



Grove Road Primary School

Growing and Achieving Together
Community Respect Self-Belief Ambition

Newsletter 1

September 2015

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. The children have made an excellent start to the new school year.

Dates for
the Diary:

Dads of Grove!!

An enormous and very special thank you needs to go to the amazing group of parents who worked late into the night over the summer to re-decorate the Year 3 classrooms. Having thought we could not fund the cost of painting two year groups over the summer, an enterprising group of Grove Road dads offered to work their magic in Year 3. As a result, the children in Year 3 and Year 4 have returned to find their classrooms newly painted, bright and inviting. A huge thank you from the staff and governors for all the hard work and determination! The children will be expressing their own thank you later this week.



Exciting Technology Upgrades

The school has been a hive of activity over the summer and thanks to the generosity of FOG fundraising efforts we have been able to install new Interactive Whiteboards across the whole school. The new Smart software and "short throw" projectors make them more interactive, clearer, brighter and shadow free. They will also be cheaper to maintain and more energy efficient. Thank you FOG and to everyone who has supported fundraising in the last 12 months.

We have also been able to install new lighting across the school through a government grant allocation to fund more energy efficient lighting. The previous lights were so old that we were struggling to find replacement tubes. The new lights are bright, silent and working! It's so exciting to bring things up to date.

Curriculum Information & Home Learning

Home Learning will resume on Wednesday 16th September. 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 16th 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 the new curriculum.

- 2/9 School term begins
- 11/9 KS2 Disco
- 14/9 Y6 Work shadowing information evening
- 16/9 Home Learning goes home
- 30/9 Harvest Festival
- 2/10 School Photographs
- 14/10 Parent Consultations
- 15/10 Parent Consultations
- 23/10 INSET Day
- 26/10 Half term
- 20/11 KS2 Disco
- 27/11 Occasional Day
- 5/12 Christmas Fair
- 8/12 Carol Service
- 9/12 Early Years' Nativity
- 10/12 Early Years' Nativity
- 18/12 Term finishes 1:30pm

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Year 6 Work Shadowing in partnership with Tring School

We are expecting information in the next week from Tring School regarding the Y6 Work Shadowing project. I just wanted to remind Year 6 parents to look out for this letter which gives details of an initial information evening on 14th September at Tring School, as well as 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.

Secondary Transfer Information

The applications for secondary/upper school places to start in September 2016 opened yesterday, **Tuesday 1 September 2015**, for children in year 6. If you have a child in Year 6 you should already have received the "Moving On 2016" leaflet giving details of Secondary school open events and application details. Further details will be coming home with the children soon.

The application process is available online to parents at www.hertsdirect.org/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 2015**. Please do everything you can to make sure that you apply before this deadline. Late applications are not dealt with until after all the 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.

School Shoes

Following queries about shoes and uniform we just want to confirm that the basic and minimum requirement for children in Reception to Year 6 is that they have a pair of smart black school shoes that they wear in and around the building and a pair of shoes suitable to wear outside at playtime. How each family chooses to manage this in terms of walking to and from school is entirely up to you and what suits your daily routine and budget. Some families choose to leave the smart black shoes at school, others choose to wear them to and from school. We really do not mind other than wanting to make sure all children wear their smart shoes in the building and that we reduce the amount of mud brought into the classrooms.

Outdoor, playtime footwear can be trainers or wellingtons or anything appropriate for all weather play. Lightweight slip on shoes are not ideal. Again, some families opt to take these home every evening, while others leave playtime shoes in school. It's up to you.

For the very youngest children you may well find that children are sent out at the end of the day in their smart school shoes. As they get older and more independent they tend to make the independent decision about what to do that suits best. This is a discussion for you and your child to agree.

To clarify we stipulate that:

- every child needs a pair of smart black appropriate shoes to wear during the day in school and
- a second pair of footwear for playtime.

Hope that helps.

E-Safety

Please be aware that we have added some new e-safety updates and information onto the school website. The resources are provided by an organisations called "Parent Info" and CEOP giving a range of guidance on all sorts of e-safety topics that parents will find invaluable. Simply click on the yellow e-safety link on the school website and wait a couple of minutes for the page to upload.

Don't be in a position where your child knows more about e-safety than you do!

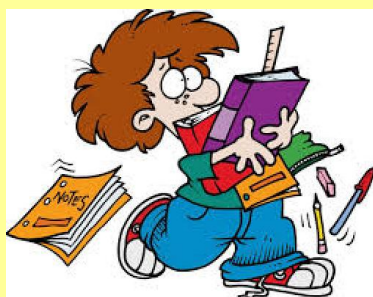


Attendance

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. The threshold until now has been 85% but from September has been lifted to 90%, 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 at the end of this term to families where attendance falls below 90%.



School Uniform Expectations

The children all arrived looking very smart for the start of term. A summary of expectations and guidance is available on the school website http://www.groveroad.herts.sch.uk/about_our_school/school_rules.html If you have any questions the team in the school office will be happy to help.

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/schlfe/termdates

A full set of dates for the 2015/16 school year, including INSET dates, are now available on the school website and were sent home in a letter at the end of last term, which is also available on our website.

In 2015/16 the issue of term dates has become slightly more complex because for the first time some local Hertfordshire schools who are Academies or VA schools have taken the decision to set their dates differently because of the way Easter falls in 2016. As a maintained school we are expected to align with Local Authority dates which are published several years in advance. Please be aware that the children will be expected to be in school on 29th March 2016 following the Bank Holiday weekend, until Friday 1st April 2016, when our two week Easter break begins. **Please be aware that for those of you with siblings at Tring School, their holiday dates are different.**

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.

