

Grove Park Primary School

www.grovesparkprimary.co.uk

Newsletter No 17

14th January 2011



HOW DO WE KNOW HOW WELL GROVE PARK IS DOING?

The national statistic which most people use to see how well a school is doing is the Year 6 results of an externally set and marked assessment, SATS. Last year our results were:

English Level 4 and above 86%

Level 5 29%

Maths Level 4 and above 93%

Level 5 45%

We were particularly impressed that our reading and writing results matched! Nationally there is often a discrepancy with children achieving higher in reading than in writing. (This year SATS week begins on 9th May). However, these bald figures do not tell the whole story for any school. We track with great care how each child progresses throughout the school and this is reported to our SIP (School Improvement Partner), Chris Thomas and to the governors. Our SIP visits the school three times each year to give feedback on our progress and has already indicated that Grove Park has reached sufficient standards of achievement for us to be labelled an 'outstanding' school for the second year running.

The more significant feature for parents and children is the outstanding level of behaviour throughout the school and the consistent approach of our teaching staff. We have very high expectations for all our children and put a lot of energy and dedication in helping them aspire to both happiness and a positive self image alongside good academic achievement. Other schools have recently been to us to get advice on developing their assessment and a creative curriculum, and have been very complimentary.

I would like to thank all our staff for this wonderful work, their diligence, and willingness to create such a happy atmosphere at school for all our children. Thank you.

GILL HINES 20TH JANUARY 7-9PM

Gill Hines is a highly regarded speaker and facilitator who has years of experience supporting parents over the difficult issues on raising their children. When she came to the school about 5 years ago, everyone said what a useful session it was. Indeed the hall was packed, so this time she has mentioned 'limited numbers' on her flyers because she wants there to be sufficient time for the workshops. However, I know she has not put a cap on numbers and is anxious to know how many people there will be so she can provide the correct number of handouts etc.

Please let us know if you are attending this evening: **Thursday, 20th January 7-9pm**

Thank you to the small number of parents who came to our evening explaining the school's PSHE curriculum including Drug Education and Sex and Relationship education. Those who attended gave very good feedback on the value of the evening—thank you for the compliments. This evening replaced the need for individual class explanations on the content for SRE and will occur annually.

Nursery Class Applications for September 2011:

If you, or someone you know, has a child who will be three years old by Wednesday, 31st August 2011, you can apply for a Nursery class place for September 2011. If you are interested in a Nursery place, we will be holding an open morning for prospective parents on **Wednesday, 2nd March** at 9.15am.

Please come along.

Application forms and further details are available from the school office or at the open morning. Applications must be submitted to your preferred school by **Wednesday, 4th May**.

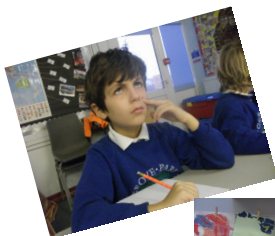
PARENTS COFFEE WORKSHOPS

21st Jan	Stay and Play	Nursery parents
28th Jan	PE and games	External consultant
4th Feb	Assertive Mentoring	Sam Birnage
8th Feb (midday)	Nursery children and parents	Margaret Mott helps to make cards
11th Feb	Phonics and Reading	Jade Husted
18th Feb	First Aid	TBC

More details on the ParentMail or from Joanna Lovatt (available Tues and Fri mornings or via parentsupportadvisor@grovepark.hounslow.sch.uk)

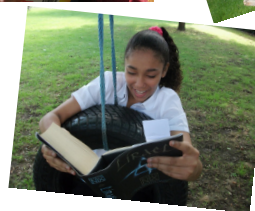
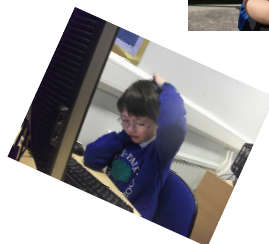
CHANGE OF DATES

Due to a DFE website announcement, the school will close one day early on **Thursday, 21st July** for additional training. We hope this does not cause any inconvenience. Full term dates for 2011 and 2012 are attached.



Keep reading!
Keep learning!
Have fun!

Keep
thinking!
Keep Learning!



WINTER SICKNESS

The media inform us that there is a lot of flu and winter sickness about and we have already begun to send children home who feel unwell. If your child has been ill over night, please do not send them back to school until they are fit enough to face a full day at school. Children who have been sick or had diarrhoea should not come to school for 24 hours after either. Thank you.

IF YOU HAVE ANY SPARE CLEAN GIRLS' PANTS AT HOME (THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO BROUGHT IN BOYS' PANTS!) WHICH WE COULD HAVE (ANY SIZE) THAT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP! THANK YOU



Hounslow is consulting on whether to change the over-subscription criteria that are used to allocate places to nursery and reception at community primary schools. It is important to emphasise that:

- This proposal only applies to community schools in Hounslow. It does not apply to faith schools.
- After consultation, the executive may decide that Hounslow should keep the existing arrangements.
- Over-subscription criteria are only used when there are more applications for a school than there are places available.
- Any change to the over-subscription criteria would take effect for the September 2012 entry to nursery or reception.

Current situation and the reasons for review

Currently, every community primary school in the borough has a Priority Admissions Area (PAA). These vary in size and shape, and the size of school does not necessarily relate to the number of children living in the PAA. Each household is only in one PAA. The current over-subscription criteria are:

- Children in Care
- Exceptional medical or social needs
- Siblings living within the PAA
- Other children living in the PAA
- Siblings living outside the PAA
- Other children living outside the PAA

The context for reviewing over-subscription criteria is:

Increasing pressures on the primary admissions system as shown by:

- An increasing number of community schools are unable to accept all children from their catchment area (up from 3 to 7 schools between 2008 and 2010, out of 37 community schools accepting reception pupils);
- An increasing number of community schools are unable to accept all siblings (up from 7 to 13 schools between 2008 and 2010). During this time the number of siblings unable to be placed with their elder sibling has increased to 65;
- **Family separation:** there are now examples where the elder sibling can only be offered a place at a school not selected by their parents and that is not their local PAA school. Any younger siblings then is unlikely to be able to attend the same school because siblings who do not live in the PAA of a school are low down the admissions criteria;
- The **schools who have expanded** to meet rising demand were expected to provide additional capacity for the locality, not just their own schools PAA. The size of a school may no longer reflect the number of children living in a PAA; and
- **Impacts of legislation:** The government expects an increase in the number of schools who manage their own admissions if community schools change status to foundation or academy or if new academies / free schools are established. These schools would be able to propose different over-subscription criteria. The existing PAA structure would be undermined if any individual school adopted different criteria. Similarly, any new 'free school' could not adopt 'community school' over-subscription criteria since they would not have their own unique PAA unless revisions were made to other school PAAs.

Have your say!

Consultation on the proposed new arrangements is from 13 December 2010 to 25 February 2011. On 12 April 2011, the council executive will consider the consultation responses and make their decision on which arrangements to use for entry to nursery and reception in September 2012.

You can have your say by:

- Completing a questionnaire online at www.hounslow.gov.uk/consultations
- Completing a paper questionnaire available from the school office
- Emailing your views to admissions@hounslow.gov.uk

TERM DATES 2011

SPRING TERM 2011

TERM DATES	Wednesday, 5 th January 2011 - Friday, 8 th April 2011
HALF TERM	Monday, 21 st February 2011 - Friday, 25 th February 2011
* Inset Day	Tuesday, 4 th January 2011

SUMMER TERM 2011

TERM DATES	Tuesday, 26 th April 2011 - Thursday, 21st July 2011
HALF TERM	Monday, 30 th May 2011 - Friday, 3 rd June 2011
* Inset Day	Monday, 6 th June 2011
* Bank Holiday	Monday, 2 nd May 2011
* Inset Day	Friday, 22 nd July 2011
* Bank Holiday	Friday, 29th April 2011 (for Royal Wedding)

Please note amended dates above

TERM DATES 2011–2012

AUTUMN TERM 2011

TERM DATES	Tuesday, 6 th September 2011 - Tuesday, 20 th December 2011
HALF TERM	Monday, 24 th October 2011 - Friday, 28 th October 2011
* Inset Day	Monday, 5 th September 2011
* Inset Day	Monday, 31 st October 2011
* Inset Day	Friday, 2 nd December 2011

SPRING TERM 2012

TERM DATES	Wednesday, 4 th January 2012 - Friday, 30 th March 2012
HALF TERM	Monday, 13 th February 2012 - Friday, 17 th February 2012
* Inset Day	Monday, 20 th February 2012

SUMMER TERM 2012

TERM DATES	Tuesday, 17 th April 2012 - Friday, 20 th July 2012
HALF TERM	Monday, 4 th June 2012 - Friday, 8 th June 2012
* Inset Day	Monday, 16 th April 2012
* Bank Holiday	Monday, 7 th May 2012

* = *School is closed for children*

