



Grove Park Primary School

www.groveparkprimary.co.uk



30th September 2011

Newsletter No 4

What a busy week we've had at Grove Park Primary School! All the children and teachers have been rocking and rolling with their learning and producing some very innovative and exciting things. On



Tuesday we had a number of enthusiastic Dads join us for 'Reading Time'. It was such a treat to walk around the school and see Dads sharing their favourite stories. The feedback from the children was unanimous...more sessions, MORE DADS! With that in mind we will be holding another event very soon, so if you couldn't make it, look out for the next date!



Speaking of dates, please find attached a list of up coming dates and events between now and the end of term. Don't forget that these (along with term dates) are also available on the website and we usually email reminders via Parentmail nearer the time. Keep an eye on your email to make sure you don't miss anything.

Harvest for the world! This morning we celebrated Harvest in our school assembly with songs, fun and of course the infamous 'Bread Making Competition'. It was wonderful to hear such lovely singing (Particularly as 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' is a firm favourite of mine!). I was amazed at the variety of loaves presented and I would like to thank all the children for their wonderful efforts. The 'Upper Room' were thrilled with the non-perishable goods they received and have asked me to thank everybody who donated food!

Continuing on from our BIKE IT success last year, which earned Grove Park an incredible show by the amazing MAD BIKERS, we are glad to say that Dr Bike will once again be paying a visit to our school to give a free safety check on bikes brought to school that day.

This is not a full service, but a safety check of brakes, wheels, handlebars, saddles and pedals with advice and suggestions for further work, if it is needed.

We only have Dr Bike at our school during the morning of **Thursday 6th October**. Last year he and our Bike It Marshalls were met with over 100 bikes!! If you want to make sure your bikes get a free safety check next week, please come and **see Ms Chesney (in Year 1) on Monday, 3rd October** in the morning for a ticket. Only the first 40 people are guaranteed a check.

On Wednesday we held our 'No Pens' day and it was brilliant! Not a pen or pencil in sight, but what a lot of learning. The amount of diverse, inspiring activities was impressive. Every child I spoke to asked if we could do this again. And again, we will! It made the teachers think hard about what they were going to plan and encouraged the children to be more 'active' in their learning. Thank you Mrs Letch for leading this project, I have a feeling that the next few 'No Pen' days are going to be even more amazing.

The PTA are meeting next week (4th October at 7.30pm) for their AGM. If you would like to add anything to the agenda please contact your class rep.



I have been so impressed with how the children have settled into the Nursery and Reception classes, there really is a buzz in the Early Years these days. Starting school is one of the most significant times in a child's life and what a start our children have had here at Grove Park. Every child I have come across this week has shared with me how happy and proud they are of their class (and of course their teachers!). Well done to everybody who has helped make this introduction to school life a smooth one. To celebrate this and the lovely weather, both Nursery and Reception went on a picnic to Chiswick Park yesterday and had a lovely time in the sunshine!



This week we have had a couple of incidents regarding parking. PLEASE DO NOT park over driveways adjacent to the school. We have had a number of complaints from residents who have been subjected to verbal abuse from parents when asked to move their cars. This is unacceptable and not in the spirit of our community. On Tuesday we also had a car park on the yellow lines outside the gate. If this occurs during school times I have asked Mr Hardman to write down the car registration and contact the police. The lines are there for your child's safety. Please respect them.



Year One thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Chiswick Library earlier this week and spent a morning engrossed in books and listening to stories.



KS2 REMINDER! We are still waiting for a lot of children to bring back their permission slips for the pantomime. Please send these back as soon as possible. We have to pay for the tickets in order to secure the booking and without this, we are jeopardising our places. We will email copies of the letter and permission slip again to everyone today. Thank you.

We have had some enquiries regarding after school child care since Imaginations had to close their doors. For those of you who are not familiar with the whole story, I thought I would fill you in on the history. Grove Park did run its own after care provision for many years, but numbers were always low. The club struggled increasingly and began to lose money. We tried all sorts of different ways of encouraging attendance, but in the end we had to make the decision to close it down—we could not be in a position where we were not able to fund the provision. It was at that time that Imaginations stepped forward. They offered to collect children from the school and care for them locally, off school premises. Although the provision was no longer available at school, this seemed like a good compromise. Sadly Imaginations has also struggled with numbers and, at the beginning of this term, admitted that they could not survive as they were. As a last attempt, we offered to canvas our parents to see if and what interest there was. Of course, this had to be done quickly, to give Imaginations time to ensure that they would have the appropriate staff if necessary. Sadly, as we mentioned in last week's newsletter, we only had seven responses and most of those only wanted one or two days a week. We fed this back to Imaginations, and they had to make the very sad decision not to offer after school care. We are still trying to investigate other options for those parents that need it, but I'm afraid with the history as it stands, it doesn't look likely in the foreseeable future.

Imaginations still offers wrap-around care after nursery and are, in fact, looking for new staff to collect children. Please see the advert below if you are interested.

Advert: Imaginations is looking for adults (male or female) who are willing to collect children from several nursery schools in Chiswick- Grove Park, Belmont and St Mary's at either 11.45am or 12.00 and walk them to Imaginations on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through term time. No qualifications necessary but will need CRB police check.

NVQ level 2 and level 3 in child care (male or female) required as:
Inclusion worker for 3 mornings a week to support a child with Down's Syndrome and nursery worker 4 mornings and one afternoon per week

For more details, please telephone 0208 742 1707 or speak to Carol Powers or Siobhan Jennings

DIARY DATES AUTUMN TERM 2011

Friday, 30th September	Harvest Festival Celebrations: donations to the Upper Room Year 6 and 2 cake sale
Friday, 30th September	Coffee morning: Early Reading
Monday, 3rd October	Start of Black History Month
Tuesday, 4th October	PTA AGM in the school hall at 7.30—everyone welcome
Wednesday, 5th October	PGL meeting for Year 6 parents at 3.15
Thursday, 6th October	Dr Bike in school fixing bikes
Friday, 7th October	Year 2 assembly Coffee morning: KS2 reading
Monday, 10th October	Walk to School Week Assessment week
Thursday, 13th October	Parents' Forum
Friday, 14th October	Well done assembly Coffee morning: Learning Through Play Year 1 to Chiswick House Kitchen Gardens Year 5 and 1 cake sale
Monday, 17th October	Year 6 to PGL school journey
Tuesday, 18th October	Nursery children and parents workshop making name signs at 12.00
Thursday, 20th October	Book Day: dress up as a character from a book Read a story day: parents invited to come in and read
Friday, 21st October	Year 4 assembly Coffee morning: book swap Year 1 and 2 trip to Hammersmith cinema Year 6 return from school journey BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM 3.15
Monday, 31st October	INSET DAY (Staff training: school closed for children)
Tuesday, 1st November	Back to school: be on time at 5 to 9
Wednesday, 2nd November	Year 2 trip to Kensington Gardens
Friday, 4th November	Well done assembly Coffee morning: KS2 projects Years 4 and Reception cake sale
Monday, 7th November	Music Week Book Fair all week at 3.15
Tuesday, 8th November	Parent Consultations (late slots) 4.00—7.00pm
Wednesday, 9th November	'Bully's Paradise' production for whole school
Thursday, 10th November	Drum workshops for whole school Parent Consultations (early slots) 2.30—5.30
Friday, 11th November	Music Week Assembly Coffee morning: Learning styles
Monday, 14th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday, 15th November	Individual Photos
Thursday, 17th November	Year 5 to the Globe Theatre
Friday, 18th November	CHILDREN IN NEED FUNDRAISING DAY Year 6 assembly Coffee morning: PTA Christmas Fair preparation Years 3 and Nursery cake sale

Friday, 25th November	Year 1 class assembly Coffee morning: PTA Christmas Fair preparation
Friday, 2nd December	INSET DAY: School closed
Tuesday, 6th December	Year 6 to Imperial War Museum
Friday, 9th December	Well done assembly Coffee morning: Mums' maths Year 6 and 2 cake sale
Saturday, 10th December	CHRISTMAS FAIR
Tuesday, 13th December	KS1 Christmas Production 9.30
Wednesday, 14th December	KS1 pantomime (at school): Little Red Riding Hood Nursery children and parents workshop: making Christmas cards KS2 to Richmond Theatre for Cinderella (back late)
Thursday, 15th December	Elderly Neighbours' Christmas Party 1.45-3.00pm
Friday, 16th December	Christmas Assembly Christmas coffee morning Carols round the tree
Tuesday, 20th December	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2.15PM
Wednesday, 4th January	Back to school: be on time at 5 to 9!

Gift Wrap Fundraiser

Look out for the Northbrook gift wrap brochure that we will be sending home soon.

Our school will receive **22% cash back** on every item sold
66p for every item at £3.00 and 77p for every item at £3.50
So please support us rather than your local supermarket

We will all be buying wrapping paper for Christmas and of course we need birthday paper all year round. If we all just bought a couple of items through Northbrook we could raise a significant amount of money.

Very importantly Northbrook's gift wrap has been responsibly sourced in the EU and finished in the UK therefore reducing carbon miles, and sustaining UK jobs.

Besides the roll wrap there are many other great value products in the brochure, Check out the good sized top quality Christmas Bags, 3 for £3.50 ! and the Bumper Tissue pack, 22 sheets for £3.50!

As an extra bonus Northbrook are offering a fabulous £2000 voucher for a holiday to *Disneyland Paris*. This amazing prize will be won by one lucky family from one school / organisation. Which ever school this lucky family come from Northbrook will double that school's profit, so it could be you and it could be us !

Returning your order form before the Half Term Holiday will give you that chance