



# Grove Road Primary School

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

## Newsletter 6

## February 2017

Welcome back to a new term. Since Christmas it's been very busy and the next Curriculum Enrichment Newsletter will be coming out to you by email at the end of March to show you all the exciting things that have been happening in class.

If you can't wait until then, don't forget the next **KS2 Family Learning session takes place this Thursday between 8:30 and 9:00am**. A great opportunity for you to come in and share books and recent learning with your children. KS1 Family Learning and Busy Fingers will also continue as normal this term.



### Curriculum Evening

Every term we try to offer something to help parents support their children. Parental engagement levels at Grove Road are outstanding and have a wonderful impact on the learning and progress of the children here. We strive to meet demand through a range of opportunities and visiting speakers. A local organisation called "Supporting Links" has agreed to provide sessions at Grove Road on 2nd and 9th May to help you support your children to develop the skills of resilience and motivation.

Full details will follow later this term but because it runs across 2 evenings we want you to keep the dates in your diaries clear. Places will be limited and priority will go to those parents able to attend both sessions.

The workshops come highly recommended and will be invaluable for parents of children from 3-18 years.



### World Book Day

This year World Book Day takes place on Thursday 2nd March. Our theme this year is going to be bedtime stories.

Children are being invited to come to school dressed for a bedtime story and the day will be spent sharing favourite books.

A love of reading is one of the most precious gifts we can pass to the children, helping them unlock a whole world of mystery and adventure.

If you would like to take part and share a favourite book from your childhood please let us know. We would love you to join us on the day to celebrate the world of books and reading.



- 23/2 KS2 Family Learning
- 27/2 On-line bookings open for Parent Consultations
- 28/2 1CL class assembly
- 2/3 World Book Day
- 7/3 1TM Class assembly
- 14/3 2FM Class assembly
- 20/3 Y3/4 performance
- 21/3 Y3/4 performance
- 24/3 Red Nose Day & Talent show auditions
- 24/3 KS2 Disco
- 28/3 2SO Class Assembly
- 28/3 Parent Consultations
- 30/3 Parent Consultations
- 31/3 Talent Show Final
- 31/3 End of Spring term
- 18/4 Summer term begins
- 27/4 Bags 2 Schools collection day
- 2/5 Supporting Links Part 1
- 4/5 Polling Day
- 8/5 Y6 SATs week
- 9/5 Supporting Links Part 2
- 26/5 INSET Day
- 29/5 HALF TERM

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**2017/18 term dates on the back page.**

## Regular and Punctual Attendance

Regular attendance has a significant impact, not just on pupil progress and attainment, but also on self-confidence and resilience. Helping your child to understand the value and importance of good attendance and helping them to develop positive habits will be invaluable lessons for them to take into later life. Everyone has the occasional day when they feel under the weather and would rather stay under the duvet, so supporting your child to overcome any reluctance to attend is going to equip them with greater resilience and a strong work ethic.

- 95% attendance sounds good but it equates to one day off every month
- 90% attendance or below is considered to be “Persistent Absenteeism” and equates to 1 day of absence every fortnight.

An “odd day off here and there” might feel OK, but employers would question a day off a month and certainly would not tolerate a day out every fortnight; so think twice about the messages and expectations you are communicating to your children with regard to punctuality and attendance.

We will be writing to every parent whose child has attendance below 95% and the Attendance Improvement Officer is tracking the attendance of all pupils with attendance below 90%. At Grove Road we have some of the best pupil attendance in Tring, which is an excellent reflection of pupil and parent attitudes. However, we are keen to reduce the number of pupils being withdrawn from school for term time holidays. Taking your child out of school for a term time holiday is disruptive and unsettling, with children taking several days, upon their return, to re-adjust.

Help us, to help your children learn and feel confident, by getting them to school every day on time.

## In case you missed this last month...30 hours Free Nursery Provision from September 2017

This is a new entitlement for working parents of 3 and 4 year old children which will be introduced in some Nursery settings from September 2017. This is an extra 15 hours per week provision in addition to the child's existing 15 hour free early education place.

### Who is eligible for 30 Hours Free Childcare?

- All parents in the household work at least 16 hours a week and earn at least £107 per week up to a maximum salary of £100,000 per parent in the household.
- Self employed parents and parents on zero-hours contracts will be eligible if they meet the average earnings criteria.
- 1 parent is employed and 1 parent is disabled or incapacitated, based on receipt of specific benefits 1 parent is employed and 1 parent has substantial caring responsibilities, based on specific benefits received for caring.
- Both parents are employed but 1 or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave.
- Both parents are employed but 1 or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay.

For up to date information on eligibility please visit

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parents)

From September 2017, Grove Road Nursery will be offering a limited number of 30 hour funded places in Nursery in addition to the standard 15 hours and our Flexi-Provision. If you are thinking about Nursery admissions and would like to register your interest in this scheme, please contact Sharon Wheeler (Nursery Administrator). We are keen to reach families who already have siblings in school, who may not be planning to come and look around as part of the Nursery admissions process, which closes on 17th March 2017. It's really important that we talk to any parents who wish to take advantage of this new opportunity, to gauge interest in order to determine how many places to allocate.



## Advance Notice of 2017/18 Calendar dates

- INSET Day - Friday 1st September 2017 (school closed for staff training)
- Autumn term begins Monday 4th September 2017
- 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 at 1:30pm 2018

**Dates for the  
next school  
year  
2017/2018**

**Remaining  
dates for this  
school year  
2016/2017**

### New Parent Governors

Thank you to all those parents who took the time to vote in the recent Parent Governor election. We had 5 exceptional candidates, another indicator of the high quality parental engagement at Grove Road. Congratulations go to Julian Cacchioli and Victoria Jeffery, who were both elected and have already attended their first meeting of the full governing body. Thanks once again to Karen Plumeridge and Sam Hemlin for their contributions and long service on the governing body.

### Term Time & Holiday Dates for 2016/17

- Spring Term finishes at 1:30pm on Friday 31st March 2017
- Summer Term begins Tuesday 18th April 2017
- Bank Holiday - Monday 1st May 2017
- INSET Day - Friday 26th May (school closed for staff training)
- Half Term Holiday - Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2017

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](http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/schlfe/termdates)

### Tring Tornadoes

Please be reminded that there is no access via the school to Sunday football. It is part of the letting arrangements with Tring Tornadoes, that Sunday access is via Tring School car park only. Neighbours have complained about the inconsiderate parking and the volume of mud on surrounding pavements after weekend football. On the first Sunday of half term, one of the locked gates was vandalised and lifted off its hinges, leaving the school site open and vulnerable to trespass. If anyone knows anything about the damage to the gates please let us know. We are keen to invoice those responsible for the damage, time and inconvenience caused.

We appreciate that the children get a great deal of benefit from this weekend sporting opportunity but it can only continue on a Sunday on the Grove Road field if parents and children respect the access arrangements.

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

[www.groveroad.herts.sch.uk](http://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.



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