



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Sorry for it being a long letter this week – but it is all important so please read until the end!

FRIDAY Children in Need Fundraising event - MUFTI

It is that time of year again when we wear non-uniform and raise money for Children In Need Charity. We talked about it in assembly on Monday and this year's theme is 'Spotify' so children can come dressed in spots or wearing something spotty. Some children fancied an animal theme so they could come dressed as an animal or if they don't like dressing up then just wear their own clothes and bring an animal teddy with them but don't forget the money donation to make it all worthwhile.

Staff news

I feel I need to take a moment to explain my lack of presence in school since half term. Sadly, my mother passed away last week but I was lucky enough to be able to sit with her in her last few days. I am back at work now but the funeral will clash with the school Christmas Fair so please accept my apologies for not being there with you. Thank you for the kind thoughts and hugs I have received; they are much appreciated in this difficult time.

Good news for after school child care

We have some good news for you. Laura Cumming, Daisy and Marley's mum, has come forward to run an after school provision. She will be sending out some final questions to you shortly but is hoping to start soon. The club will be called 'The Orchard @ The Grove' and you will be able to contact Laura via theorchard@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk. More details to follow soon but I'm aware some of you are in desperate need and wanted an update as soon as we had one.

What's happening in school this week and next

The children are all really busy rehearsing for shows, there is a lot of singing and dancing taking place in the hall and studio. On Monday after school some children went to the Dart Hockey League which is being held at KEVICC. Tonight there is a Tag Rugby competition. It is being held at KEVICC Astro for Years 3 and 4 between 4-5.30pm. Key stage 1 and 2 have continued with their cooking. So far children have made porridge, flapjacks, shortbread biscuits and hedgehog shaped bread rolls and courgette cake. There are lots of lovely smells coming from the little kitchen. Key stage 2 tend to do more home cooking and planning skills of whole meals so will generally have cooking projects on the go rather than weekly sessions.

Leadership and Management

We are currently in the first week of a fortnight of assessment weeks when teachers carry out more formal assessments to enhance their Teacher Assessments. Teachers all then meet with me (the Headteacher), Mrs Wilkinson (the deputy head) and Ali Stewart (the special needs coordinator) to discuss every single child and their attainment and progress against the national curriculum. We gain an overview of all of your children but also contribute to any provision they require to support their learning and development. You will have had a full briefing on the Teacher's assessment of your child at the parent consultations but should you wish more then do drop me a quick email and I will do my best to get back to you as quickly as I can after the last of the 'class reviews' on the 8th December. head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk.

Governor news on a school visit last Friday

Karen Henderson, co-opted governor (and parent of Nancy in Y1) reports:

It was great to see such a positive atmosphere with enthusiastic staff and engaged children having fun while learning. It was great to see how the new building is being used and learn about the school's policy to teach outside the classroom if this suits what is being taught, using the spaces available in the school to their full. It was also interesting to learn how new technology is being integrated into learning and in particular how it is improving the work being done in Reception classes with the new tapestry programme.

Christmas Shows

Children will have to have a packed lunch on the day of their performance.

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will need a packed lunch on Wednesday 30th November. Please PRE-ORDER a school Packed Lunch for your child for £2.20 (This is free for children in KS2 who are entitled to Free School Meals)

Children in Years 1 and 2 will need a packed lunch on Wednesday 7th December. Please PRE-ORDER the FREE school Packed Lunch with the class teacher or with Rebecca.

The choice is Ham, Cheese, Tuna, Egg or Cucumber sandwich on brown bread, piece of cake, yoghurt, fruit and water (all dietary needs will be catered for).

This does not include Reception children.

Change of Time for the afternoon performance of the Key Stage 2 (Y3,4,5 and 6) Christmas Show

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Show 'When Sasha got sucked up the Chimney' will be at the revised time of 1.15pm on Wednesday 30th November instead of 2.00pm. This gives us more time either side to get to and from KEVICC. The evening show will still be at 6.00pm.

Letters are going out today for you to order your tickets.

Christmas Lunch

The date for our whole school Christmas Lunch is Wednesday 14th December. We would like parents and carers to come in and help with setting up and serving on this lovely festive lunch day. Crackers have already been ordered!

School Council

The other week we told you that every class wanted to help towards the refugee crisis so this term we will be fundraising for CRY. We are going to collect used stamps. This is a simple yet very effective way to support them. There is a box in reception for the used stamps. Stamps on paper should have no more than 5mm thickness border.

PTA Fundraising

The PTA are pleased to say that some of the money donated by you will be used for two things very soon. First, we are in the process of getting the messy area by the back gate cleared and set up for more on-site forest school activities. We are really excited to make a long term change to the school in this way. We are also going to fund CAP (Child Assault Prevention), to do workshops with all of the children and the parents. They are a local organisation who have been going for years, they will cover child protection issues but also Cyber protection for children, bullying on mobile phones and a parent workshop for parents to talk about any concerns. This has been requested by parents. Please see page 4 of this newsletter and put **Monday 12th December from 5:30-7pm** in your diaries for a parent session with the CAP team where you can hear about the learning they will undertake with the children but also is a chance for you to ask questions to increase awareness of how to protect your children.

Christmas Fair Update

The PTA have managed to get some 5ft Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees to sell at the fair on Saturday 3rd December. They will be bagged all ready to be picked up and taken away. This variety do not drop needles. These trees are locally grown and will be freshly cut. There will only be 50, so if you want one you can buy it at the fair for £35.00 and then take it when you leave.

The PTA also need to start collecting used toys and books for the Christmas Fair. There will be boxes in the classrooms or by reception for you to put your donations in. Also, they need volunteers to help on the day, with setting up, packing up, manning stalls if required.

Pick a Pocket

We need people to make small prizes for the Pick a Pocket that will be at the Christmas Fair. The children pay 50p per item so please keep it small. Boys items are very welcome.

Poppies

Thank you to all that purchased a crocheted poppy last week. We raised £60.00 which was split between the British Legion and the PTA.

Raffle Tickets

On Thursday each child will be given two books of raffle tickets for the school Christmas Raffle which will be held at the Christmas Fair. This year we have many amazing prizes including tickets for the X Factor Final, an Adult Micro-scooter worth £180, days out, and more. The ticket price this year is £1 and we are aiming for the raffle to raise more this year for many amazing school projects. Please ask family, friends, neighbours and as many other people as possible to buy tickets. Can you please return the tickets along with money by Friday 25th November.

Netball for mums and friends of parents

Great news!! We now have an indoor venue for the winter months at KEVICCS. We have hired the sports hall for Tuesday evenings from 6.45pm - 7.45pm. As we have to pay for the venue there will be a charge of £2.50 per session. We are looking for more players and would like to encourage lots of new mums and friends of parents to come along and join in the fun! All ages and abilities welcome! Please get in touch with Vikki Drew (mum to Anna in Y4) on derhamvictoria@hotmail.com or 07720430420 for more information or pop along to the session next Tuesday.

Praise Assemblies – all assemblies will be on Fridays at 2:45pm

Praise assembly this week is Ginkgo Tree Class on Friday and the next praise assembly is Lime Tree Class on Friday 25th November at 2.45 pm.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

MESSY CHURCH

SATURDAY, November 19th at 3.30-5.30pm

at St John's Church, Bridgetown.

the theme is

ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS

Have you received a polling card recently?

Polling cards are being delivered for a referendum which gives local people the right to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the proposed community-led development of the Dairy Crest site, next to the train station, known as Atmos Totnes.

This referendum, on the 23 November 2016, is only about Atmos Totnes and does not relate to any other development in or around Totnes.



**Working in partnership with you,
to keep your children safe, strong and free**

The Child Assault Prevention Project will soon be working in school with your children. You are the most important person when it comes to keeping your children safe, and helping them to grow into strong confident people.

Come and see what we do to help your child gain knowledge and strategies to deal with some of the more difficult aspects of growing up.

We discuss keeping safe around bullies, the internet, strangers and known adults.

Our workshops are designed to build children's confidence and self-esteem, they are lively and fun.

The Parents Workshop is your chance to see what we do.

Your chance to have your say.

Please come and be part of our work.

Parents Workshop Date: Monday 12th December

**Time: 5:30pm -7:00pm
(feel free to come for all or part of the workshop)**

www.safestrongfree.org.uk

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