



Grove Park Primary School

www.groveparkprimary.co.uk



18th November 2011

Newsletter No 10

Rocking Around the Clock

Last week we had our fab Music Week! As many of you eagle eyed parents will have noticed there was a 'small typo offering you an opportunity to marvel at our photos. Unfortunately we didn't include them...however this week we have. Thank you to all the teachers, visitors, children and parents who made this week possible. The positive feedback has been truly tremendous!



'Last week, Grove Park Primary School enjoyed a number of activities as part of Music Week. We took part in an Opera, Jazz and African Drumming workshop, to name but a few. We all made our own instruments and played together in an orchestra, led by a rather inexperienced Mr Cornelius. On Friday, we saw some weird and wonderful costumes as part of 'Rock and Roll' Day - even our teachers got involved! Year Six particularly enjoyed our performance of Carmen which was a fantastic end to a tremendous week.' By Thomas Sparey and William Wickstead, Year 6.

Individual Photos

Photos are coming home today, so please place your order and payment in the envelope and return it to the office by Thursday, 1st December. Thank you.



Slips for Trips

Please don't forget to return your 'slips for trips'. If your class teacher or Gillian / Joanne do not receive them then unfortunately your child will not be able to go on the trip. If in doubt, pop in to the office or see your child's teacher and double check. It's miserable for the children if they miss out because of a little (but important!) bit of paper.

Little Donkey

Yes, it is that time of the year when class teachers take a deep breath and prepare for their own epic journey towards Christmas. And Christmas wouldn't be Christmas in a lovely primary school like ours without a nativity! On 13th December at 9.30am the Infants will be performing Grove Park's version of the holy story to parents in the hall. Last week your child will have received their lyrics. The tune can be downloaded on itunes or played on www.starshine.co.uk. Costume lists and letters will follow next week...

It's a premier league thing...

Well done Grove Park Footballers! We really are making waves (and a name!) in the Chiswick/Hounslow area. I am very proud of all those children who have been flying the flag and kicking the ball for our school. However...please can we have all the laundered football strips back ready for our next victory! Thank you.

Absenteeism

Recently I have had many enquiries about taking time off during the school calendar, particularly for holidays that have been inadvertently booked. 'Good' attendance is crucial to Grove Park's results. I cannot stress how essential it is that you ensure that your child attends (excluding cases of illness) each school session (each morning or afternoon counts as one session). For many years my predecessor, the lovely Mrs Lee, put a great deal of effort into getting the school into a position where it may be deemed as 'Outstanding' in a future Ofsted inspection. This, unfortunately, cannot happen if our attendance threshold falls below a certain percentage. The schools inspectorate, OFSTED, will not award any school an 'Outstanding' or 'Good' if their attendance record is not at a certain level. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to take robust action and address the issue effectively. But more importantly it is the responsibility of the parents/carers to get their children here on time and not miss any school sessions. If children arrive after 5 past 9, they are marked with a 'U', which counts as a whole session missed! Research and our own experience tell us that the impact of absenteeism on learning and progress is profound. I cannot authorise any absence within school time unless it is a medical need or an exceptional circumstance that is recognised by the Education Welfare Office.

Election Time

Our lovely parent governor Farat Hussain has now stepped down from her post. She has been truly tremendous and has had a huge impact on developing strong and positive relationships between school and parents. A big thank you to her (and her new daughter...congratulations!!). This does, however, mean that we are looking for a new parent governor to fill her position. If you feel that you add that extra sparkle to our governing body please consider applying. Being a parent governor can be a great way to get involved in the school and really make a difference. Nomination papers are coming home today, so give it some thought.

Budding Artists in Year 3

Year 3 have been very busy in the last couple of weeks making African drums in music week and recreating some Van Gogh masterpieces. Year 3 are studying the Victorians and looked at Van Gogh, as an artist of that era, looking at the styles and colours he used. You can see examples of Year 3's Sunflowers on the display board in the foyer and also in their classroom.



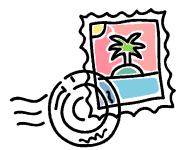
Strike Action

I am sure you will be aware that there is the possibility of strike action taking place by Teachers and Headteachers on Wednesday, 30th November. We will be in a position on Monday to let you know what impact this will have on Grove Park Primary School.



Stomping Stamps

Whilst we are thinking of what we can do to help the world go round and add a bit of love and joy into people's hearts, one of our lovely parents at Grove Park has brought to my attention a fantastic international charity called 'Goodwill'. They support long term projects that focus on destitute children who struggle to receive good quality education, health and care. We can help 'Goodwill' by collecting stamps (national and international ones, leaving 1cm of envelope around them) and placing them in our special, pre made 'Stamp Boxes'. We will be organising an assembly focussed on this project and we will be encouraging each class to make their own boxes. If you would like further information please see either me or Catherine Dunham. I know the 'art' of letter writing is dwindling, but we all get bills and Christmas is on its way, so cut out those stamps and send them in. We need an awful lot, so the more the merrier!



PTA Christmas Card Fundraising Project



The artwork your child has created and brought home can be accurately reproduced onto cards that are available in packs of 12. The cards recognise and celebrate each child's creative effort and are great to send to family and friends. See the form on the reverse of the artwork for prices.

A choice of 6 greetings is available for inside the card or they can be left blank, making them great gifts as note cards!

Ordering is simple. Just complete the order form sent home with your child's artwork with your child's name in block capitals in the boxes provided (please note that you can have a maximum of 26 characters including spaces) and return the artwork to the school by Monday, 21 November. Payment must also be included and this can be by either cash or cheque made payable to: Grove Park Primary School PTA.

Any enquiries relating to the project should be addressed to Erin Maury (Y5 parent) on 0770 473 9384 or ejmaury@tiscali.co.uk.