

# Leading Our School

## A Newsletter from the Leadership



Issue 7 - Autumn 2013

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## Your feedback in action

In the Summer term we carried out pupil interviews and a parent survey. The pupil interviews were held in July with a selection of children from each class from Years 3 to 6. The parent survey was also available in July via Survey Monkey. The responses to both have been analysed and we've been busy putting some ideas into action:

From the pupil voice, the children said that they would like a record of their Book of Celebration nomination; we have created a way of taking home a copy of their nomination in a card – which has gone down very well!

We've also been thinking about how we give children more regular opportunities to respond to the marking in their books – although the children are already fantastic at responding to the learning comments they receive.

From the parent survey we have taken on board comments about children getting from their classrooms to the clubs held after school, without needing a parent to collect them first: We are putting systems in place so that children can go straight from their classroom at 3:15pm to their

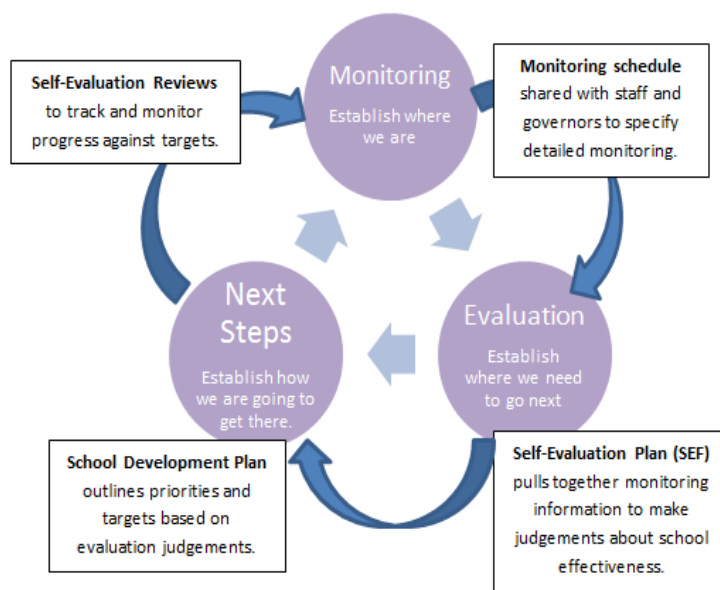
club, with a club adult available to either collect or meet them. We are also using comments and suggestions to help steer the content of our curriculum evenings for parents, to make them as helpful and as useful to you as we can. We hope that through attending our curriculum evenings, parents will increasingly feel that they understand what is being taught and how.

## School Self-Evaluation

The school self-evaluation cycle sits at the heart of our school improvement process. The Head Teacher, staff and governors work together to evaluate current provision, agree next steps and then monitor regularly to evaluate our progress.

Governors have worked with staff this year participating in pupil interviews, book scrutiny, assessment and moderation meetings, pupil progress meetings

and extensive assessment analysis. Through these activities we have been able to form a clear picture of pupil progress and school improvement to determine where further improvements are required.



**Get in Touch**

Do you have something you would like to discuss further or would like us to include in future issues of this newsletter? Please contact us on:

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*If you don't wish to email,  
please call the school office*

**The Role of the Deputy**

It would be cliché to say that no two days are ever the same, but for Kate Kellner this would be true. As Deputy Headteacher of Grove Road, some of Kate's timetable is class based; teaching Year 3 on Monday afternoons, Reception on Wednesday afternoons and Year 6 groups some mornings. Much of the rest of her time depends on what's happening in school that day.

Kate's main area of focus is the quality of provision; ensuring that the school constantly strives to improve and to be a centre of excellence for all the children who attend. As part of this work, Kate is regularly found working alongside teachers and pupils:

team teaching in classrooms, supporting planning, giving feedback & advice and leading training or workshops.

Working in close partnership with Sharon Sanderson, the Headteacher, Kate also helps to oversee the running of the school day-to-day, which includes getting out on the playground regularly and leading assemblies. She particularly enjoys Friday's celebration assembly; finding out why pupils have been nominated in the Book of Celebration.

One of the best things about being part of Grove Road, according to Kate, is the sense of community spirit, which makes the role of Deputy all the more en-

joyable.

Essential toolkit for a Deputy Headteacher:

- Strategic thinking
- Ability to multi-task
- Calm and positive nature
- Knowledge of the school, staff and children

**Priorities for 2013/14****DETERMINATION – Will-Power the Woodpecker**

- Don't be afraid to get it wrong
- Have a desire to improve
- Find a solution
- Be resilient

**CURIOSITY – Colin the Curious Owl**

- Be inventive
- Be open minded
- Challenge accepted views
- Take risks



Following careful monitoring and evaluation of progress, the revised school improvement plan continues to focus on ensuring that all teaching & provision is consistently good and outstanding.

The three priority areas are:

- Accelerate pupil progress in mathematics, so that pupils reach the highest standards.
- Improve outcomes in English and mathematics for under-performing groups.
- Align curriculum pitch and progression with the revised national expectations

These priorities build on the improvements from last year to ensure we keep pace

with the changes to national expectations in anticipation of the revised national curriculum.

We are also keen to equip the children with the skills needed to become effective learners, actively engaging in lessons and exploring the world around them. As such, we have joined with all the schools in Tring to establish and embed a shared language for learning. Each of the schools, including Tring School, are introducing 4 Learning Habits that will help the children to build and articulate effective learning characteristics. At Grove Road we have linked each Learning Habit to an animal character to support understanding.

**INDEPENDENCE – Indie the Independent Squirrel**

- Take responsibility
- Use your initiative
- Be organised
- Review your own progress

**COMMUNICATION – Buzzbee the Confident Communicator**

- Have a voice
- Work within a team
- Value different opinions
- Listen



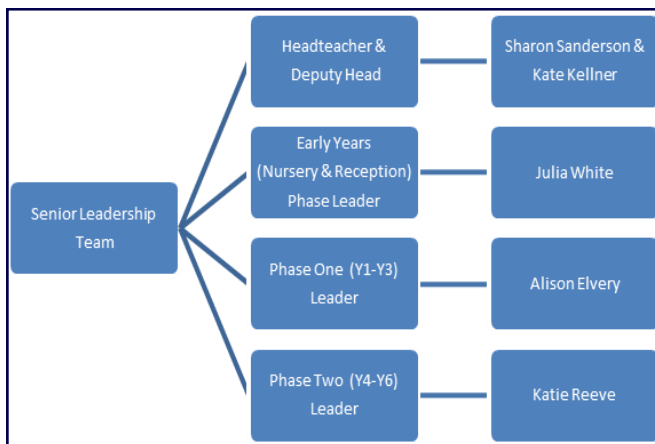
## Leadership structures

We thought you might find it useful to know how leadership roles and responsibilities are organised at Grove Road.

**The Senior Leadership Team** is organised so that each age phase is represented.

This year we have included Year 3 in Phase One to support transition into Key Stage 2. It also makes for a more even spread for each team leader in terms of the number of staff and pupils that they are over-seeing.

In addition to the Senior Leadership Team, curriculum leadership is organised into three **Curriculum Development Teams**, each one focusing on an aspect of the school improvement plan. The teams work in collaboration. They deliver training, share best practice and monitor progress across the curriculum. In this way we can ensure a shared and aligned approach to school improvement. Although each teacher is allocated a specific subject area to oversee, the teams work together in pursuit of school priorities agreeing together how best to promote and monitor improvement.



**Communication & Arts Team**

- Alison Elvery – Literacy
- Pat Tomlinson – Spelling & Grammar
- Caroline Oakley – Early Phonics
- Katie Reeve – History
- Jacqui Shelton – Music
- Vicki Brace - Art
- Chloe Lea

**Global Dimensions Team**

- Nicky Gifford – PSHE & Behaviour
- Julia White – Transition & Inclusion
- Annie New – Curriculum & Lang for Learning
- Sophie Holland – Geography
- Sam Forster – Modern Languages
- Charlotte Cooper - RE

**Science & Technology Team**

- Kate Kellner – Maths
- Ria Garry - Science
- Steph Meedin – ICT
- Vicky Hillier – Maths
- Mike Comer - PE
- Vicky Williams- D & T
- Lucy Stepto

## Teacher profiles

Grove Road has gained three new talented teachers this year . A 60 second interview was carried out to find out what brought them to teaching, what they enjoy outside of school and the best piece of advice they have ever been given. Here are their responses;

**Chloe Lea**

“My Mum, Grandmother and Auntie have all worked and taught in schools, so it is something I have been drawn to and passionate about since I was little. I have three younger brothers and I have always loved children!”  
 “Outside of school I enjoy (trying!) to cook, baking

and spending quality time with my family and friends. I also love travelling and exploring new places when I can.”  
 The best advice would be “You can't live a positive life with a negative mind!”

**Lucy Stepto**

“The moment when a child makes a leap of learning, that ‘ahh’ gives me goose bumps. To be part of that is a privilege, to be tasked with instigating that is an honour.”  
 “Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my children, walking on the beach or playing cards, but mostly chatting and laughing.”

The best advice would be “In order to know what each child needs you have to know that child, their likes and interests, their preferences and learning styles.”

**Vicky Hillier**

“I was very fortunate to have an extremely inspiring Head Teacher when at primary school. I wanted to support other children in the way she supported me.”  
 “Outside of school my family and friends are very

important to me and make me who I am, so I enjoy spending time with them.

Also, I enjoy thrill seeking such as days out at theme parks, sky diving and go-karting.”

“Best advice ever given was to always be yourself and never judge a book by its cover.”



# Governors 2013 Summer challenge

This years summer challenge was set by the Governors and points were awarded to each entry for participation, creativity and originality. The categories were;

- Working Tring
- Historical Tring
- Living Tring
- Community Tring

The panel awarded 2 house points for every entry received and 10 house points for the entries which were judged as being highly commended based on the criteria of originality and creativity. Well done to everyone who participated, we enjoyed judging your entries. Here are the entrants split into their 'Houses' and total house points.

Acer	Aesculus	Betula	Quercus	Sorbus
James Lucus	Daisy Thomas	Ella Orchard	Ben Evans	Hannah Grey
Taylor Lucus	Isabella Thomas	Sam Tozer	Lucca Begg	George Messenger
Dylan Wale	Sophie Dimes	Jamie Tozer	Oliver Begg	Ella Hamson
Morgan Slade	Oliver Hemlin	Katherine Tozer	Nell Asquith	Toby Webster
	Alexandra Drury	Will Selby	Fern Asquith	Sam Querall
	Eliza Smith	Henry Plummridge	Joseph Capel	Amy Rawlinson
	Edward Pike	Scott Wheelan	Josh Bond	
	Annabelle Whitehead	Isabel Thomas	Joey Bond	
	Grace Fensome	Jake Anderson		
		Grace Thomas		
<b>16 House points</b>	<b>42 House points</b>	<b>68 House points</b>	<b>40 House points</b>	<b>44 House points</b>

## Introduction of the 2013 House Captains



**Being a house captain and being part of a house**

“everyone learns teamwork and co-operation”

“contribute to school life and improvement”

**How does the house system lead to improvements?**

“forums give children time to share ideas”

“pupils can contribute to the leadership and are listened to”

**Aims for the year**

“fundraise for other charities e.g. more ice lolly days”

“more house competitions to help us work together”

We met with the newly appointed house captains to find out what they wanted to get out of the experience. Here are some of their thoughts.

We wish them every success in their new roles.

QUERCUS



Joey Bond  
Jodie Burchmore-Eames  
Thomas Cumley

ACER



Jack Haynes  
Freya Morris-Skingley

AESCULUS



Grace Fensome  
Tayte Hubbard

BETULA



Lola Pates  
Calvin Williams-Western



Ben Latham  
Molly Vincent