



## Weekly Newsletter

[admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
<http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk>  
[www.facebook.com/thegroveschool](http://www.facebook.com/thegroveschool)

**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Autumn 13**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**7<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

### **What's happening in school this week and next**

The school Christmas Fair was held on Saturday and by all accounts was a huge success. Many thanks to all those involved and everyone's hard work.

Key Stage 1's performance of 'Sugar Plum' is being performed today and tonight at KEVICC, they looked completely gorgeous in their costumes this morning, thank you so much for all your support for the productions. Reception unit's Nativity is on Friday. The Grove Groovers school choir sang beautifully in the civic square on Tuesday late night shopping – well done to all and many thanks to Miss Smith, Nicky Matthews and Yasmin Biggins for all their dedication to the choir. A big thank you also to Dave Wade – our in-house IT and sound technician!

### **Reminder about the CAP workshop**

Which is being held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 5.30pm until 7.00pm at 35 Fore Street, Totnes. More information about CAP is on the last page of this newsletter.

### **Christmas dinner – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

We have had a few people offer to help to set up and serve Christmas lunch. If you would like to help between 11.15 and 2.00 then please let us know.

### **School party day – Friday 16<sup>th</sup>**

All parties will be on Friday next week so children can all come in party clothes.

### **Dart Hockey Competition**

The Dart hockey competition was amazing. Everybody loved all of it even though it was quite competitive. The scores were quite close through the entire competition. In the end the A team were drawing with Broadhempston A team and got the same points, goal difference but they beat us by 1 goal. B Team did really well coming 3<sup>rd</sup> place. We are all really proud of ourselves. Written by the Year 6 hockey players.

### **Maple Tree Class**

We will be saying our farewells and thank yous to Mr Mackenzie next Friday and as handover time Mrs Helen Moore will be in class with Mr Mackenzie on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If you would like to pop in and say hello then please do.

### **Mrs Westrope**

Mrs Westrope is now on maternity leave with her baby due on 16<sup>th</sup> December – what are the odds on a Christmas Day baby?! We will keep you informed.

### **School Council**

Please bring cakes or biscuits to sell at school to raise money for CRY this Friday. Also remember to cut out stamps and bring them to school and pop them into the CRY stamps box at reception desk. THANK YOU.

### **Snowbell Tree Class**

Would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the children and parents involved with the Year 6 Fundraising party that was held at the Barrel House on Saturday. They would also like to thank Grace and family for organising and manning the sweet tombola stall they held at the Christmas fair on Saturday and thank all the children and parents that helped with the Craft stall. Over that weekend they made £1000 therefore bringing the fundraising total amount to more than £2304.00 to date.

### **PTA Christmas Fair**

Thank you very much for a fantastic Christmas Fete, we felt everyone enjoyed themselves which was the main aim, and we raised nearly £2000 for the PTA which is amazing - all of which will go towards making The Grove an even better place than it already is! Special thanks to the PTA team for all of their hard work, all of the volunteers on the stalls, the bands, the helpers who made games, set up craft stalls, made tea, too many people to mention. It was a huge learning curve for the new PTA so input from those more experienced than us was vital. We are looking forward to the summer fair and lots of fun in between. We still have lots of tea towels for sale which your children created, please please purchase them, they make great Xmas presents, they cost £4 each or 3 for £10. There are Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 versions. We also have lots of packs of Grove School Christmas cards available. They come in packs of 5 cards each. Only £2 for a single pack or 3 for £5. Remember this all goes to supporting the school.

### **The Governors and Leadership of the school**

The Full Governing Body met on Tuesday morning where we looked at our great school results from last year and what we could do even better, class structure for 2017, reports from the committees and received a very informative presentation about Forest Schools from Mr Brudenell.

This term we have achieved a great deal on our school improvement plan including making changes to how we teach Early Years under our new Early Years leader Miss Clark. We have also been very successful in narrowing any gender gaps in achievement through the school and will continue to keep this as a focus, for example boys traditionally do less well in reading and writing and better in Maths and Science than girls. We have begun to launch our 'eschools learning platform' which some classes are starting to familiarise themselves with. The remaining items from the term's school improvement plans are to improve children's attendance which still is falling below national figures and to work on producing a half yearly report on how the school is doing for parents, I will be working on this for the new year. We welcome any input on either of these two areas.

### **Planned staff absences**

Miss Clark will be out of class on Tuesday and Wednesday for training.

### **Reception Classes Nativity**

The Reception children will be performing their Nativity at 2.00pm in the hall on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. All relatives are welcome. No tickets are required.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

### Community Tree Planting

There is a Community Tree Planting Event planned in Bridgetown, Totnes for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan with storytelling and community Bar-B-Q.

20 trees are being planted to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

- Children are invited to write a poem or to say a few words – families are being given the opportunity to dedicate a tree in the name of a family member.

Anyone with family memories or stories that relate to those who served, suffered or died with an association to Totnes are invited to contact Bridgetown Alive! (contact Deborah Oakey at the daisy Play Centre 01803 864737 email [debora@daisyplaycentre.co.uk](mailto:debora@daisyplaycentre.co.uk)) or Cllr Hodgson so that they can be part of this event.

### Babysitter

Freya Watts, an ex-Grove student is looking for babysitting. Freya is 13 and now a Kevicc student. Freya lives in South Street, and is available for babysitting until 10.00pm on weeknights and midnight on weekends. Her mum Kath, and older sister Rosa, are there for back up too.

Please call Kath to arrange on 01803 840 598  
Or 0777 618 8517

COME AND ESCAPE THE HUBBUB OF THE LATE NIGHT MARKETS

# CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN

AT TOTNES CIVIC HALL

TUES 6TH DEC  
TUES 13TH DEC  
TUES 20TH DEC

COME ALONG FROM 3.30PM ONWARDS

FREE Christmas crafts, games and film on the big screen

Santa's Grotto (small charge applies)

Soft play, bouncy castle & Reindeer Ride (small charge applies)

Children's storyteller

Yummy refreshments available

FREE ENTRY

HOSTED BY



Working in partnership with you, to keep your children safe, strong and free

The Child Assault Prevention Project will soon be working in school with your children. You are the most important person when it comes to keeping your children safe, and helping them to grow into strong confident people.

Come and see what we do to help your child gain knowledge and strategies to deal with some of the more difficult aspects of growing up.

We discuss keeping safe around bullies, the internet, strangers and known adults.

Our workshops are designed to build children's confidence and self- esteem, they are lively and fun.

The Parents Workshop is your chance to see what we do.

Your chance to have your say.

Please come and be part of our work.

**Parents Workshop Date: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**Time: 5:30pm - 7:00pm**  
**(feel free to come for all or part of the workshop)**

[www.safestrongfree.org.uk](http://www.safestrongfree.org.uk)

CAP-UK, 35 Fore Street, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5HN Telephone: 01803 866 559 Email: [info@safestrongfree.org.uk](mailto:info@safestrongfree.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number: 1066377