



# Grove Road Primary School

**Growing and Achieving Together**  
*Community Respect Self-Belief Ambition*

## Newsletter 5

## January 2018

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a restful Christmas and are ready for 2018!

Last term was busy and we hope you managed to see the Enrichment Newsletter that went out at the end of term. If not, you can find it on the school website to see the fabulous range of learning and enrichment activities that took place across the school last term.

This term we are looking forward to all sorts of events and activities including the Y3/4 performance.

Email updates will continue to come to you every Tuesday and Thursday. If you miss any, you can find summaries on the website as well as any letters you may have missed.

We have also included some information on Home Learning this month in response to questions and feedback from parents. (pages 2&3).



- 15/1 Closing date for Reception admissions
- 5/2 Nursery applications open
- 26/1 KS2 Discos
- 1/2 On-line booking opens for Parent Consultations
- 12/2 Half Term
- 1/3 KS2 Family Reading
- 7/3 1FM Class Assembly to parents
- 9/3 KS2 Discos
- 14/3 2DH Class Assembly to parents
- 20/3 Y3/4 Performance @ 6pm
- 22/3 Y3/4 Performance @ 6:30pm
- 26/3 Parent Consultations 4-6:30pm
- 27/3 Parent Consultations 5-7:30pm
- 29/3 Term finishes @ 1:30pm
- 14/5 Y6 SATs week
- 28/5 Half Term
- 4/6 INSET Day (school closed)
- 5/6 INSET Day (school closed)
- 7/6 Class Photos
- 11/6 Y1 Phonics screening check week
- 14/6 Early Years Sports
- 15/6 KS1&KS2 Sports Day

### Cold Weather Clothing & Mud!

Don't forget that the children are outside in all but the wettest weather. The wind whips across the field and there are days when we will need to say to the children they cannot be outside without a coat. Lots of the children don't like wearing coats and will perhaps tell you they don't need one. If you could insist they bring one for this half term that would help us enormously.

Similarly, the playground gets very muddy so a sturdy pair of outdoor shoes is also essential. Wellington boots are fine.

### Polite Safety Reminder

With the start of a new term can we remind you that the children have been told they are not allowed to use the play equipment or go onto the mound before or after school. It would help us enormously if you can reinforce these messages with the children. There were a couple of injuries last term resulting from children playing unsupervised or using bikes and scooters on the school site after school. If you notice children playing unsupervised or showing disregard for others, please let us know.

Doors open at 8:30am every morning and the playground is not supervised, so please discourage children from arriving before then if they are walking to school on their own.

### Reception Admissions

Don't forget, the closing date for applications to Reception closes on 15th January. Even if your child attends our Nursery you must apply for a Reception place. Please contact the school office if you need any information or advice on completing your application.

2018/19 term dates are now available on the final page of this letter

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

## Home Learning



Homework of the past assumed that every student is the same, that each child has the same maturity, concentration and ability level, when of course this can vary enormously from one pupil to another. The challenge for us, with tasks set for completion at home, is to facilitate the differentiation and personalisation we offer in class every day when we can't be there to oversee the activities.

Arithmetic and literacy skills can be enhanced at home without endless sums and compulsory scheme reading. The practice and application of literacy and maths skills to everyday problems, tasks and activities can really help consolidate understanding. We want reading to be an enjoyable activity, rather than a chore. If your child is reluctant to read, remember that being read to and hearing fluent expression helps children access more complex texts as well as enhancing their composition and vocabulary. Come and talk to us if you are struggling.

Some of the Home Learning tasks are designed as "talk tasks" to act as discussion prompts. Quite often the process rather than the product is the outcome of value. The time spent talking to an adult and hearing view points and vocabulary that extend and challenge their understanding are of immense value. The children are already at school for 7 hours a day and our Home Learning grids are designed to include opportunities to refresh their minds and their bodies, prompting them to engage in a range of tasks and activities beyond pen and paper tasks, through a range of extra curricular activities and time with their families. There does not always need to be work recorded in their books. In school and through home learning we aim to equip them with skills and attitudes for success beyond education.

A recent review of our Home Learning has resulted in some tweaks in response to feedback to further enhance the current format and ensure consistency across the school so that Home Learning at Grove Road fulfils our aims. We want it to be purposeful, appropriate and to foster an enthusiasm for learning. Home Learning for parents, is an opportunity to understand how their child is working and gives an insight into aspects of what they are learning in school.

For most children and their parents, the grid system for Home Learning is viewed very positively as it allows children and parents to prepare and manage their Home Learning activities across the term to suit their other routines and commitments. The variety of activities on the grids are popular with the children and serve to broaden their understanding of the curriculum and makes links between English, Maths and the wider curriculum. We have also been trialling the inclusion of some online activities, especially in English and Maths across upper KS2. Sites such as "MyMaths" and "SPAG.com" will be incorporated more into the KS2 grids as options to be done alongside the existing variety of grid activities.

Another aspect of the Home Learning grids that has been updated to enhance consistency between year groups is clarification of one 'Family Week' option per half term, rather than per grid. This will hopefully appease many children and parents who have siblings in upper key stage 2 and lower down the school who were getting grids half termly and therefore more frequent "Family Weeks". To further enhance the consistency and quality of Home Learning, we will try to share some examples of 'Good' year appropriate work, so that parents and children can feel more confident about what the expectations are for each year group in terms of content and presentation.

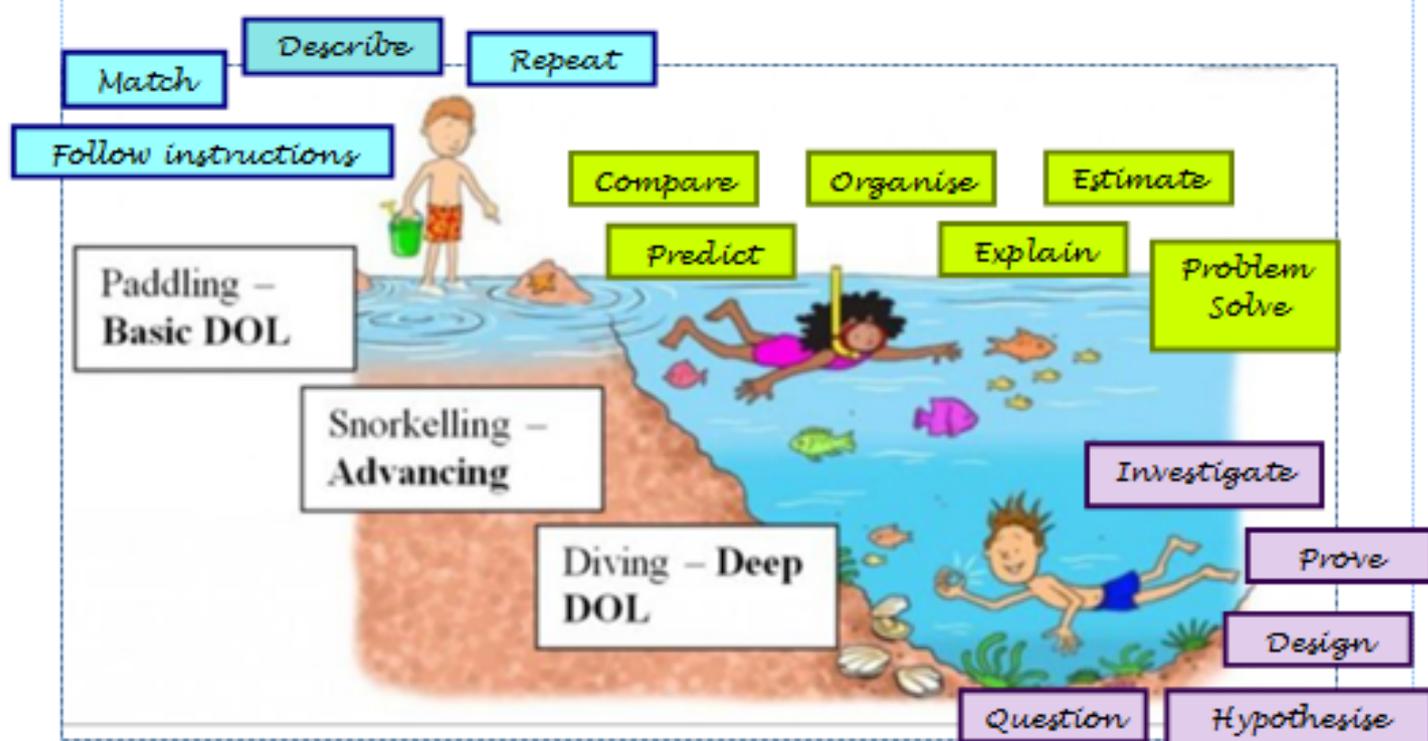
We are happy for Home Learning to be submitted in different formats. Hand written and hand drawn work is preferable; however the use of PowerPoint presentations, Word documents, Excel spread sheets or in fact any other presentation format is perfectly acceptable if you find it engages your child more easily. Allowing the children to present their Home Learning in different ways encourages them to make choices and will enhance their ownership of the activities. All electronic documentation needs to be e-mailed to the year group email address (details on the back page). Memory sticks cannot be accepted. These email addresses are not checked daily so it's a good idea for pupils to tell staff if they have emailed their Home Learning. Parents are welcome to make notes or annotations in the Home Learning book if you feel your child has made a special effort or worked well independently. Similarly, if you have struggled to get your child to engage please add that. We don't want Home Learning to become a weekly battleground. Please come and talk to us if Home Learning becomes a regular challenge. The teaching staff will be happy to offer guidance on how to tailor expectations and motivate children to complete activities at home.

There is no set time expectation for Home Learning. It is instead about the children completing a task to what they feel is a good standard. Further guidance can be found on the website.

[http://www.groveroad.herts.sch.uk/school\\_classes/classes.html](http://www.groveroad.herts.sch.uk/school_classes/classes.html)

We have included below, the item featured in the Autumn Term Enrichment Newsletter to give some background to how you can help your child take their learning deeper through even the simplest task.

## Deep Learning...Taking Learning to the Next Level



You are all very familiar with our four Learning Habits that we use to help the children understand how they learn best. We talk to the children a lot about how they learn and that learning something new can feel challenging and sometimes uncomfortable. In a previous letter we have talked about the Learning Pit and how we work with the children to build their resilience and perseverance.

We take every opportunity to help the children reflect on their learning and challenge themselves to take their learning from the shallow and the basic knowledge acquisition, to the deep and profound learning where they start to question and hypothesise.

When working at home with your child you might try some of the following phrases to take them deeper in their learning and challenge their thinking and understanding.

- Explain, in a full sentence, what you have learned today. ( I know \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Prove your answer is correct by using another example or a model to explain it to me.
- Write a rule that explains why this works
- Write a word problem that uses your learning
- If \_\_\_\_\_ is the answer, what could the question be?

We also encourage the children to articulate their learning by getting them to use speaking frames:

- I know this because \_\_\_\_\_
- If I know this, I also know that \_\_\_\_\_
- This is different because \_\_\_\_\_
- I predict that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_
- I disagree because \_\_\_\_\_

By encouraging the children to explain their thinking we are developing their reasoning. We want the children to know that they learn more when they make mistakes. Mistakes are the stepping stones to new learning.

# Top Attendance for the Autumn Term

Well done to all the pupils listed on this page for their excellent attendance last term.

The children below managed 99% attendance and the children listed to the right did not miss a single session all term!

- 125 children achieved 100% Attendance!
- 21 children achieved 99% attendance
- 65 children achieved 98% attendance
- 67 children managed 97% attendance.

So 63% of the school managed attendance above 97% Well done all of you.

**A special thank you to everyone who was back on time for the first day of this term, giving the children the best start possible for the new term.**

Annabel Fairhurst  
Olivia Ansett  
Nicole Ayers  
Daniel Boulton  
Anya Caple  
Isaac Forde  
Leo Foxley  
Mia Godfrey  
Brandon Hau  
Hannah Macdonald  
Charlie McGuire  
Ellie Merlino  
Jake Mitchell  
Juno Morrisey  
Oliver Nightingale  
Julian Rama  
Albert Rees  
Joe Scott  
Louis Stone  
Dylan Wale  
Phoebe Wale

ALCRAFT, Samuel  
ALLEN, Ruby  
ASPARASSA, Edward  
ATUANYA, Chiamaka  
AYERS, Dashiell  
BARKER, Tobias  
BARNETT, Elizabeth  
BARNETT, Jessica  
BENOIST, Evie  
BEVAN, Emily  
BLACKWELL, Jessica  
BOULTON, Stephanie  
BOWERS, Max  
BOWERS, Poppy  
BOWYER, Claudia  
BRECKENRIDGE, Oscar  
BROWN, Alexander  
BRYNING, Charlie  
BUTTERWORTH, Cora  
CACCHIOLI, Oliver  
CARTER, Nelly-Reet  
CHAPPELL, Aiden  
CHAPPELL, Rellly  
CHILLINGWORTH, Elodie  
CLAYTON, Emily  
CLOUDEN, Crystal  
COLLEY, Mabel  
COX, India  
DOLTON, Isabella  
DRAPER, Lauren  
DUNCAN, Martha  
EDGAR, Andrew  
EDGAR, Lauren  
EVETT, Jamie  
FAIRHURST, William  
FODEN, Matilda  
FODEN, Noah  
FORDE, Archie  
FOSTER, Amy  
GALSWORTHY, William  
GARRETT, Erin  
GARTON, Alice  
GASCOINE, Lukas  
GASCOINE, Teagan  
GETTINGS, Molly  
GOODMAN, Frank  
GOODMAN, Penelope  
HAILES, Luke  
HALL, Samuel  
HALL, Thomas  
HARDY, Imogen  
HEAD, Gavin  
HEMLIN, Lucas  
HENRY, Phoebe  
HOPGOOD, Ana  
HOPGOOD, Lella  
HOPPER, Bethany  
HUDSON, Emma  
HUGHES, George  
INSKIP, Lily  
KEEN, Grace  
KENNEDY-SWEET, Ashton  
LANGER, Isabella  
LAWRENCE, Rose  
LEMMING, Evie

LEMMING, Michael  
LONGLEY, William  
MACDONALD, Oliver  
MACKENZIE, Anna  
MCGUIRE, Chloe  
MEARS, Charlie  
MILES, Lewis  
MITCHELL, Lily  
MORAN, Willow  
O'KEEFFE, Benjamin  
O'KEEFFE, Hannah  
PIGGOTT, Alexander  
PIGGOTT, Amella  
PONTOPPIDAN, George  
POULTON, Lucy  
PRESTON, Eisle  
RAMA, Maksim  
REEVES, Thomas  
ROSSER, Sienna  
ROTHWELL, George  
ROUSE, Ben  
ROUSE, Daniel  
RUNDLE, Tilly  
SABIDO, Ana  
SABIDO, Leo  
SABIDO, Olive  
SANDS, Isaac  
SAWYER, Scott  
SCOTT, Arthur  
SHAW, Emma  
SHAW, Lucy  
SLADE, Evan  
SLADE, Morqan  
SLADE, Sean  
SMITH, Benjamin  
STACEY, Poppy  
STEVENS, Alexander  
STEVENS, Edward  
STONE, Oliver  
STRANDERS, Jessica  
SWIFT, Benjamin  
TAYLOR, Katie-May  
TOMLINS, Oliver  
TULLIE, Christina  
TURLAND, Arabella  
TURLAND, Jonah  
TURLAND, Peter  
TYACK, Alexander  
TYACK, Joshua  
TYACK, Sophia  
VILA, Bethany  
VILA, George  
WELLBORNE, Rachel  
WELLER, Amella  
WELLER, Bethany  
WHELTON, Lewis  
WHELTON, Luke  
WHITEHOUSE, Arthur  
WILLIAMS, Jemima  
WRIGHT, Meredith



Attendance for the Autumn term has fallen compared to the 2016/17 average of 97.1%

#### Attendance by class for the Autumn term:

- RKC 95.3
- RLB 95.8
- 1TM 97.1
- 1FM 96.7
- 2SO 96.7
- 2DH 96.8
- 3CL 97.8
- 3MM 97.3
- 4VH 95.9
- 4SM 97.9
- 5LF 94.7
- 5RT 95.2
- 6MT 96.7
- 6EC 96.4

**CONGRATULATIONS TO 4SM & 3CL FOR THE BEST CLASS ATTENDANCE OF THE TERM!**



**Average: 96.5%**

Whilst illness has an impact and is to be expected at this time of year, a total of 327 sessions were missed in the Autumn term due to parents taking children out of school during term time for holidays. That equates to 163.5 teaching days being lost. Parents risk fixed penalty notices by taking their children out of school as well as disrupting their education. Children with the best attendance make the best progress in school.

### Remaining Term Time & Holiday Dates for 2017/18

- 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



### Term Time & Holiday Dates for 2018/19

- **Autumn term begins - Tuesday 4th September 2018**
- Half Term Holiday - Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November
- INSET Day - Monday 5th November (school closed for staff training)
- Occasional Day - Friday 30th November 2018 School closed
- Term finishes at 1:30pm on Friday 21st December 2018
- Christmas Holiday - Monday 24th December to Friday 4th January 2019
- **Spring Term begins - Monday 7th January 2019**
- Half Term Holiday - Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February
- Spring Term finishes at 1:30pm on Friday 5th April 2019
- Easter Holiday– Monday 8th April to Monday 22nd April 2019
- **Summer Term begins Tuesday 23rd April 2019**
- Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May 2019
- Half Term Holiday - Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2019
- Children return Monday 3rd June 2019
- Summer Term finishes at 1:30pm on Friday 19th July 2019

### Year Group email addresses for the submission of electronic Home Learning tasks

If your child completes an electronic Home Learning task such as a spread sheet or a PowerPoint slide deck, please submit using the appropriate email below.

Y1@groveroad.herts.sch.uk  
Y2@groveroad.herts.sch.uk  
Y3@groveroad.herts.sch.uk  
Y4@groveroad.herts.sch.uk  
Y5@groveroad.herts.sch.uk  
Y6@groveroad.herts.sch.uk

Please be aware that these email addresses are not checked regularly, so **it's a good idea to get pupils to tell their teacher if they have submitted something on-line.**

Please continue to use the admin@groveroad email address for anything urgent.

Where possible we have worked to align our dates with Tring School.

The only date that differs in 2018/19 will be our INSET after October half term. Tring have a mid-week INSET in September which we just didn't feel suited our curriculum timetables. Other than that, holidays, INSET and Occasional Days, dates all align.