



### Weekly Newsletter

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**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Autumn 1**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**6<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year at The Grove, all the children and staff are all settling very quickly and smiles are filling the school. Please do let us know if your child has any wobbles though and we will do our best to address them as quickly as possible.

### **Parking**

South Hams District Council sell Resident Parking Permits which allow you to park in car parks operated by South Hams District Council (except Dartmouth Park and Ride car park). You can park seven days a week, between the hours of 3.00pm and 10.00am. They cost £40 and are available online or from Follaton House. Please try to use these facilities rather than parking on The Grove or Grove Mews. We have found that parking on the yellow lines can be very dangerous. It is also annoying our neighbours so if you can please try to use the Heath Way entrance and park in the car parks or better still walk in. Please also be warned that we are told that traffic wardens will be monitoring The Grove closely due to the problems that have arisen. If you need to use the disabled access parking for our school, please phone ahead for Rebecca to remove the chain. Many thanks for your understanding on this matter.

### **Safeguarding and Security at The Grove School for New Parents**

The entrance at Heath Way will only be open from 8.45 -9.15 and 3.10 -3.30 and closed for the rest of the school day. Any parents, carers or visitors needing to come into school will need to use the front/main entrance (double glass doors). This avoids visitors making the long walk past the children in the playground and in their classrooms. Also all children and parents are to be off site by 3:30pm unless in a club or attending Orchard club. Playing on the field and climbing frames is reserved for KS2 children only in the morning before school.

### **NUTS!**

**PLEASE NO NUTS IN SCHOOL** – due to some severe allergies in school we have been a no nuts school for some time now. We have children with allergies in both key stages so we need to be careful on the playground and in the dinner hall at all times. Please check the packaging for nut information. Packaged in a factory that handles nuts is okay so long as actual nuts aren't part of the ingredient list. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

### **Uniform, Coats, Lunch boxes, Trainers, Bags etc**

We seem to collect a lot of lost property. Please could you label all your children's belongings so that when we find something we can return it. This also helps with other children's clothes being taken home by the wrong person.

### **Year 6 residential – change of date**

We apologise for any difficulties caused but the centre we attend unfortunately made an error and booked us in for the week ending in Good Friday. For the Year 6 children to attend a full week of residential and not freeze we have opted for an alternative week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November. We realise that this is much shorter notice for payments to be made and if you may struggle with this then please let us know and we can arrange a payment plan. We also are aware that fundraising usually reduces the cost of this trip for parents so we are still planning to fundraise and offer a refund at the end of the school year based on monies raised. The good side is that the trip is always a tremendous success in building confidence and closer relationships within the class so for this to happen earlier will actually be very beneficial. Thank you for your understanding on this matter, more details will follow shortly.

### **Mrs Luff**

We are pleased to announce the safe arrival of the Luff baby girl on 25<sup>th</sup> August weighing 8lbs. They have named her Ethnea Rosa Emily and the whole family adore her.

### **Mrs Gratton and Mrs Barton-Wilkes**

We are pleased to announce that both planned weddings went beautifully well this summer and Miss Abby Smith is now Mrs Abby Gratton and Miss Victoria Barton is now Mrs Victoria Barton-Wilkes, congratulations to both happy couples.

### **Other staff news**

We welcome Miss Rachel Page to our teaching team, she is covering Mrs Bickerstaff's maternity leave.

We also welcome Mrs Sandra Maggs as a SEN support for two hours a week as she has now taken a full time post with St Johns so is no longer the Parent Support Advisor for our area. If you do need any support please contact us and we will help as best we can or direct you to people who can.

We also welcome Mr Peter Daly to the Grove staff as we have taken over his contract from Norse and are very happy that he is now officially part of our team.

We welcome Mrs Sarah Lee, who has also begun her position with us and is mostly based in Willow Tree class.

We also have a temporary TA join us until interviews for a TA post advertised over the summer – we welcome Mrs Jo Clarke into this and are grateful to her for filling the temporary role.

We will be shortlisting this week for the TA position and interviewing shortly.

### **Meal-time Assistant for the Children's Kitchen needed**

We are looking for an additional assistant for the dining hall. Please let us know if you might be interested and we can arrange a trial session to see if it would suit you.

### **PTA Update**

Over the summer holiday the PTA raised £1000 manning the staff park. Car parking spaces were available to people visiting Totnes for £4 to park all day. Thank you very much to all involved and we still need volunteers to help with this successful fundraiser the rota is available with Rebecca.

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

We are all settling back into the school year this week – please check the website for classes for the term's timetable and curriculum coverage, these will be on within the next week. We will be having a fire drill tomorrow to get all the new children used to the procedure and the noise! If your child has an issue with loud sirens please let their class teacher know.

### **Shear Soccer**

Information and booking forms are available from reception. The club is due to start next week.

Tuesdays, Years 1 & 2 September 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

Wednesdays, Year 3,4, 5 & 6 September 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Volunteers wanted in Reception Unit**

Are there any parents who would be able to help on a regular basis on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Reception Unit. If anyone is on a Teaching Assistant or Early Years course then this is an ideal option for class based experience. Please email Miss Clark on [sclark@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:sclark@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)

### **Swimming**

Due to the swimming pool being closed at the end of term, the children from Banyan and Lime tree class who have had 4 swimming sessions will have their 5<sup>th</sup> swimming session on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Praise Assemblies**

Ginkgo, Kapok and Flame are going to do a joint praise assembly this term to do something a little different, this will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm, this will just be for a parent audience as children will watch it in the morning.

Other dates, all at 2:45pm:

20<sup>th</sup> October - Willow Tree class

3<sup>rd</sup> November – Guava Tree Class (Year 6)

17<sup>th</sup> November Bay Tree Class (Year 5)

24<sup>th</sup> November Lime Tree Class

1<sup>st</sup> December Banyan Tree Class

8<sup>th</sup> December – Acorn Early Years Unit's Nativity (Reception)

### **Other dates for this term:**

Term dates are all on our school website.

30<sup>th</sup> October Themed week – 'we are scientists'

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November parent consultations

2<sup>nd</sup> December PTA Christmas Fair

Christmas productions dates tbc

Kind regards

Hilary Priest



## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

### **How does it work in Devon?**

**A session for parent carers**

What support is there for children with SEND?  
What is 'assess, plan, do, and review'?  
What do all these changes mean for me and my family?  
What is the SEND Local Offer?

We will help you to understand the system in Devon.

**DATE:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**TIME:** 1pm – 3pm

**VENUE:** The Grove Primary School, Totnes, TQ9 5ED

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/send-parent-information-event-totnes-tickets-36773272849>