



### **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: Summer 5**

**Telephone 01803 862018  
25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last day of term is this Friday. We hope you enjoy having 2 weeks holiday. School returns on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee this Friday**

Plans are going well to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on Friday. We will be holding a 'street party' event for the children at lunch time and as well as their usual lunch meal we are providing some extra treats. The kitchen will be providing a Jubilee party picnic lunch which will include sandwiches, sausage rolls, pizza, cake and crudités. So that we can all gather on the field to eat lunch together, we would be grateful if the children could bring in picnic blankets or similar for the classes to sit on. These can be brought in on Friday morning.

We would also like the children to dress in their finery as royals, or in red, white and blue as a mufti day. Children are going to be able to enter a 'crown' competition where they can win prizes for the most creative crowns they can make. They can do this at home but we will also provide an opportunity in school so that all children get the chance to make a crown (children can choose their favourite to enter in the competition). These can also be brought in on the morning. Fingers crossed for sunshine!

#### **Drop off at the front of school**

I've been on duty at the front of school for some time now and I wanted to thank everyone for their courteous behaviour in a tricky bit of road geography! Could you just remind your children to stay on the pavements and close to the wall on Bluebell hill and if they want to pass someone to use a loud 'excuse me please' rather than nipping onto the road to pass them. Also can you make sure if your dog enjoys the trip to school too that they are kept away from children who don't know them – some children are quite nervous around dogs.

#### **Reflecting on this half term**

Well, we seemed to have packed so much into this very short half term that it has felt longer than the 5 weeks it has been! We have had some highlights this term – lovely to have the Elizabethan dancing back, not so lovely to have KS1 and KS2 SATs back but the children have been great as always. Year 1/2 enjoyed a trip to Goodrington, Y3/4 to Sharpham and to a theatre production, Y6 to Woodlands and EYFS have had the chance to share their learning and school life with their parents. Next term we are planning an open school session for parents on 4<sup>th</sup> July from 3:30 – 5:00 where parents can pop in, see learning throughout school and chat to teachers.

One highlight of the year has to be the Flash mob dance event that the staff surprised the children with to celebrate International Dance Day!! Dancing to the tune of 'Get Lucky' staff performed a practiced dance routine in front of the whole school after a fire drill!!! It was great for the children to see how much fun our staff are after such a hard couple of years for us all— many thanks go to Mrs Biggins for organising this!

## **School Improvement focus areas for the children**

The whole school have some areas of focus which we are working on perfecting currently. The children have been encouraged to ensure their books are presented well, their classrooms are kept tidy and they are challenged with trying to keep hold of their own possessions like jumpers!! We will be celebrating their efforts in Friday assemblies.

A number of children have fallen into a tricky habit to solve – the pencil grip! If children don't use the standard pencil grip they find they use their whole hand, arm and shoulder for writing rather than just moving their fingers with the flow of the pencil. It can be limiting to have an incorrect pencil grip. Perhaps you could encourage your children at home to correct theirs? Here is a useful YouTube link to show you what to do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPg9qpq6Hhg>

## **MAYOR CHOOSING CEREMONY**

Last Thursday, Maya and Zoe in Year 6 represented The Grove at The Mayor Choosing Ceremony. They really did us proud and confidently read a poem they had written.

Children were asked to write a poem and enter their poem into a competition – the winners attended the ceremony. The other poems were so good that we thought you would like to read them. They are attached to this newsletter. ENJOY

## **Free School Meals**

Devon County Council have been allocated money from the government's new Household Support Fund so we can provide supermarket vouchers to families whose children currently receive benefit-related free schools meals for one week at May half term and the full six weeks of the summer holiday.

Hundreds of schools across the county have helped to distribute the vouchers for the upcoming May half-term, and families are urged to check their email inbox and redeem them as soon as possible before they expire. Please get in touch with our free school meals team if you were expecting to receive a voucher but didn't, by emailing [freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk) or calling [0345 155 1019](tel:03451551019).

You can signpost families who didn't previously qualify for free school meals but their income has recently reduced or stopped, **please apply online through our website**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>

to check eligibility for this support as soon as possible. Alternatively, they can call our education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

**Find out more about the holiday voucher scheme [here](#)**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme/>

## **Governor Update**

Quite a busy period for us since my last update with meetings for both committees (Resources and Teaching & Learning), a full board meeting last night, meeting the school advisors on their latest visit and also spending time after school last month with staff in their curriculum teams. There we talked through the amazing work they have put into making the whole curriculum fun and engaging for the children. We are also working with the school leadership team to review and update our equality policy to ensure we include the children's voice - via the School Council - in our equality objectives.

We will be using the time between now and the end of the summer term to review our strategic priorities as a board, to better align our cycle of business and visits to school with the School Improvement Plan and the termly actions it contains. There is an ever increasing amount of statutory tasks we need to do, but we have committed to ensuring we give even more time to the areas which have the greatest impact on the children - such as the implementation of SEND strategies, learning walks and continuing our conversations with the curriculum teams.

I would like to pass on our thanks to all staff, your passion for the children and to achieving continual improvement across the school is credit to The Grove.

Have a lovely half term,

Ian Stewart, Chair of Governors

## **PTA Cake Sale**

Another amazing cake sale week – wonderful cakes and bakes and generous purchasers! We raised an impressive £110 which is amazing! It is the turn of **CHESTNUT Tree class this week**. I would be so grateful if any of the Chestnut Tree children, parents or carers could bake or donate cakes for this week. Please drop off your bakes

and cakes in the morning, either at the front entrance with Rebecca or at the back entrance (we'll be at one of the tables on the back field). All cakes will be 50p (cash only), there will be tables set up at both entrances and we ask for you to not crowd the cakes and patiently wait your turns. The week after we return from holidays (Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June) will be the turn of OAK Tree class so please get your best recipes at the ready!

### **PTA Summer Fete**

A reminder to you that we are beginning to collect for the Summer Fete (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 17.00-20.00). if you're having a clear out over the holidays or could consider any donations this is an idea of what we would really appreciate:

- 1) Raffle prizes. We are really grateful to local businesses/companies for your donations to our raffle. This always gets a lot of interest so if any of you are able to personally make a donation or ask a company on our behalf that would be great. Anything from a voucher or a hamper made up or a product from a shop would be ideal
- 2) Teddy bears and cuddly toys. A much loved stall at the fairs. We antibac wash and rename the toys for the children to adopt.
- 3) Small toy amnesty. Rather than buying more plastic prizes etc we love to reuse what many of us have sat in draws and cupboards at home. These also make exciting and sometimes slightly unusual lucky dip prizes.
- 4) Tombola prizes. Bottles, jars, chocolates and unwanted gifts are ideal for this stall so please have a check through cupboards or pick up an extra bottle when you next do your shop!

Please drop all donations off at the front desk with either EMILY ROWLEY or JENNI ROWE written on it. If you have any questions please email me [pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

*Adverts – please note that the school is neither recommending nor supporting the adverts below. If you wish to advertise in our newsletter then please contact the school for details.*



# English in Totnes

A boutique language school in beautiful Devon

# Do you have a spare room?

**Planning your holiday? Worried about bills? Need extra income?**

English in Totnes are looking for friendly Homestay hosts in and around Totnes to host our junior and young adult students for 2 weeks+ particularly in July and August - but we have enquiries from students of all ages all year around.

**We offer generous rates of pay and have 24/7 support for our hosts**

**Please contact us on 07468 510892  
or at**

**[info@englishintotnes.com](mailto:info@englishintotnes.com)**



English in Totnes, Gate House, 2 High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5RZ

T: +44 (0) 7760 309246, E: [info@englishintotnes.com](mailto:info@englishintotnes.com),

W: [www.englishintotnes.com](http://www.englishintotnes.com)

Registered in England and Wales. Company no: 07116300. Registered at the above address.



Help needed! English in Totnes need host families in Totnes and surrounding villages from 25<sup>th</sup> June to end of July 2022, for either:

- shared room- 2 students per room full board juniors (£161 per student per week, packed lunch) Totnes and surrounding villages or
- single room 16-18 year old half board young adults (£140 per student per week) Totnes only.  
We are so pleased to be back in business after the pandemic but we need your help!  
Contact Richard on 07468510892.

# RIVERSCHOOL

Where nature is the teacher & the river is our guide



**May 31st, 1st & 2nd June**

9.30am to 4.30pm from Tuckenhay (Near Totnes)

£40 /day

Sibling Rate & Benefits Price £35/day

Individual day bookings also available



- Experience Canoes, Kayaks & Paddleboards
- Bushcraft & river skills
- Wildlife & River care
- Nature art and craft
- Raft building
- Archery
- Wild swimming
- Story telling
- Campfire cooking
- Wood fired pottery

**Activities**  
may include



## HOLIDAY CLUB



### Where are we?

From the quayside in Tuckenhay (Near Totnes)

Each day will run from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

**RIVER  
SCHOOL**

Our provision is delivered by Canoe Adventures Ltd, operating since 1999 with a proven, accredited safety track record.

**Use the link below to book:**

<https://canoeadventures.co.uk/adventures/>

**river-school**

(Places are limited so please book early)

Email: [hello@riverschool.org.uk](mailto:hello@riverschool.org.uk)

Tel: 07706 343744

[www.facebook.com/riverschool.org/](http://www.facebook.com/riverschool.org/)





# LEAF OPEN FARM SUNDAY

VISIT A FARM AND DISCOVER THE WORLD OF FARMING

Find out about the story behind our food and the work farmers do to manage the countryside

Come and join us at **Daynes Farm**

Harberton, Totnes, TQ9 7FB

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**11am—4pm**

What three words: compacts.trees.expand



Together Daynes Farm and The South Devon AONB welcome you to spend a day on the farm. There will be farm tours, tractor and trailer rides and sheep shearing demonstrations.

Meet the cows & calves, sheep & lambs, goats & kids, chickens and our Tamworth pigs. Take part in children's craft activities & milk our cow. See how we farm with nature and the environment. Find out about the Farming in the Protected Landscape programme.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Any questions please email [info@daynesfarm.com](mailto:info@daynesfarm.com) or call 07815902604



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