



### Weekly Newsletter

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**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Autumn 5**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**4<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Lime Tree class went on their trip to Goodrington linking to their Seashore topic term, more on this next week. Clubs have started this week and we are still waiting for consent forms. Also just to clarify that after school clubs please pick up your children from outside the front entrance. Your children will be brought to you there, you don't need to buzz the buzzer, please just wait outside.

On Friday Bay Tree class are going to KEVICC for the High 5 Netball festival. Lime tree class trip

### **Governors wanted**

The Grove School in central Totnes is looking for new enthusiastic governors to represent the community aspect of our primary school. We are looking for any willing volunteers but are particularly looking for skills in buildings, health and safety, Facilities Management, safeguarding, an interest in schools and education in general. We have three vacancies so please enquire even if these aren't your current skills as we offer training and support for all new governors. It takes a little time and commitment but it is a very rewarding role and crucial to the children of Totnes's future. Parents and relatives are welcome to apply for these co-opted roles as well as members of the community.

If interested/ would like more information, please email [chair@the-grove-primary-devon.sch.uk](mailto:chair@the-grove-primary-devon.sch.uk) or call 01803 862018 for the chair to get back to you.

### **Year 5 and 6 Dart Hockey League 4 -6 pm at KEVICC**

Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>, November 20<sup>th</sup>, November 27<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>. Year 4's can play if they already play.

### **Year 3 and 4 High5 Netball competition 4-6 at KEVICC**

Is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

### **Year 5 and 6 High5 Netball competition 4-6 at KEVICC**

Is on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Letters will be sent out nearer the time.

### **Tempest photography**

Will be here on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October for individual photos and siblings. Be here at 8.15 for siblings' photos of children who are not yet at school. Please use the front/main entrance (double glass doors). First come first served. In school siblings will be taken within school time. All school children will have their individual photo taken too. Photos will be taken in the studio.

## **Times tables – guidance for helping at home**

Times tables are taught slightly differently to the method many parents are used to so please note these changes to help your children with their learning. The language has changed to make more sense mathematically and it really does seem to work! For slightly older generations it may feel a little backward but for the children it makes sense so please try to break the habit of a life time and help your children learn their times tables using this format:

Use the language : ‘Three, four times’ or ‘three multiplied 4 times’ which would be written ‘3X4’ and look like this ‘III III III III’

So in the tables

$3 \times 1 = 3$  is three, one time or three multiplied one time

$3 \times 2 = 6$  is three, two times or three multiplied two times

$3 \times 3 = 9$  is ...

Etc.

Rather than the old method of  $1 \times$ ,  $2 \times$ ,  $3 \times$  you put the number to be multiplied first in the number sentence and don’t use ‘one times three equals’, ‘two times three equals’ sentences. Please see your class teacher if you have any questions.

See below for a further explanation and some web links that are useful for home learning.

### **Times Tables**

- If you are practising times tables with your child at home, have a look at this page! This shows the language we are using in school and how your child is being taught their tables in class.

**$3 \times 2$  (3, 2 times OR 3 multiplied by 2)**

**$3 \times 4$  (3, 4 times OR 3 multiplied by 4) etc**

We are teaching it like this so that children can make links between the numbers and how they see it in an array (the pictures shown here). It is also read in the order the numbers appear, which makes it easier for children to say and see how it looks.

Below are some online games for practising tables.



$$3 \times 4 = 12$$

**$3 \times 4$  (3, 4 times or 3 multiplied by 4)**

**$4 \times 3$  (4, 3 times or 4 multiplied by 3)**



$$4 \times 3 = 12$$

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/times-tables/coconut-multiples>  
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>  
<http://www.learnyourtables.co.uk/en/index2.htm>

## **World Mental Health Day**

Next Tuesday, 10th October is World Mental Health day. We would like to help raise awareness of the importance of positive mental health and the support available for those who find themselves struggling. The charity Young Minds are organising a nationwide event aimed specifically at young people. The event is called **#helloyellow**.

To show our support, we would like to create some bunting with messages to promote mental health and let those who are struggling know they are not alone.

There will be a small table with the speech bubble templates in the reception area for you and your children to add your messages of support. We will then use the bunting to decorate our tree. Donation boxes will also be made available should you wish to make a contribution towards the work of the Young Minds charity. (further information [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk))

### **News from the Governors**

The Governing Board had its first meeting of the school year last week. We spent most of the time looking forward, planning our activities for the year.

We assigned roles and responsibilities and started to plan our monitoring visits for key areas of the school including maths, writing and SEN. We will also be reviewing a number of school policies during this term, these need to be updated on a regular basis. We have also set up a group that will be looking at longer-term strategy over a three to five-year period.

We did look back at our Safeguarding audit from last term, which confirmed that The Grove is a safe and happy environment for our pupils. Safeguarding will continue to be a priority for the school.

The financial situation is still very tight this year and we cannot provide all the staffing or resources we would want to support the children's learning. However, we have agreed to additional Teaching Assistant support for our reception area.

Laura Partridge has resigned as Vice Chair due to pressure of work, and we thank her for her time in this role. She will continue to be part of the governing body. Her place is being temporarily filled by Karen Jarvis.

We still have vacancies in our group and would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who has a passion for education and a little time to devote to the work of the school.

### **Staff vacancies**

We are advertising for three positions in school. All deadlines are for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Teaching Assistant B grade position – full time temporary with MTA duties to support a child with medical needs, currently in KS1.

IT technician C grade – 3 days a week – to support all IT in school.

Meal time Assistant A grade – to work in the dining hall – days and times can be flexible

If you are interested in applying or require more information, please contact the school.

### **Irish Dancing beginner's lesson**

Professional Irish dancer and teacher, Aideen Ryan, will be teaching a beginner's lesson in Irish Dancing in the school hall on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 5.30 – 6.30pm. The class will be for key stage 2 children, older siblings/friends, parents and staff. The cost is £5 each to be paid in cash upon signing up for the lesson. There is a maximum of 40 places and the lesson will only go ahead if a minimum of 20 places are filled. Money raised will go to the Year 6 Residential Fund. To book and pay for your place, please see Maria Widger (mum of Eve in year 6 and Jack in year 4) at school by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October or email her at [mobrien1972@hotmail.com](mailto:mobrien1972@hotmail.com). This class is not suitable for Key Stage 1 children, however, a separate class for younger children can be arranged if there is sufficient interest. To see Aideen dance go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_U\\_9aKX8Fqw&t=5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_U_9aKX8Fqw&t=5s).

### **Praise assemblies**

Our next praise assembly will be a joint Ginkgo, Kapok and Flame Tree Classes assembly on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm as it will be a longer than usual assembly. The next one will be Willow Tree on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2.45pm.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest



## Do you have any games or toys you no longer need?



Instead of taking them to the charity shops, please consider donating to the PTA.



We need:  
board games  
role play toys  
costumes  
garden toys



Alternatively, if you have anything you would like to sell, ask us before heading to ebay.



Contact: [pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
or see Kellie or Jenni in reception

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### **Forest Rangers Day**

Monday October 23rd (half term) - WildWise's Forest Rangers Day: a day of bushcraft skills & adventures for kids aged 8-12 years.

10-4pm Dartington Estate £30 p.p. 01803 868269 [info@wildwise.co.uk](mailto:info@wildwise.co.uk) / [www.wildwise.co.uk](http://www.wildwise.co.uk)

**Kung Fu “Dragons” – space available**

Rarely do we have spaces available in our Beginners classes, so we are notifying Grove school parents in the first instance.

As one of the biggest clubs in the area, our success speaks for itself. We really offer something for every child to develop their confidence, self-esteem, mental and physical skills.

Originally established in 1993 but flourishing since 2008, we now have students throughout Junior, senior and adulthood – it is a really great support network.

If you would like your child to attend, we have Beginner classes on Saturday mornings during term-time. The guide is - 9-10.00 (for under 7) & 10.15-11.15 (for over 7), but it very much depends on your child and family circumstances.

If you are considering this, please be quick as spaces go very quickly and once we are full it will be back to waiting lists once again.

For more information contact:-

Jo (mum of Tianna Yr 6 & Mackenzie Yr 5) on:-

Tel: 07811132866

[www.inner-depth.com](http://www.inner-depth.com)

[www.facebook.com/innerdepth](https://www.facebook.com/innerdepth)