



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

URGENT NOTICE:

The school entrance from Heath Way (near Zebra crossing) will be closed on Friday for resurfacing. Please use the front school entrance (Blueball Hill), sorry for any inconvenience but it is good to get the resurfacing done at last!

What's happening in school this week and next

Pancake Day Racing on Monday was really fun and thanks to all those who came to watch the children it was great fun. Maple Tree Class went to Totnes Library today as the Library are working in collaboration with Transition Town Totnes on their Earth Stories project, and have offered some free storytelling workshops to the school. The sessions will be run by professional storyteller Elly Crichton Stuart and will introduce the children to the idea of an 'earth story' and will help them create their own. Ginkgo Tree Class and Flame Tree Class will be going in a few weeks.

Bag2School

We raised £104.00. We were given 140 kilos of clothing and shoes, so thank you so much. We will be repeating this in the Summer term so keep on one side your items for then.

World Book Day Thursday 2nd March

World Book day vouchers will be sent out with children today. Children can use these vouchers to swap for a FREE World Book Day Book or get a £1 off any book or audiobook worth £2.99 or more at your local book store. We have Usborne Books holding a book fair on Monday 6th March in our studio during the day and in the hall at school pick up time and the vouchers can also be used at this event as well.

Tomorrow (Thursday 2nd March) children can come dressed as a character from a book, bring a voluntary donation and the money that is raised will be spent on books for your own class.

Choir Club and 11 plus familiarisation club

Unfortunately Choir Club has had to be cancelled for today and next week the 8th March. The club will then run for another two weeks on Wednesday 15th and 22nd March (last one). Miss Smith will be on the Year 6 residential on the last week of term. Also the 11 Plus club is not on today as well. Sorry for any inconvenience caused. Notes were given to all children earlier in the week.

Leadership and Management and The Governing body

The Governors had training yesterday on Governor roles and responsibilities which was very useful. We have also been working on developing the schools Equality policy – see a copy of this on our website: http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/policies_and_data_protection/138107
We are looking at developing an action plan and putting together a task group of staff and governors. We will be looking at ways to involve children, parents and members of the community – if you are interested in being on this task group and have some expertise in equality please let us know.

Class structure feedback

Please find on page 3 of this newsletter the class structure feedback summary, with many thanks for your input which will be considered at the next full governing body meeting.

School Council

We have the last few classes to bake for our Friday CRY fundraising stall. The dates in advance are - Friday 3rd March Carob & Beech tree classes, Friday 10th Maple tree class and Friday 17th Flame tree class. Please drop off cakes/biscuits at reception. You will notice some school councillors running the stall - please encourage children to line up.

The school councillors awarded the 'Best kept class' certificate to Banyan tree class this week. Well done Banyan for keeping their classroom tidy and being proud of our new building!

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers

We have started collecting them. In July 2016 we collected 1729 active kids vouchers and purchased 2 rounders bats, a chipping trainer set and a bull nosed javelin. Please send in your vouchers.

Praise Assemblies

Praise assembly this week is Willow Tree Class on Friday at 2.45pm. The next praise assembly is Banyan Tree Class on Friday 8th March at 2.45 pm.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

Pre-loved Clothes Sale

Dartington Village Hall
Saturday 11th March, 10-2pm
Refreshments available.

Contact Kath Grimshaw (Laurie's mum, year 3) for more details 07523006211

Summary of feedback on class structure changes

Summary of responses and sentiment of feedback per child

	Reception	Y1/2	Y3	Y4	Y5
negative	0/32	2/90	1/30	5/30	8/30
positive	1/32	9/90	1/30	1/30	2/30
neutral questions	0/32	2/90	0/30	0/30	4/30
no comment	31/32	77/90	28/30	24/30	16/30

Comments:

Note: to avoid repetition we have grouped similar comments together and summarised the main theme.

The youngest/oldest children don't stay youngest/oldest in a class.
There is the ability to change class member groups and alter group dynamics.
Better preparation for Secondary school, making the transition much less stressful.
Prepares children better for change.
Children can mix with greater amount of children from different year groups – not just 30 friends but 90/135 friends to choose from.
Still capacity to foster close friendships.
I can see the benefits of mixed age teaching and not crossing the Key Stage boundaries.
I'm really pleased about mixing the year 5's up, I think it will be really good for my child.
This gives opportunities for children to build new friendships.
We feel it is important to support the school and staff in changes, we are not in the position to predict the outcomes and we have no doubt that you wouldn't implement them if it wasn't necessary or you felt it was a detrimental move for the children.
We are fully supportive of The Grove School – the professionals will make the best decisions for our children.
I am happy with the Year 1 arrangements.
There are no children my child would happily leave behind. Year 4 work well together.
My child finds transition stressful, having it for 2 years running will not be good for them.
I fully understand the funding pressures and appreciate The Grove is looking for ways to maximise income to get the best teaching environment.
Mixed classes have been beneficial with mature behaviour being modelled.
I can completely understand the need for a separate EYFS and the clear Key Stage division between Y1/2 and Y3/4.
We welcome the change of arrangements – my child will be able to be the eldest in the class rather than always the youngest.
I can see sense in keeping the key stages together and the shared curriculums.
I'm pleased with the restructuring so children don't always remain the eldest in the class.
I'm disappointed my child is experiencing yet more disruption – my child is distraught – I can see no point in separating the class.
We are very positive about the mixed classes proposed and totally support mixed age teaching as it enriches the learning environment.