 862 039

TOTNES



DOG



WALKIES!



DOES YOUR DOG NEED WALKING  
STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL?

I'M A MUM AND DOG OWNER, I WALK  
MY DOG FOR AN HOUR EVERY MORNING,  
I COULD WALK YOURS TOO?

I'M AT THE SCHOOL GATES EACH MORNING  
YOU CAN DROP YOUR DOG OFF WITH ME  
AND I WILL DELIVER YOUR DOG HOME  
AFTER A BEAUTIFUL LOCAL WALK!