



THE GROVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 7th January

Happy 2026

Welcome back to school. We hope you all had a restful and peaceful Christmas and a good start to the New Year.

We have found over the years that lots of families make some quite big decisions over the Christmas period so please do let us know if there is anything we should know about to look after the wellbeing of your children at school.

This term we are having a big focus on our Special Needs provision at school. We are very proud of the work we have done and how well children with SEND are catered for here – but we always have that nagging feeling that we can do more! This term we are opening some new spaces for some new initiatives. The Rowe Family (Jenni's) have been working very hard establishing a 'caravan' on our playground with the intention of creating a sensory space, a quiet reading room and a SEND provision space that could be manned by trained volunteers (see SEND Community Provision note below). I have also vacated my office and moved to a smaller room so that we can use the room as a form of internal Alternative Provision. Both of these ideas are in their infancy in terms of developing the spaces and the concepts behind them, but we will keep you informed with these exciting changes.

Also, I just wanted to share a little milestone of my own. I have just reached the 18 years point of being Headteacher of The Grove School! I still consider that I am one of the luckiest people as I still love my job, still find lots of new projects to keep us all busy and I get hugs all day from your lovely children! The Grove School is an amazing place to be and last term particularly after the tragic loss of Mr Tye we really felt the community strength and support we receive. Many thanks for your role in this incredible community.

Don't have time to read all the newsletter?

Here are the essentials in summary:

- ☺ Mr Tye's Memorial – January 20th @ 4pm
- ☺ Information to help keep children safe online
- ☺ SEND Community Provision programme at The Grove
- ☺ Holiday Club available at February Half Term

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



Mr Tye's memorial January 20th 4:00pm

Mr Tye would have been 50 on 20th January, so in agreement with his family, we have decided to mark this date with a memorial gathering at School for his family, staff, children, parents, ex-pupils etc – anyone who would like to come, but without any obligation to come. Please note the date.



Manage children's digital lives

Sharing this information point from the National Children's Commissioner about how to help keep your child safe online.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

SEND Community Provision led by Joel McIlven and The Grove SEND Team

We are excited to be piloting a 'Community Provision' programme at The Grove this term. This idea emerged from meetings of The Grove Community Parent SEND Group over the past few months.

We want to:

1. **Bring people together to increase our collective understanding of SEN and neurodivergence**

We will run a structured programme open for anybody interested in learning more about SEN and neurodivergence. This will be an opportunity to learn about and share knowledge, experience,

challenges, science and theory, behavioural presentations, strategies, resources and government policy. Sessions will take place in school on Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11am, beginning next Tuesday 13th January.

2. Come together as a community to support The Grove to help meet the needs of the children at the school

The structured programme will also act as a platform to develop a pro-active and collaborative resource of parents and community members providing in-school provision to help meet the needs of all children at The Grove. Some parents or carers are already volunteering time to support the additional needs of their children, others may have time they would like to contribute, this will be an opportunity to have a meaningful local impact.

If you are interested in attending sessions, volunteering, or just learning more about the plans, please come along next week, or email groveschoolsengroup@gmail.com.



Holiday Club

We're delighted to share that our holiday club will be running during the February half term. To secure your child's place, we encourage you to book in advance as spaces are limited.

<https://kalscope.co.uk/product/totnes-february-half-term-holiday-club-at-the-grove-school/>



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

Willow Tree Swimming – Monday 12th January Please sign up on ParentPay

Ginkgo tree planting @ Sharpham – Thursday 15th January Please sign up on ParentPay

Flame tree planting @ Sharpham – Friday 16th January Please sign up on ParentPay

Year 1/2 trip to Plymouth aquarium – Thursday 22nd January Please sign up on ParentPay

Trumpet tree planting @ Sharpham – Thursday 29th January Please sign up on ParentPay

Last day of term – Friday 13th February

First day back – Monday 23rd February

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.


DEVON
ORIENTEERING

**Virtuous Lady
Orienteering**
(near Yelverton)

Sunday 25th January

Beginners welcome!
A challenging adventure sport for everyone!

Visit: www.devonorienteering.co.uk
for details or scan the QR code:



DRAMA CLUB

with Rachel

WHY THEY'LL LOVE IT

- ✓ builds confidence
- ✓ creative play
- ✓ learn to improvise
- ✓ perform on stage

Thursday After School 3.15-4.15
Year 1-2 £8.50

MAX 16 PER CLASS

CONTACT: RACHELSAVAGE@PM.ME
TO BOOK A PLACE

Young People's Theatre Playground 2026



at The Mansion Totnes



weekly theatre session exploring
physical theatre, drama & movement



Saturdays

Pre-Juniors 4-7 yrs

9:40-10:40am

YPT Juniors 7-10 yrs

10:45am-12:15pm

Thursdays

YPT 10-16 yrs

4:15-6:15pm

Questions welcome - for more info contact

Sarah 07387553237 playgroundartstheatre@gmail.com



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