



### Weekly Newsletter

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

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone. We hope that everyone had a lovely summer break. The children have come back/started school in a very calm and settled way and they seem to be taking all changes in their stride!

### **What is happening this week and next**

Ginkgo Tree class start their swimming lessons on Monday. Permission slips have already been sent home. Year 5 and 6 are planning to make some jam as part of their forest school and cooking. We would be very grateful for any used jam jars so that we could fill them and if you had any windfall fruit we would be grateful for that too. Adam's Shear Soccer football course will start next Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> for Years 1 and 2. The course will run for 6 weeks. Letters will be available from Rebecca for any new children who want to sign up. Lime Tree class are looking to spruce up their play kitchen so if anyone has any play food or crockery etc that they no longer need please see Mrs Luff.

### **School site times**

Just a polite reminder that we are not responsible for your children after they have left class at 3:15. KS1 and Reception must be collected by a parent/named adult, we strongly recommend that Year 3 and 4 are also collected. If your child is to walk home on their own then please let the class teachers know that this is your chosen method of handover and the children must leave site immediately after class is dismissed and not play in school grounds. Parents and children must leave the school grounds by 3:30 (Cherry is our daily reminder of the time for you!) – this is so that we can re-secure the site for after school clubs, children and staff safety etc. Please ensure you watch your children if they are playing on the field after school and that they behave respectfully and follow our school rules (they know them!) Many thanks.

### **Communication with staff**

We actively encourage a team approach with parents and so communication between us is key. Teachers can be emailed or seen in person, just ensure that your timing of communication means it doesn't interrupt the start of the school day. If you need a longer appointment than just a quick word then please let them know you would like an appointment. If you want to email and are not familiar with the teacher's email address then please initially email either [admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk) or [head@the-grove-primary@devon.sch.uk](mailto:head@the-grove-primary@devon.sch.uk) for us to forward. You can also use these two addresses for admin purposes or to contact the Headteacher.

### **Football League**

Last term on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July our team played in the football league. We won the cup. Well done team!

### **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.

### **Medications in school**

Please could we remind all parents with children that have or need medications on site i.e. inhalers, epipens, antihistamines that these are all checked that they are still in date. We also need to update the health care plans so if there are any changes please let us know.

### **Picking up at 3.15 and messages**

Please could you let the class teacher know in the **morning** who is picking up your children. If there is an emergency and pick up has to change then do call and we will try to pass the message on.

### **Year 6 and secondary school transfer**

All Year 6 children have been given a named envelope which contains an application form to apply for their Secondary school place.

### **Mini and Juke Duke**

To encourage independence and self-motivation, this year, The Grove School is running an Award Scheme called the Junior Duke (KS2) and Mini Duke (KS1). This is aimed to be like a precursor to The Duke of Edinburgh challenge that your child may wish to take on in Secondary School.

There are four levels: in KS2; (Year 3) Bronze, (Year 4) Silver, (Year 5) Gold and (Year 6) Platinum. There are two levels in KS1; (Year 1) Silver and (Year 2) Gold. Each of these levels has ten challenges and, in order to complete a level, the children need to finish seven of these successfully. These include skills such as First Aid, ICT, Languages, Art, Drama, Music, Sport and other life skills such as cookery and puncture repair. The children will be given many of the necessary skills in school, but most of the challenges will require some time and effort out with school.

On completion of a level, a certificate and a badge will be awarded at assembly. All children who complete the Platinum level will receive his or her badge at assembly as soon as they have completed his or her Award, but their certificates will be awarded at a special ceremony near the end of the academic year.

There is a £10 charge each year to cover the cost of the booklet, certificate and badges.

There will be a launch assembly for the children this Friday where a member of Dartmoor Rescue who herself has been through the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and currently assesses Duke of Edinburgh and trains teams for Ten Tors will be talking about her experiences.

Your child will receive a letter with a form to fill in if they wish to take part. The form and money will need to be returned to Rebecca by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Please look out for the letter this Friday. It would be amazing to have as many Grove children take part as possible; the benefits to your child will be huge.

### **Donation to our school**

We would like to thank 'Spirent' for donating £500 towards The Grove school. We will be spending this money on IPADS for the classrooms.



'Spirent' is leading the way in testing, assurance, analytics and security to assure the capabilities and performance of networks, network equipment, devices and services. They provide expert guidance and methodologies to help their customers find clarity in the face of complexity overcome the challenges of a fast-approaching future and ultimately deliver on their promise to their own customers.

## **Great North Run**

As our children return to school this week for another year of fun and learning, I (Ian Stewart) have my own challenge of running the Great North Run in Newcastle this Sunday. It is not something I have done before or even come remotely close to doing, but this is the year. As both a parent and a governor I see the wonderful things The Grove does for our little ones, so I am running as both a personal challenge and to raise money so that Acorn class (reception) can further enhance their outside space - my daughter Bella started reception yesterday and her brother Archie flourished there 2 years ago. I have a fundraising page - <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-enrich-little-lives-the-grove-primary> - if you feel able to donate, but perhaps equally important may be that you send some encouraging thoughts up north on Sunday if you catch the race on TV and see all the other runners taking on their own challenges, and hopefully having some fun too!

## **Forthcoming Dates**

Dates for your calendars will be in next week's newsletter but items are already on our website calendar at <http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/calendar/256154>

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.*



**ART CLUB**  
ages 7 - 11  
**Tuesdays**  
**3.30-5pm**  
**The Mansion, Studio 1**  
**36 Fore St, Totnes TQ9 5RP**  
**Taster sessions available**

- Photography
- Sculpture
- Printing
- Willow
- Animation
- Puppets
- Drawing
- Collage
- Mosaic
- Textiles
- Painting ...& more!

**Advance booking with Elena: 07903 195561**  
**@artmonkeysDevon** **artmonkeysdevon@gmail.com**  
Highly experienced and qualified Art teacher. Full DBS.  
£8.50 Price inc. materials. Concessionary discounts available.

