

Weekly Newsletter

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Headteacher: Hilary Priest Newsletter No: Spring 4 Telephone 01803 862018 31st January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

What's happening this week and next

On Monday Year 5 and 6 went to KEVICC to watch the performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. Tickets are still available. Years 3 and 4 are going to a Gymnastics Festival at KEVICC on Friday 2nd February. We are still missing quite a few permissions and Flame Tree, Ginkgo Tree and Kapok Tree need help walking the children there and back if anyone can help. On Tuesday next week we will be taking part in Safe Internet Day. During this day every class will take part in activities that will help them understand how to stay safe when using the internet. The theme for this year is 'Create, connect and Share Respect'. Here is a reminder of websites that are helpful for families to use at home there are links to these on school website in the 'About' section-'parent information'

https://www.tigermobiles.com/2015/05/how-to-protect-your-children-on-their-smartphone/

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

https://www.bbc.com/ownit Website for 8-12 year olds

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Birdwood House Exhibition

Last week we held an art exhibition at Birdwood House Gallery and all the classes visited during the week. The gallery exhibited work from all classes and included a wide range of media, with designs inspired by the theme Green Spaces and the influence of the natural world on our mental health. The exhibition was visited by many local people and visitors to Totnes and we had more than 400 people view the work on display, in addition to the class visits. Visitors were very complementary about the high quality of work on display and we have many messages of appreciation in our visitors book. The event could not have taken place without the help and support from Anthea Tuckey at Birdwood House Gallery, Nick Rangecroft from KEVICCs, pupils, staff and parents from The Grove, so a big thank you to you all!

Knitting for premature babies.

If anyone has any odd balls of wool lying around would you consider donating them to our knitting group. Once we have mastered the basics of this tricky craft, we intend to knit 'partner squares' to donate to local neo natal units.

Michelle in Bay Tree class will be happy to receive your donations.

Breakfast Club

One of our parents is looking into the possibility of opening and running a breakfast club before school following the success of The Orchard, the after school club. There will be a questionnaire handed out tomorrow to ask what people's needs are to assess the viability of this type of club.

Homework policy rethink

The staff are in the process of rewriting and rethinking the homework policy. After half term we are going to trial a new system in which weekly home learning will not be set but instead half termly focus areas which will really benefit your child will be available on the class webpage (paper copy when requested). Currently about 50% of children do home learning and it is difficult for the teachers to rely on it to impact a topic in school. We have noticed patterns of a higher percentage of children doing home learning at the start of the terms to very low percentage at the end of terms. The plan is to aim the majority of home learning at the key literacy and numeracy areas to have a more direct impact for the children and help families fit in the home learning at a time that might suit them better e.g. a big push at the start of the half term? This is just a trial so please let us know your thoughts - head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk - thanks.

The Grove School Governing body

Last Thursday we had a meeting which discussed the school's long-term strategy and confirmed priorities for the coming year. These will be fed into the annual School Improvement Plan which is currently being written. The key items from the strategy will be published on the school website once finished and we will welcome any feedback from parents (see visioning item below).

On Thursday we also had our Teaching and Learning Committee in which we discussed and agreed the new school policy on Pupil Premium looking at the most effective way of supporting children who may need extra help. We looked at key items from this year's school improvement plan and local data on whether this being achieved. This showed an increase in children working at Greater Depth compared to this time last year and overall more children showing good progress. The school still strives to ensure that every child reaches their full potential.

On Friday I visited the Green Spaces art exhibition at Birdwood House and thoroughly enjoyed the way the children had put thought into their art and the way that a class piece had been produced by everyone working together. It was good to see the work of The Grove in the centre of town.

Towards the end of last term we welcomed two new governors, Suzanne Bryant and Nicky Rajska who will bring a range of experience. We are still looking for governors with finance and also buildings/Health and Safety expertise to join our team. So, if you know anyone who might be interested, please contact the school. Mike Waterson, Chair of Governors

<u>Leadership and management - The Grove School 5 year visioning</u>

The vision for our school has been based on a collaborative work with the staff and governors. We would like to hear your views and will also be approaching the children so that we have a rounded picture of our school vision.

We have identified 7 main areas so far which would be built into our school improvement plans:

Our school vision for development from 2017 to 2022

- I. We want our children to be creative and critical thinkers with inner strength, to be able to make sound judgements and decisions, to have the ability to cope with failure as well as success and to be able to manage their mental health.
- 2. We want our children to have the ability to change and adapt, to have high but realistic aspirations whilst enjoying their childhoods and achieving the best they can in their learning.
- 3. We want to provide opportunities for all children to experience and find their passions by enhancing their self-awareness and focusing on their strengths rather than their weaknesses.
- 4. We want our curriculum to reflect the changing world and equip our children with the skills and the ability to have a positive impact on building a sustainable future for themselves and our beautiful planet.
- 5. We want our school to be more connected purposefully to parents, other schools, agencies, businesses and our community for the benefit of our children.
- 6. We want our school to have stability within a sound financial forecast and funding solutions to provide a secure education and workplace for all children and staff.

7. We want our site to reflect our ethos and support our learning. We would like our school to be used by the community and be used to increase our funding through lettings.

Parent view

If at any time you feel the need to give your view about the school here is the Ofsted link to parent view which is also accessible through our website. With thanks.

https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/register

PTA MEETING

There is a PTA meeting tomorrow (Thursday) straight after school in the Acorn Unit, all welcome to attend.

PTA Childrens Discos

We are having another disco on Thursday 22nd February. We have decided to start the first disco 15 minutes earlier as this will give us more time to hand over all the children safely to their parents/carers at the end. This takes a little extra time with the younger children! When you arrive for the year 3/4 disco, we would be grateful if you could wait outside whilst we make sure Key Stage one have all been collected.

We are looking for helpers, so if you are free please contact Rachel Gillespie or Kellie Bishop Disco times: Reception, Year I & 2 is 4.15pm-5.15pm

Year 3 & 4 is 5.45pm-6.45pm

Year 5 & 6 is 7.00pm-8.00pm

The PTA are constantly working hard to raise much needed funds for our school. One of the ways we do this is by opening our staff car park to the public on Saturdays and in the school holidays, charging £3.00 to park all day. It normally takes about one hour to fill. Could you spare an hour to sign up and help with this? Rebecca has a rota at reception. This helps to raise around £60.00 a week!

Finally, you'll be pleased to know that the PTA Thursday bakes will return after half term!

Mufti Day Thursday 8th February

The NSPCC were here a few weeks ago delivering their Speak out and Stay safe assemblies and workshops. We would like to raise some money to make a donation to thank them for coming. Therefore we will have a mufti day on Thursday 8th February with donations of £1.00.

Term Finishing

Please note that our last day of term is **Thursday 8th February.**

Praise assembly

This week's assembly is Banyan Tree class at 2.45pm on Friday. The next praise assembly is Acorn unit on Thursday 8th February at 2.45.

Kind	regards

Hilary Priest

Dartington

Tickets are free; carers and family members welcome

Songs & Scones - Live Music Now + SW Music School

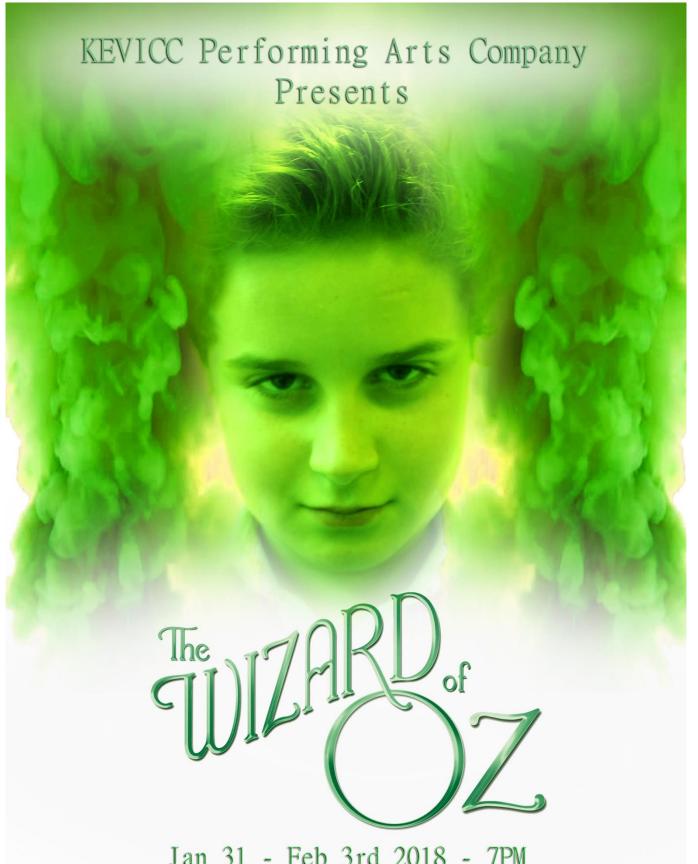
Tuesday 13th February, 3pm, Space Studio 3, Dartington

This concert is aimed at Senior Citizens + Carers/Family Members and is suitable for people living with dementia Please inform the Box Office of any Access Requirements we can assist with - 01803 847070

Tickets are free but please book them below

The concert is for I hour and will be followed by refreshments in the Garden Room Cafe

Songs and Scones: Musicians from Live Music Now and South West Music School (SWMS) are putting on a special performance aimed at older people living in care homes and the community. This is part of a three-day residency at Dartington in which talented young musicians from SWMS will be learning from Live Music Now's wide experience of working with older people, including those living with dementia. Come and join us for an hour of eclectic music making from some of the country's finest young professional and up-and-coming musicians, followed by refreshments.



Jan 31 - Feb 3rd 2018 - 7PM KEVICC Ariel Theatre - Tickets £9 and £7 Students £8 and £6 - From Finance 01803 869200