



Grove Road Primary School

Growing and Achieving Together
Community Respect Self-Belief Ambition

Newsletter 1

September 2017

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.

Running Club starts this Wednesday at 8:00am. Children of all ages are welcome and our numbers are going up all of the time. A huge thank you to Catherine Pyefinch and John Manning for their on-going commitment to this extra curricular activity.

What's New in 2017/18?

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. Keep an eye out for class newsletters and emails for details of up and coming curriculum events and parent workshops. KS1 assemblies have moved to a Wednesday morning and will begin at 9:10am (dates in the box to the right).

Lunchtime Sports Activities

This year we are extending the lunchtime clubs offer. These will include:

- Monday-KS2 Girls' Football (part subsidised)
- Tuesday-KS1 Football & Multi Sports (part subsidised)
- Wednesday-KS1 Play Active (Free)
- Wednesday-KS2 Sport Active (Free)
- Thursday-KS1 Play Active (Free)

Play Active clubs will be offering a range of skills based games and activities to children in KS1.

Sport Active clubs will be offered to children in KS2 on a 6 week rotation with a playtime tournament/fixture at the end of each half term. The rotation will include Tag Rugby, Football, Netball, Dodgeball, Basketball and Street Dance

We will be talking to the children next week about how they can sign up and participate in these lunchtime activity clubs.

- 6/9 FOG meeting 8pm
- 21/9 Parent consultation on-line bookings open 8pm
- 22/9 KS2 Discos
- 25/9 NSPCC assemblies for KS1 & KS2
- 26/9 Tring School Open Evening for Y5 & Y6 5:30-8:30pm
- 2/10 NSPCC workshops (Y5 & Y6)
- 3/10 Early Years' Harvest Assembly to parents
- 2SO class assembly 9:10am
- 11/10 Y1-Y6 Harvest Festival at the church 10:00am
- 13/10 School photographs (14/10 Family Photo sessions)
- 17/10 Parent Consultations 4-6:30pm
- 18/10 2DH assembly 9:10
- 19/10 Parent Consultations 5-7:00pm
- 23/10 Half Term & 30/10 INSET Day
- 2/11 KS2 Family Learning
- 6/11 FOG meeting 8pm
- 8/11 1FM Class Assembly 9:10am
- 15/11 1TM Class Assembly 9:10am
- 17/11 KS2 Discos
- 24/11 Occasional Day (School closed)
- 27/11 FOG meeting 8pm
- 4/12 Nativity pm
- 5/12 Nativity am
- 6/12 Carol Concert at the church
- 9/12 Christmas Fair
- 19/12 Term finishes at 1:30pm

Dates for the Diary:

Grove Road,
Tring,
Herts. HP23 5PD
Phone: 01442 822056
www.groveroad.herts.sch.uk
E-mail: admin@groveroad.herts.sch.uk

Y6 Work Shadowing

Every year Tring Secondary school invites Y6 pupils to participate in a Work Shadowing project as the first part of their transition programme. Parents are invited to attend an information evening at Tring School on **Monday 18th September (6:30-7:30pm)**. The children are then encouraged to organise a day of shadowing someone at work over October half term. It is really important that work shadowing takes place during half term so that follow up activities can be completed the following week. If this is not possible we ask that you contact the school and let us know.

The children will then attend a workshop at Tring school with all the other Y6 pupils in and around Tring on the afternoon of Monday 20th November. The final event is a presentation evening to parents on **Tuesday 21st November from 7:00-9:00pm**.

Y6 Secondary Transfer Information

The applications for secondary/upper school places to start in September 2018 are open. If you have a child in Year 6 you should already have received the "Moving On 2018" 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 2017**. 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 13th September and run every week until 16th October. Home Learning grids will be sent home again on Wednesday 8th 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.

Curriculum maps for the term and coming year are available on the website and class newsletters will be sent home next week. 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.

Family Learning will take place every Friday morning in KS1 and half termly in KS2. The Early Years team will be in touch to explain arrangements for Busy Fingers sessions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to book a time to see the class teacher.

THANK YOU!!!!!!

A special thank you goes to a fabulous group of parents who gave their time over the summer holiday to paint Y6 and Y5 classrooms. They did a wonderful job and ensured that Y5 and Y6 pupils were able to return to pristine classrooms.

Our thanks to:

- Rachael & Lee Harrison
- Clare & Nigel Goodman
- Emma Louise Lane
- Mike O'Gorman

We are very lucky to have such an engaged and committed parent body prepared to give their time to help with so many things around school. If you would like to be more involved on a regular basis or perhaps for one off projects please contact the school office by phone or email.



Site Access

We would like to remind parents that there is no vehicle access onto the school site before 3:30pm when gates open for parents to collect from Owls Club. If you, or your child are "Blue Badge" holders you can contact the office for an onsite parking permit. Space is limited so permits must be renewed every year to ensure we can cater for need.

If driving onto the school site please observe the 5 mph speed limit and use the allocated parking bays. We now have several after school lettings and the car park can get very busy. Please also observe the one way system. Even when the front gates are open it is not safe to exit onto Grove Road and all cars need to leave via the electronic gate into Beacon Way.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping the children onsite safe. We will be talking to the children about using the designated crossing points on their way into and out of school. Your help with this is also appreciated.

Attendance

Regular, punctual attendance is essential for your child to do well in school. Parents at Grove Road do an excellent job of promoting attendance. Our attendance figure for last year was 97%, with 80% of the children with attendance over 95% and 11% had 100% attendance! This is a fabulous attendance profile and we are very grateful for your help and support in getting your children to school every day on time. Sometimes, for all sorts of reasons, attendance can slip and we will get in touch if we notice a drop in your child's attendance.

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 the last school 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 would like 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.

Term Time & Holiday Dates for 2017/18

- Half Term Holiday - Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2017
- INSET Day - Monday 30th October 2017 (school closed for staff training)
- Occasional Day - Friday 24th November 2017
- Term finishes at 1:30pm on Tuesday 19th December 2017
- Christmas Holiday - Wednesday 20th December to Tuesday 2nd January 2018
- INSET Day - Wednesday 3rd January 2018 (school closed for staff training)
- Spring Term begins - Thursday 4th January 2018
- Half Term Holiday - Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February
- Spring Term finishes at 1:30pm on Thursday 29th March 2018
- Easter Holiday - Friday 30th March to Friday 13th April 2018
- Summer Term begins Monday 16th April 2018
- Bank Holiday - Monday 7th May 2018
- Half Term Holiday - Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June 2018
- INSET Days - Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th June 2018 (school closed for staff training)
- Children return Wednesday 6th June 2018
- Summer Term finishes on Tuesday 24th July 2018 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/schlfe/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.



Like us on
Facebook