



## 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](https://www.facebook.com/thegroveschool)

**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Spring 2**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**11th January 2017**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

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

The children's Child Assault Prevention CAP workshops ran this week and have been exceptionally well received by all the year groups. The sessions were pitched particularly well and the children have learnt so much about how to look after themselves. Thank you again for the PTA funding this. Snowbell Tree class have started their swimming lessons. Sam Lyndon is in this half term and is working with various classes teaching and playing Handball which part of school sports partnerships.

### **Flame Tree Class**

Year 5 are now coming towards the end of their topic all about Ancient Greece. We have been writing myths, creating lego water wheels, designing, making and testing Greek boats, learning about Greek inventions and creating pieces of art. Today we have had a day of mosaic making, creating mythological creatures, learning about Ancient Greek Gods and much more. To top it all off we have made and enjoyed a delicious Greek Banquet (as part of the children's cooking contributions) consisting of Greek Gazapacho, Greek Salad, Keftedes and Greek Yoghurt Pancakes. All very delicious. Ask your children for the recipe!

### **Leadership and management**

We started the year on Tuesday last week with a teacher training session lead by an external expert in education looking at how classroom displays can have the greatest impact on learning which was brilliant. And we have refocused the school community on keeping our 1-year-old school looking great – we are even planning a 'best-kept class' award decided by the new School Councillors! We have also been working on ensuring any additional support for children has as great an impact as possible and have been working with all the teachers and TAs to ensure this. We have reorganised our website to make it easier to navigate – we are happy to receive feedback on this new layout as we are no experts on websites!

### **The Governing body**

As well as our usual business items this term the governors will be looking more deeply into Writing, Maths and ICT use within the Curriculum. We will be investigating ways of improving school attendance percentages which are still below other schools like us. We will be following on from two great presentations we received from staff about Early Years and Forest Schools. We are exploring working more closely with other schools and on the new class structure for 2017.

### **School council**

New members will be meeting with Ms Caldwell for the first time on Monday. This week we are asking Willow Tree class if they could make cakes to sell after school to raise money for CRY.

### **School Office Interruptions**

Please could all parents and carers all try to remember to give their children all that they need for the day. The office has become very busy with the following interruptions:

Water bottles  
Snacks  
Lunch boxes  
Bookbags  
Coats  
PE kits  
Forest School Kit  
Music Books  
Musical Instruments  
Homework  
Shear Soccer Kits and after school snacks  
Swimming Kits  
Messages for the children

All of these have to be taken to the children in their class which takes time but also interrupts their learning.

### **Staff Absences**

There are none planned this week.

### **Praise Assemblies which all start at 2.45pm**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Year 3 Ginkgo Tree Class  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 5 Flame Tree Class  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1 and 2 Lime Tree Class  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 1 and 2 Willow Tree Class  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Year 1 and 2 Banyan Tree Class  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Year 4 Maple Tree Class  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 Snowbell Tree Class  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Reception Carob and Beech Tree Class

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

### NEW ADULTS TAP CLASS



STARTING MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

9.30am – 10.30am £5 per class @ Follaton Community Hall, Totnes

Call Jo for details (Tianna & Mackenzie's Mum)

01803-431847 / 07811-132866

### Community Tree Planting

There is a Community Tree Planting Event taking place in Bridgetown for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan - 21 trees are being planted to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

Meet at Furze Road at 11am wearing your wellie boots and gardening gloves – plant trees along a planned route around Bridgetown and then join in the free bar B Q after.

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.

### Caring Town Totnes Job Vacancy

Caring Town Totnes are looking for 2 warm, friendly and organised people (the Connectors) to staff a new Caring Town Information Service on a part-time job-share basis, for a total of 20 hours per week.

This fixed term self-employed contract will be for an initial 5 month period from February to June 2017 inclusive, based in central Totnes. The rate will be £11 per hour and some Saturday hours will be required. Training will be provided. The Caring Town Information Service (CTIS) aims to connect local people who have questions or needs, to the most appropriate local services, groups or activities related to health, welfare and well being. This initial period is one of set-up and learning, and flexibility will be required.

CTIS is a partnership between Caring Town and Totnes Town Council. The application **deadline is Sunday 15th January 2017**. For more information please contact Fiona on 07922 165564 or email at [fionaward@caringtowntotnes.org.uk](mailto:fionaward@caringtowntotnes.org.uk).