



### 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: Autumn 13**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**9th December 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last TWO days of term are Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and BOTH will be PTA mufti/ non-uniform days. An opportunity for the children to wear their Christmas jumper, a little bit of sparkle or just their favourite outfit. Suggested donation is £2 towards the PTA fundraising efforts. Christmas class party day for all children will now be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and the school dinner for that day will be party food. It will be hotdogs and Chips as usual on the Friday.

### **Track and Trace**

Schools are an essential part of track and trace should there be a positive case in a school, so it is crucial that you contact us if there is a positive case for one of the children attending the school. This is still needed into the school holidays until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Please use my email address [head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk) which I will check daily in case this happens. Please note though that I won't be reading all my emails once on holiday and will take a proper restful Christmas break with my family so if you could title your email COVID positive case, that would be useful! Please also note that this means you may be contacted right up until 24<sup>th</sup> December to self-isolate your child as a contact for a positive case. Let's hope this doesn't happen but we felt it was best to warn you that it might!

If you have any additional concerns that we could help support you with then please do let us know as soon as possible.

### **GET IT WHILST IT'S STILL AVAILABLE: GINKGO'S MESSAGES FOR THE MIND**

£2.00 per book.

Winner of this year's Nobel Prize for literature and toping the best-seller charts in over 30 countries (we wish!), this book will change your life!! There are only 25 copies left of the first ever print run so your chance to own a 1<sup>st</sup> Edition copy of this book is dwindling. Just imagine how much a 1<sup>st</sup> Edition will be worth in 20 years' time! You'd be able to retire on it if you ever sold it (which you wouldn't because it's AMAZING!).

Contact [admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk) or [adriang@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:adriang@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk) to order today!

## **MINI and JUNIOR DUKE**

A pre-Christmas reminder! How is it going? Hope you have had lots of fun completing some of the challenges this term. Remember - bring your booklet into school and show your class teacher. They will ask you about your challenge and sign it off. Which challenge are you going to take on over the Christmas holidays? Set yourself a target. Remember - I love to hear about what you have been getting up to. Send me photos that I can put on the website too. My email address is: [helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk). Have a great Christmas and Happy Christmas DUKING!!

## **News from the Governors**

The full governing board met for the second time this term on Tuesday, again virtually, and following on from Resources and Teaching & Learning committee meetings in November. We were very pleased to welcome Joel McIlven to the board following his recent election as parent governor and look forward to working with him. The main focus for staff and Governors continues to be the wellbeing of all children and adults in the school community, and it's great to see and hear examples of how the children are enjoying school life, and we want to express our gratitude to all staff for their continued dedication and passion.

The beginning of this school year began with a focus on fun, and this continues through the full curriculum. While this year is very different to previous ones in so many ways, one thing that can't be different is the drive for continuous improvement. The Grove has always been proud of the range of its curriculum, and as a Board with the Head and Deputy Head, we discussed the development of the curriculum and also aims and targets to maintain the brilliant thirst for learning the children show.

The Governors also considered the budget, which continues to be on target, and other key areas such as safeguarding, health & safety and other non-teaching elements of school life. Our objectives as a Board for this year ahead continue to be to support the school staff and children to achieve their best.

We wish you and your families a very merry Christmas.

Ian Stewart

Chair of Governors

## **PTA Update**

I hope all the Christmas Raffle tickets made it home to you – we've already had quite a few returned and we've some fantastic prizes on offer. Each ticket is £1 but please do not feel under any pressure to buy all 5, just one puts you in with a chance of winning one of our fabulous prizes whilst supporting the PTA fundraising. If however you would like more tickets (for grandparents, neighbours etc) please do let me or Rebecca at the front desk know. We would ask that you return the completed ticket with the donation in with your child to give to Rebecca or their class teacher. We have decided to shift the draw date to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> to give you a few more days to get the tickets returned to us and ready for the draw. I am very thankful for a few key supporters of the PTA and some very generous donations. The prizes up for grabs are:

1<sup>st</sup> prize: £100 cash donated by Marchand Petit. Other top prizes: Eversfield Hamper, £30 Neuff voucher, Cott Inn Voucher, £70 yoga voucher from Natalie, £20 Venus Café voucher, Waterside Bistro voucher

Lots more: Bottles of wine, port and mulled wine, chocolates, bags (children's and Cath Kidston), Exeter City FC and Plymouth Argyle FC donations, China Blue ceramics voucher, homeware gifts, over 20 prizes in total!

Follow us on The Grove School & PTA Totnes Facebook page where I'll be posting more details or email me on [pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)

We have always tried to encourage as much recycling and reusing in the school and for our fundraising efforts. So with this in mind; in the New Year we would love to collect all of your Christmas jumpers/tops/outfits that will be too small next year. We will then quarantine them and bundle them up into storage to auction off next year. Please consider this when packing up and tidying up after Christmas.

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.*