



Grove Road Primary School

Growing and Achieving Together
Community Respect Self-Belief Ambition

Newsletter 3

October 2015

As half term approaches, we just wanted to wish you all a happy holiday. The children have worked incredibly hard this term and deserve a good rest! The new term begins again on Monday 2nd November. There is no Home Learning this week, but it will resume on Wednesday 4th November.



Dates for the Diary:



Seasonal Reminders

As the weather turns colder and wetter please make sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately.

Every child needs to bring a coat every day. Some children got caught out by the cold snap last week. The wind that comes across the field at lunchtime can be very cold. Children's outdoor footwear also needs to be robust enough for the mud and puddles on the playground. The girls in particular need to swap to robust, water-proof footwear that will keep them dry and warm for the winter. Flimsy, slip on shoes are really not suitable for the winter term.

Parking & Site Safety

A huge thank you to all the parents who have taken on board our pleas for help with observing site safety at the start and end of each day. It is much appreciated.



The number of cars driving onto the school site has reduced and there are fewer cars pulling into the main entrance. However, the situation is still not resolved so we ask again that parents do not drop off at the main vehicle access point either in their own car or in taxis. We also ask that you do not obstruct the driveways of local residents when parking in the streets around school. Our neighbours are very tolerant but it seems very unfair that they should have access to their own homes obstructed by the cars of parents, receive verbal abuse and have their grass verges damaged by cars mounting the kerbs. As a school we are more fortunate than most with the amount of parking available in the local vicinity as well as the flexibility of the 8:30-8:50am start time. So please treat our neighbours with the same consideration that you would want to be treated with. Why not park further away and take the time to walk 10 minutes and enjoy the Autumn colours? The children benefit enormously from a brisk walk before school.

- 23/10 INSET Day
- 26/10 Half term
- 2/11 Poppy Appeal fortnight
- 20/11 KS2 Disco
- 24/11 2LB assembly to parents
- 24/11 Y6 Workshading evening at Tring School
- 27/11 Occasional Day
- 3/12 Music Recital
- 5/12 Christmas Fair
- 8/12 Carol Service
- 9/12 Early Years' Nativity
- 10/12 Early Years' Nativity
- 16/12 Christmas Party day
- 17/12 Christmas Lunch

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Half Term Projects!

Have You Seen Any Hedgehogs Lately?



Tring in Transition are asking people to take part in a hedgehog survey. The little spikey creatures are probably one of the nation's most easily recognised animals but how many of you still see them in your garden or the countryside? Hedgehogs are in trouble as a species, from an estimated population of around 30 million in the 1950s, there are now believed to be less than 1 million hedgehogs in the UK.

Tring in Transition have organised a survey to try to establish what the Hedgehog population is like in Tring and the surrounding villages. They would like to know if you have seen any Hedgehogs this year (dead or alive). To complete the survey please go to the Tring in Transition website www.tringtransition.org.uk and click on the Hedgehog survey tab.

If you are interested in Hedgehogs then you could sign up to Hedgehog Street. This is a project run by the Hedgehog Preservation Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species. They are keen to encourage neighbours to sign up and make their streets Hedgehog friendly. www.hedgehogstreet.org

**HEDGEHOG
STREET** 

CITY OF WILDLIFE

Have You Washed Your Hands?



We would like to appeal to you all for your help over half term. As you know we have been working very hard to remind children about regular, basic, hand hygiene whilst at school. We are also about to embark upon the first phase of toilet upgrades around the school, with Y3 and Year 4 toilets being re-fitted over half term. To be followed by KS1 toilets during the Easter break. This is in a bid to make the toilets a more up to date, more pleasant and easier to use facility.

However, despite all our best efforts there are still some children who are reluctant to wash their hands without being reminded and we wondered if you could all work with us to raise the profile of this simple and important routine at home, to reinforce what we are trying to do in school (the pictures below show the method we teach the children).

We are a large school population and the more we can do to reduce the spread of bugs and germs the better it will be.



Amazing Fundraising!

As part of our "Staying Healthy, Staying Safe" curriculum work, the children took part in the "Big Workout" fundraiser on Friday 9th October. We were overwhelmed by the response and you raised a staggering £2971 plus late submissions. The work of the NSPCC would not be possible without the kindness and generosity of fundraisers like you. Every penny will make a difference for children around the country and help keep them safe.



In addition to your amazing efforts with the NSPCC fundraiser you also donated generously to the harvest appeals.

Our next charity fundraiser will be the Poppy Appeal which runs from 2nd – 11th November. The House Captains are currently deciding on the next whole school fundraiser for the Spring term. If you have any suggestions please do let us know. As a school we are inundated with requests to fundraise and we thought it would be useful to hear your views on which charities we should support and how often you feel we should be fundraising.

We will not be fundraising in school for Children in Need this term given the time and generosity you have already shown this term. I know that many of the children will be participating out of school. Please pass any thoughts about our future charity fundraising to the office and we can share them at House Forums as we decide on our Spring projects.

Music Recital

Does your child play a musical instrument? If so, please keep an eye out for a letter that will be coming home after half term inviting children to participate in a music recital after school on Thursday 3rd December. If you think your child might want to take part, get them to start thinking about the piece of music they might want to play.

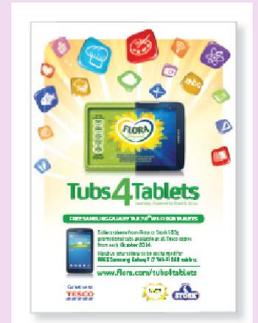
We are also hoping that the choir will be able to perform.



Tubs for Tablets

We are currently collecting Flora and Stork margarine tub lids as part of the Tubs for Tablets scheme.

Flora and Stork margarine are currently running a scheme exclusively with **Tesco**, where they will donate one **Samsung Galaxy Tab 7.0" Wi-Fi 8GB** for every 50 tokens collected. Last year we managed to collect enough tokens for one tablet. Please help us again this year by saving the foil peel away labels with the token markings. There are only a couple of weeks left before the scheme finishes.



Parent Governor Vacancy

Just a reminder that nominations for Parent Governors close on 5th November. The governing body currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Full details are available from the school office. If we receive more than one nomination then the election will open on 12th November. The governors at Grove Road do a fantastic job, making exceptional contributions to school leadership and improvement. If you would like to contribute and have the time then please think about putting yourself forward for nomination.

2015/16 TERM DATES



Friday 23rd October-School closed INSET
Monday 26th October-Half term
Friday 18th December-Term finishes @ 1:30pm
Friday 12th February-School Closed INSET
Tuesday 5th January-Term begins
Monday 15th February-Half Term
Friday 25th March-Bank Holiday
Monday 28th March-Bank Holiday
Friday 1st April-Term finishes@1:30pm
Monday 18th April-Term begins
Monday 2nd May-Bank Holiday
Friday 27th May-School Closed INSET
Monday 30th May-Half Term
Friday 22nd July-Term finishes @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

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.

