



# Leading Our School

Issue 14 - November 2017

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## School Priorities for 2017/18 Setting Our Own Direction

The school self-evaluation, planning and review cycle is fundamental to our school improvement agenda. As a team we strive constantly to achieve the best outcomes possible for your children. From staff appraisal targets to the priorities identified in the school development plan, our goals are focused on the strategic priorities that will make Grove Road the best possible Primary School for your children. In a rapidly changing educational landscape we are working to secure Grove Road's position as a leading Hertfordshire Primary School.

### Our long term strategic priorities are to ensure we:

- Maximise the potential of all our learners.
- Attract, develop and retain high quality staff to ensure outstanding provision.
- Ensure financial strength to maintain investment in our learning environments and facilities.
- Pursue collaboration and local partnerships in support of the school's long term priorities.

### Our priorities this year are to:

*Maximise the attainment of any children falling behind by closing progress gaps in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science.*

*Maximise the opportunities for every child to succeed by providing a rich and varied curriculum that enhances pupil enjoyment and engagement, promoting independence and curiosity.*

*Maximise opportunities for all, through the development of a cross-phase Multi-Academy Trust.*

By developing these aspects of learning and curriculum opportunities we hope to improve our outcomes even further, to ensure the best possible opportunities for every child in the school regardless of their starting point.

Our end of Key Stage results in 2017 demonstrated a significant improvement with both progress and attainment exceeding national and Hertfordshire averages. Most importantly the children tell us they enjoy learning at Grove Road and we know that pupils from Grove Road go on to demonstrate excellent attitudes to learning; demonstrating independence and determination.

## Get in Touch

Do you have something you would like to discuss further or would like us to include in future issues of this newsletter? Please contact us on:

**Sharon Sanderson, Head teacher:**

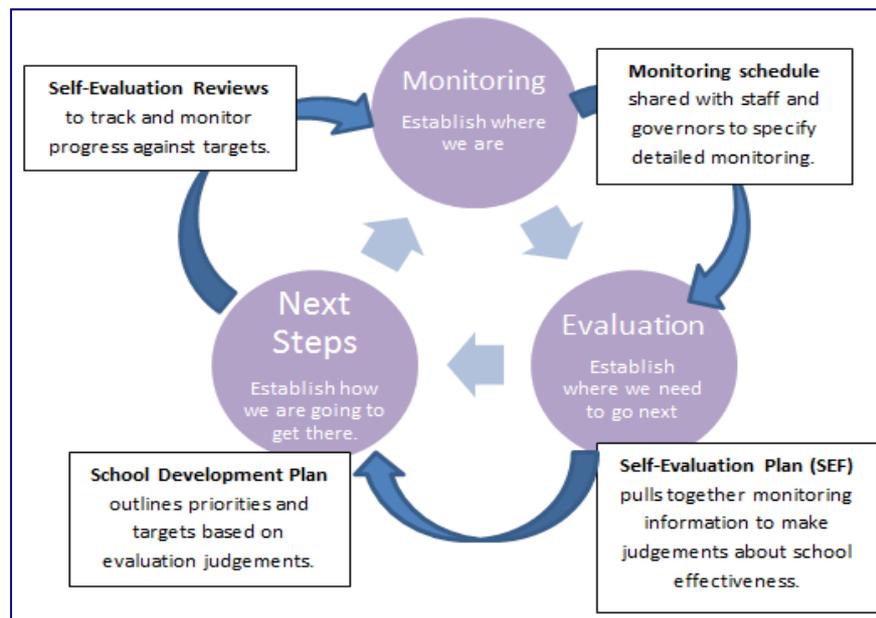
admin@groveroad.herts.sch.uk

### Governing Body:

governors@groveroad.herts.sch.uk

If you don't wish to email, please call the school office on 01442 822056 and leave a message. We will call you back as soon as possible.

Leading Our School is a twice yearly email publication produced by the Governing Body and the school Leadership Team.



## **House Captains**

### **Why did you want to become a house captain?**

- I've watched other house captains and I've always loved the idea of planning and talking at house forums.
- To help my house become a better place, to help people and be able to experience an important role.

### **What are you looking forward to this coming year? What are you looking to bring to the role?**

- Bringing the House Trophy back to Betula where it belongs!! I aim to be approachable, a good role model and lots of fun!
- I'm looking forward to PGL and all the activities at Tring School in preparation for Year 7. I have lots of good ideas, such as an International Day, Pen Pals and a Student Newsletter.
- I would like to raise money to get more play equipment, such as rope swings, tennis nets and table tennis tables etc.

### **If the house captains were in charge of the school for a day, what changes would you make?**

- I would make break/lunch time longer so children can have more time to run around and have fun.
- More chicken pie for lunch and more time on the field!
- School would start at 9.30 am to give us a lie in. In English, there would be more story writing. No Maths and more History, Geography, Drama and PE. We could eat tacos at lunchtime and school would end with a film in the hall (with snacks).

### **What are your own hopes and aspirations for the future?**

- To become an actress as I really enjoy musical theatre. Also I would love to spend a day at Tring Park Performing Arts School to see what their day is like. I would also like to become Head Girl when I am at Tring School!
- I love food and preparing different dishes so I would like to become a top London chef one day and have my own restaurant.

### **How would your friends at Grove Road describe you?**

- Loyal, kind and creative.
- Funny and crazy but also very mature and friendly to everyone.
- Creative and friendly; I try to think of others before myself.

## **Sports Captains**

### **Why did you want to become a sports captain?**

- I love sport and want to help my house win the house cup.
- I would like to encourage people to play more sport and to enjoy it.
- To promote sports and help other people with their confidence.

### **What are you looking forward to this coming year? What are you looking to bring to the role?**

- I am looking forward to helping out on sports day and cheering everyone on at any sports competitions. I would like to write reports on sports competitions, such as the inter-school cross country.
- I am looking forward to encouraging my team and sparking their enthusiasm. I am also looking forward to sports day this year and hoping Acer wins!
- I am trying to help girls build up the confidence to play more sports such as Football.

### **If the sports captains were in charge of the school for a day, what changes would you make?**

- I would make sure every break there was a sports activity that the sports captains organise for everyone.
- Have a teachers versus students football match.
- I would provide a larger range of sporting clubs for during lunch/break and after school, with mixed ages and accessible for all genders and abilities.

### **What are your own hopes and aspirations for the future?**

- I would like to be an Olympic Swimmer and be in team G.B.
- I would like to become the England netball captain.
- I want to achieve a good education and hopefully go to university and become an engineer.

### **How would your friends at Grove Road describe you?**

- A good leader and good at sport.
- Jovial and active on the football pitch and in the swimming pool.
- Fun, energetic and cheerful.
- Energetic and the "Sporty One", as well as the funniest out of all my friends, so I've been told.

**Betula** Roman & Grace, **Aesculus** Archie & Grace  
**Sorbus** Lilly & Thomas, **QUERCUS** Drew & Phoebe  
**Acer** Ronnie & Evie



Jacob and Ellie, Sam and Edie, Josh and Emily,  
Isabelle and Naomi, Isabella and Daniel



## Welcome to Our New teachers



**Sophie Morris**

**Year 4**

I am very excited to join Grove Road this year, teaching in Year 4.

Previously, I did an undergraduate degree in History and went onto do my PGCE through the University of Hertfordshire. During this time, I gained experience teaching across all key

stages but mostly in KS2.

Before that, I taught and coached gymnastics for a number of years, which inspired me to choose a career in teaching. Now, beginning my journey in Year 4, I am excited about teaching all aspects of the curriculum and especially exploring the adventures of the Ancient Mayans!

When it comes to teaching, the best piece of advice I was given was to make learning fun, engaging and relevant and to build lasting relationships with the children.



**Russell Tompkins**

**Year 5**

Even as a child, I found it incredibly rewarding helping my friends to make progress with their school-work, so I think it was inevitable that I would find myself working in the education sector as an adult.

Having previously spent three years teaching up to GCSE level in a secondary

school in Luton, I decided to take on a new challenge, and am excited to be taking my first steps in Primary education as a member of the team at Grove Road.

My subject specialism is in Modern Foreign Languages, having completed a degree in Translation, French and German in 2008, and I hope that my love of languages will rub off on the children, having already introduced my Year 5 class to Foreign Language Friday.

Out of school hours, I am a keen sportsman, playing football regularly, and attending many other sporting events.



**Marco Maranzana**

**Year 3**

I am very happy to return to Grove Road after spending my NQT year in London. I trained at Grove Road through the Schools Direct Programme in 2015/16.

I am a career changer having spent 15 years prior to entering the Teaching profession working

in equities, futures and options trading, operations/IT management and commercial property management.

Through my teaching of the children here at Grove Road I hope to inspire a love of learning and instil a curiosity to question, delve deeper and discover more not only about the academic side of their schooling but also the world around them.



**Danielle Hunt -**

**Year 2**

My love for teaching first came about when I was at Secondary school. I chose Health and Social Care as one of my GCSEs and enjoyed working with children in local Primary Schools both within the course and as a volunteer.

Having decided that I wanted to work with children I then went on to study at the University of Hertfordshire where I achieved my teaching degree. Having worked previously at another school for four years, I decided it was time for a new challenge. I have taught in Reception and Year One and am very excited to continue my journey into Year Two. Having grown up and been educated locally I wanted to return and work for a school in my local area.

I have loved my first few weeks at Grove Road and I am looking forward to the adventures and learning opportunities that lie ahead! The best piece of advice I have been given is to stop and reflect on what you have done well, which is helpful for both myself and the children.

### Grove Road Vision Statement

To maximise the potential of all our children and staff by providing an excellent learning environment that is at the heart of the local community.

## Meeting the Needs of All Our Learners - Our Inclusion Team

Every child at Grove Road is unique and each has their own set of needs and ways of learning. As a mainstream Primary School we aim to meet the needs of every child and personalise the curriculum where possible to suit their preferred learning styles and preferences.

Our Inclusion Team works to coordinate and monitor the quality of support and interventions in place to help every pupil succeed. At some point in their school career every child may experience emotional difficulties or struggle to understand a new concept. Some children need more support than others.

Where a child's progress is significantly slower than that of their peers, or fails to match their previous rate of progress, despite high quality teaching targeted at specific areas of difficulty, it may be that they have Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND).

Other children may experience emotional or behavioural challenges that require additional support and guidance. Where children present additional needs, information is gathered, including seeking the views of parents and the child, as well as from teachers and assessments. We follow the 'Assess-Plan-Do-Review' model of intervention and support and include the child and parents in this process.

Whilst the Headteacher and governors have overall responsibility for provision for children with SEND, the Inclusion Team lead and evaluate the day to day provision in place to supplement and complement the menu available to all learners. In this way we seek to ensure that everything is done to meet the needs of every learner.

Debbie Lamb has re-joined our team this year. As a member of the Senior Leadership Team, her role is to track and evaluate the quality and impact of the provision in place to meet the needs of vulnerable learners. Debbie's remit covers pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium Funding, pupils experiencing behavioural difficulties and other vulnerable pupils who might need additional support to succeed at school.



**Ria Gordon is the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)** who is responsible for the leadership and day-to-day management of SEND provision. There is also a designated SEND governor. (Janet Langdon)

**Gemma Sainsbury** is the Teaching Assistant who has time allocated specifically to support vulnerable learners as well as supporting staff to ensure the right interventions and support are in place.



Class teachers check on the progress of every child and identify, plan and deliver any additional help a child may need in liaison with the SENCO; they share and review intervention plans with parents or carers at least once each term; personalise teaching and learning as identified on the Cohort Provision Timetable and ensure that Grove Road's SEN Policy is followed in their classroom and for all the children they teach with SEND.

At Grove Road Primary School, we also have a strong team of support staff who also provide additional support, working with individual children or small groups.

For more information on our Inclusion offer or provision available across Hertfordshire, you will find details on our school website.

[http://www.groveroad.herts.sch.uk/about\\_our\\_school/our\\_school.html](http://www.groveroad.herts.sch.uk/about_our_school/our_school.html)

You are also most welcome to contact any of the Inclusion Team if you have any concerns or questions regarding any struggles or challenges that your child may be having in school.

### Introducing Debbie Lamb

It was when I covered Miss Hillier's sabbatical in the spring term of 2016 that I first experienced being part of the Grove Road community. The school has a very special ethos so when I was offered the opportunity to return as Inclusion Lead this academic year, I jumped at the chance! I am very much enjoying getting to know the children and their families as well as working alongside such dedicated and creative colleagues.



During my career, I have worked in a number of different roles in very different primary schools in Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. During all of my experiences, my passion for teaching and wish to foster in children a love of learning has endured. I am very excited at developing the new role of Inclusion Lead at Grove Road to ensure that all of our pupils make good and better progress, regardless of background or need.