



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

World Book Day – Friday 23rd March

Come dressed as a book character, bring a donation and help raise money for your class. Any donations received will pay for books for your child's class.

Clubs

This is the last week of clubs except for Shear Soccer.

PTA News

Huge thanks to our wonderful bakers in Acorns, Willow, Lime, Banyan and Kapok. Our cake sale last week raised £74.00 and this week it has raised £105.00. This money is so important to help raise much needed funds for our school.

Tomorrow is the turn of **Ginkgo and Flame** to bake! Can all cake donations be given to your child's class or to Rebecca at reception in the morning please. Cakes will be on sale from 3.10pm. If you are a keen baker, please feel free to bake any week, all donations will be gratefully received by both the PTA and the children who really look forward to our cakes sales!

Easter Hamper

Our Easter Hamper competition costs £1.00 a square and this time we have a first, second and third prize. The winners will be drawn during our last assembly of term. If you would like a chance to win, please see Rebecca at reception. Thank you to all the members of Staff who have donated eggs, craft activities and treats to make such lovely Easter Prizes to help raise money for our school.

Bags2school

Please look out for your bag, they will be coming home with your children this week. Remember that you can use any bag but we will have extras in school if you need them. Have a good sort out over the Easter break ready for our collection on Wednesday 25th April. You can find information on the bags as to what can and cannot be donated.

Our last bag2school collection raised just under £150, so let's see if we can smash that total this time.

PTA Meeting

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 28th March at 7.30pm. This meeting will be held at Kellie Bishop's house. If you are interested in coming along please email Kellie and Jenni on pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk so we have an idea of numbers. At this meeting we will be thinking of different and fun ways to fundraise for our school. We will also be looking ahead to planning our summer fair which will be on Friday 13th July. If you have any contributions we would love to hear from you!

Governor News – March 2018

I am writing this in the middle of our second bout of heavy snow, and the school has been closed again, along with other Devon schools. I do regret these missed school days, but safety of pupils and staff is paramount.

The Governing Board held their main termly meeting last week. The theme running through the meeting was how to continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of all pupils at a time when the amount we receive per pupil is being cut.

We discussed the increasing need for SEND support and support for pupils in more difficult circumstances and how to do this with a reduced budget. Every pupil is being monitored in detail and support given to those who lack confidence. The school will be providing dementia, bereavement and mental health training

We received the Head's report which, among many items includes detailed data on school performance, with an increase in those working at greater depth. Attendance could be better, it is not as good as the average primary school. Good attendance is vital to ensure all children receive the very best education.

We discussed collaboration with other schools and are considering the best way to do this, whilst maintaining a strong local school.

We do not have the final budget figures from Devon for April yet, but we do know we are getting less per pupil, which reduces that amount of one to one help we can give, reduces training, insurance and the amount we can spend on basic items for the children. This has been outlined in previous newsletters. The number of pupils in the school is increasing with people moving into the area and transferring from other schools. However, we do not get any additional money until April 2019 unless we manage to qualify for a little through growth funding. The governors have written to our local MP expressing concern about this and has been offered a meeting. Any letters individual families can write to our MP will strengthen our cause.

We still do not have a full governing body and are particularly interested in anyone who can take a lead on finance for the board. You do not have to be an accountant, some experience with budgets would be useful, but training will be offered. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact me via the school.

Mike Waterson

Chair of Governors

Praise assembly

This week's praise assembly is Lime Tree class at 2.45pm. The following weeks praise assembly will be Ginkgo Tree class on **Thursday** 29th March at 2.45pm.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

Totnes Rolyalty choosing

Girls and Boys aged 7-18 years all welcome. Methodist Church hall

Friday 23rd March at 6.30pm

£1.00 entry

Must be accompaied by an adult

Carnival Bingo

Tuesday 27th March, Civic Hall, Totnes

Eyes down at 7.30pm All welcome

Desk Space Available

If you are getting cabin fever working from home and want to meet lovely people, drink nice coffee and be in the centre of town, then Castle Street is where it is at! We have desk space available now our lovely period building, less than one minute walk from the Totnes Brewery. Shared office with friendly people. Desks are £150 + VAT per month all in. Contact andy@weheartdigital.co.uk to arrange a viewing.