



Grove Road Primary School

Growing and Achieving Together
Community Respect Self-Belief Ambition

Newsletter 1

September 2016

Welcome back everyone! It has been lovely to have the children back for the start of a new term and a new school year. It already feels like we have never been away.



What's New in 2016/17?

School has been a hive of activity over the summer and I want to thank staff for all their work in preparing for the new term. In addition to organising their planning and learning environments, the staff have been making all sorts of plans to keep you informed about what is going on in school and how your children are learning. A full summary of the Parent Survey will follow soon in the Governors' Leadership Newsletter, but in the meantime, staff are keen to respond to some of the requests and ideas that were flagged in the responses we received from parents.

Katie Collins and the Curriculum Enrichment Team are planning a half termly Enrichment Newsletter to bring you a whole school summary of all the exciting learning opportunities that take place at Grove. It will include details of trips, visitors, sporting events and exciting learning opportunities to give you a regular window into life at Grove Road.

Vicky Hillier will be leading an initiative to provide film clip tutorials on the school website to help explain in more detail things like phonics and the different methods outlined in our calculations policy. We are also keen to provide additional opportunities for parents to come into school and spend time in class with their children to observe their progress and how they learn. Building Blocks, was a successful series of workshops for parents of pupils in Reception which will run again, but this year we will run two workshops each term across the year, to give an insight into how learning across the year progresses.

In KS1 Family Learning sessions every Friday will give parents the chance to spend time in class reading with their child and exploring activities that support with reading and maths skills. In Nursery Busy Fingers sessions are an open invitation to parents to pop in every day if they wish to see Learning Journals, talk to Key Workers and observe their children at play.

In KS2 we are planning half termly drop-in sessions (similar to KS1 Family Learning) as well as some Guided Workshop sessions where teachers will run workshops for pupils and parents to help you understand your child's next steps and strategies to support them at home. Once the children are settled and we can confirm dates, letters will come home outlining the various opportunities that will be available to you. With so many new and exciting opportunities it is really important that you keep a close eye on letters and emails throughout the year.

- 14/9 FOG coffee morning
- 19/9 Work shadowing information evening at Tring for Y6 parents @ 6:30pm
- 20/9 On-line booking for Parent Consultations opens
- 27/9 Early Years Harvest Assembly
- 30/9 KS2 Disco
- 4/10 2FM Class Assembly
- 11/10 Harvest Festival
- 11/10 4-6:30pm Parent Consultations
- 13/10 5-7:30pm Parent Consultations
- 14/10 School Photographs
- 18/10 2SO Class Assembly
- 8/11 1CL Class Assembly
- 15/11 1TM Class Assembly
- 18/11 Children in Need Day
- 18/11 KS2 Disco
- 22/11 Y6 Workshadowing presentation at Tring 7-9pm
- 7/12 Carol Concert 6pm
- 8/12 Early Years' Nativity am
- 9/12 Early Years' Nativity pm
- 14/12 Christmas Lunch
- 19/12 Christmas party Day

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Full details of times, venue and booking details for the dates listed to the right will follow. Please keep your eyes posted for letters. All of which will be available on the school website.

Year 6 Work Shadowing in Partnership with Tring School

The Work Shadowing project is a long established programme organised by Tring School for all the Y6 pupils in Tring as part of their transition programme. I just wanted to remind Year 6 parents to look out for a letter from Tring School which will give details of an initial information evening for parents at 6:30pm on 19th September at Tring School, as well as information outlining what is involved.

The children in Year 6 will be asked to undertake a day of work shadowing in October half term. We need you to let us know if October half term is not possible as we have identified 2 alternative term time dates when we will consider authorising absence for this project.

The children will then present to parents on the evening of 22nd November (7-9pm) at Tring School.

Secondary Transfer Information

The applications for secondary/upper school places to start in September 2017 are open. If you have a child in Year 6 you should already have received the "Moving On 2017" leaflet giving details of Secondary school open events and application details. Further details are available from the school office.

Admissions information is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

We need to let you know that schools **cannot** accept completed Hertfordshire application forms from parents who are applying for a school place. This applies to all Primary, Junior and Middle schools. If a parent brings an application form to the school, we are required to ask you to forward it to the Admissions & Transport Team.

On-time applications close on **31 October 2016**. Please do everything you can to apply before this deadline. Late applications are not dealt with until all on-time applications have been considered and therefore parents are much less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools if they apply late.



Curriculum Information & Home Learning

Home Learning will resume on Wednesday 14th September and run every week until 17th October. Home Learning grids will be sent home again on Wednesday 2nd November. Every child will bring home a purple Home Learning book in a protective plastic wallet and a new grid of activities to choose from for the term or half term. Reception will not be starting their Home Learning until the spring term. Please remind your child to return their Home Learning every Monday.

Class teachers will be posting curriculum information for the term and coming year on the website. This will go live on or just before Wednesday 14th September. You will be able to see details of the themed focus for the term and the learning in all areas of the curriculum for each year group. We are hoping this will give you a flavour of the depth and breadth of what is being taught this year.

In addition, every year group will be sending home their termly newsletters to give you a year group specific summary of the learning and expectations in each class for the coming term.

Parent Skills Audit

If you have skills and talents we would love to hear from you. Staff are always on the lookout for parents to come and help with all sorts of things. We are keen to utilise the plethora of talents that we know you as parents have. We are keen to hear from you if you have a talent for music, film/media, cooking, craft, DIY, science, maths, sport or perhaps a love of books. We are very lucky to have the most wonderful group of dedicated regular parent helpers, but perhaps you might just want to come in for a one off session because you are unable to commit to more than that. Please don't let that put you off.

If you play an instrument or have a hobby or collection it is bound to link with some aspect of our curriculum. Perhaps you have travelled and would like to share your first hand experiences with the children. If you would like to help, just complete the form on the back page, or drop us an email.



Nearly New Uniform

Jane Banister has done a wonderful job over the summer of washing and sorting the mountain of used uniform that has accumulated. If you need jumpers, skirts, trousers or other items of uniform, Jane has a large collection available.

This is the last year that Jane will be running the Used Uniform shop, but she has very kindly said she is happy to store it, if someone else can take over the running of it, once her eldest daughter leaves for Y7 at the end of this year. This is a vital service that is both a wonderful cost saver and environmentally positive.

If you would like to help or just buy some uniform, you can contact Jane on:

jcbanister@btinternet.com



Attendance

Regular, punctual attendance is essential for your child to do well in school.

Please remember that any child with attendance below 90% will be logged as a "Persistent Absentee" by the Attendance Improvement officer for the purposes of attendance monitoring. Your child's attendance figure for this year was listed on their annual report. If you have any concerns or queries please come and talk to us. We can provide you with an updated figure if you request one.

Letters will go home to families where attendance falls below 90% and where attendance patterns put you at risk of receiving a fixed penalty notice from the Local Authority. The school Attendance Policy can be found on the school website and gives details regarding fines for low attendance.



Get Set Go (Y1-Y3)

Details are coming home this week about a new early morning Sports Club for pupils in Y1, Y2 & Y3. This is a free club, being funded by Dacorum. Sessions will run on Friday mornings starting at 8am on Friday 23rd September and continue for 12 weeks. If you would like your child to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, complete the registration form and return it to the school office.

Sessions will be finished by 8:45am, allowing children time to change and be ready to learn.

Term Time & Holiday Dates for 2016/17

- Half Term Holiday - Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October
- INSET Day - Monday 31st October (school closed for staff training)
- School resumes Tuesday 1st November
- Occasional Day - Friday 25th November
- Term finishes at 1:30pm on Wednesday 21st December.
- Christmas Holiday - Thursday 22nd December to Wednesday 4th January
- Spring Term begins - Thursday 5th January
- Half Term Holiday - Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February
- Spring Term finishes at 1:30pm on Friday 31st March
- Summer Term begins Tuesday 18th April
- Bank Holiday - Monday 1st May
- INSET Day - Friday 26th May (school closed for staff training)
- Half Term Holiday - Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
- Summer Term finishes on Friday 21st July at 1:30pm



The school year consists of 195 days, of which, 5 are training days (INSET) when the school is closed to the children. Term dates for future years are available on the Herts Grid at:

www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/schlife/termdates

Term Dates for 2017/18 have been allocated with some additional local flexibility around dates. The Local Authority have awarded 5 days for schools to set holidays at their own discretion to allow us to try and align our dates where possible with other local schools. We hope to be able to confirm dates by October half term.

Don't forget that a full set of dates, policies and school information are available on our website.

www.groveroad.herts.sch.uk

You can also follow us on Facebook to get regular updates and last minute information sent to you. Just click the link on our website.

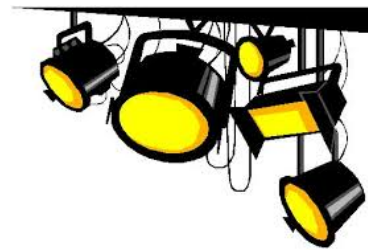


Parent Skills Audit



Can you help? Could you come and play an instrument in an assembly? Could you talk to the children about the moon and the stars? Could you be an extra pair of hands to help with some cooking? Could you spare the time to come in and teach recorders? Have you travelled to another country and come home with tales of adventure as well as being able to help the children identify similarities as well as contrasts with other cultures? Would you be willing to join a working party to dig a pond or help repair the paths on the mound? Do you have another skill altogether? We would love to hear from you?

Special requests at the moment from staff are for any parents with skills in film and media to help us produce some film clips for the website.



If you would like to help or perhaps be at the end of a phone for answer some questions, please complete the slip below:

Your name:

Name of your child/ren:

Year Group of your child/ren:

Your job/hobby/skills/talents/interests:

Your availability: (regular or one off?)

