



### Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Year 6 will start swimming on Monday. All classes are busy rehearsing for their Christmas performances. High 5 Netball is on tonight at KEVICC.

### **Mr Gude – Paternity Leave**

Mr Gude's wife is due to have their second child any moment now and Mr Gude will go onto paternity leave. Whilst on paternity leave Gingko Tree class will be taught by Mr Brudenell (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and Mrs Kneebone (Thursday and Friday) before Christmas and Mrs Moor (Thursday and Friday) after Christmas, depending on when baby Gude decides to arrive! We have arranged this so that experienced members of our team can continue the education of Gingko Tree class as seamlessly as possible.

### **Friday Mufti Day**

Children can wear what they like and either bring in a donation of cakes we can use to sell at the Christmas Fair THIS SATURDAY 11-1pm or a financial donation straight into the PTA funds. Many thanks for your ongoing support and particularly to the very hardworking PTA team.

### **Unauthorised Holiday - Penalty Notices from Devon County Council – new directive PLEASE NOTE**

Unauthorised holidays penalty notices will be issued following 10 sessions of absence. This means that for students whose S2 holiday form has not been authorised by the Head teacher where they are missing 5 days (or 10 sessions) of school, a penalty will automatically be issued once the school submits the relevant paperwork to Devon County Council.

To reiterate, parents, as per Education Act 1996, will be issued a penalty notice only once in a period of two years. Should there be an unauthorised holiday happening 2 years preceding the incident, a Magistrates Summons is issued. On the event of an unauthorised holiday with 10 sessions or more missed, each parent is issued a penalty notice per child. Each penalty notice is £60 if paid within 21 days. Each penalty notice is £120 if paid between the 21st & 28th day following the date of issue. Following the 28th day parents are not able to pay their penalty and the Local Authority issues a Magistrates Summons.

### **Usborne Book Fair**

Please can all orders be in school by Friday morning ready to process and will be delivered next week. If anyone would still like to order, you can view the full range of books (subject to availability) at [www.vikkisbooks.co.uk](http://www.vikkisbooks.co.uk) and bring the money into school in a clearly labelled envelope or see Rebecca for an order form. We are really close to achieving the next threshold of free books so any orders would be appreciated!

### **Governor update from Chair of Governors Mike Waterson**

The Teaching and Learning Committee met on Thursday and covered a range of topics. Firstly we had a very informative presentation from Mrs Gratton on the schools' approach to Maths. Results in Maths are good; however, we are looking at ways to make even better progress. These include using rough 'working out' books, trying various ways of solving problems, using "No nonsense number facts", using a wider variety of resources, encouraging children to listen to other children's ways of working, using wall displays, extra teaching and in depth problem solving. These were being effective across the school.

National data had recently been released on SATs and other measures of achievement. The Grove had done very well, especially in reading and in the performance of disadvantaged children. The school will be concentrating on increasing attainment in phonics in year one, maths progress, and increasing the number of children working "at greater depth".

The strategy for pupil premium children was discussed; this is tailored to meet the individual needs of each child, and would continue being assessed to ensure the best use of funds.

Discussions were also held on children's mental health, languages teaching, the effective use of Teaching Assistants and creating an equality action plan.

It was an enjoyable meeting which showed the variety of ways all staff are thinking about their teaching and looking at ways to be even more effective.

### **Key Stage 2 show "The Snow Queen" 1pm and 6pm showings**

If anyone has any spare tickets for tonight's show could you hand them in to Rebecca at reception.

### **Key Stage 1 show "The Tale of the Christmas Tree"**

Key Stage 1 performance is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30 and 4.30 at The Ariel Centre, KEVICC.

### **The last two weeks of term!**

This term has flown by and Christmas is nearly here. Please note three important dates:

- **Christmas Lunch**  
The date for our whole school Christmas Lunch is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. We would like parents and carers to come in and help with setting up and serving on this lovely festive lunch day. Crackers have already been ordered! Christmas lunch is free for Reception, Year 1 and 2. KS2 lunch will be the usual £2.40.
- **School party day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
All parties will be on Friday THIS week so children can all come in party clothes. The Children's Kitchen menu for Friday is Party Lunch and this will consist of pizza, sandwiches, cocktail sausages, cheese and pineapple, sausage rolls, crisps, crudités etc. £2.40 for KS2 children. KS1 have free school meals.
- **Spring term dates**  
January 3<sup>rd</sup> is back to school day 9am as usual

### **PTA News**

It's been a busy few weeks for the PTA and we are now working hard on the final preparations for our Grove School Christmas Fair this Saturday. We really hope to see you all there, friends and family too. Please spread the word. The fair will open at 11am with the wonderful Totnes Town Band. Our own Grove Groovers will perform and there will be lots to see, do and eat! Please note that the entrance at Heath Way will be closed, so all visitors please use the main front entrance. We could still do with a few volunteers, so please let us know if you can spare an hour on the day.

### **Raffle Tickets**

You should have received your book of raffle tickets. We need these returned to Rebecca at Reception, by Friday. There will also be more tickets available on the day or feel free to ask if you'd like another book. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our parents at The Grove and our local community. We have meal vouchers, jewellery, Usborne Book Voucher, 55a Voucher, zoo tickets, theatre tickets, Ice skating tickets and much much more!

### **Christmas Decorations**

Thank you to Karen (Thomas's Mum) who donated a Christmas tree and if you have any spare lights, decorations or even Christmas trees please let us know. We want our fair to feel really festive.

See you all on Saturday, Christmas jumpers optional!

**Christmas Card Update**

The Christmas cards that the children designed themselves have been collected from the printers and will be distributed early next week.

**Praise assemblies**

The next praise assembly is Banyan Tree class on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2.45. Acorn units Nativity is on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest