

# Grove Park Primary School

Newsletter No 32  
18th June 2010



## HABITS OF MIND

Grove Park children have enjoyed focusing on good learning habits. It was good to see so many parents at our launch coffee morning workshop. Everyone is very enthusiastic about promoting good Habits of Mind. You may remember that our current focus for each year group is:

Nursery and Reception: Thinking inter-dependently—Working together

Year 1 and 2: Listening with empathy and understanding—Understanding others

Year 3 and 4: Managing Impulsivity—Thinking before you act

Year 5 and 6: Applying past knowledge to new situations—Use what you know

And the Whole schools will be: Persisting—Stick to it.

We realise that we also need to persist, if we are to build strong Habits and we have been looking for a way to deepen our understanding of how children learn. To our delight, we have been invited to be one of 4 pilot schools for the 'Mind UP' project led by the Horn Foundation. Goldie Horn is the founder of this project and has worked with universities in the USA and research shows that the Mind UP approach helps children calm themselves in preparation for learning. The programme has 4 elements. Firstly, it builds on Social and Emotional Learning (which is strong in Grove Park). Self-management, responsible decision making, self-awareness, relationship skills and showing understanding and empathy for others are the constituent parts of this. It promotes Positive Psychology and enhances the schools' learning about neuro-science. This incorporates elements of helping children to calm down quickly after an exciting playtime using breathing techniques. It also uses "mindfulness training" so children learn to concentrate and value their own state of mind. We felt this would complement our Habits of Mind programme and help us to further develop independent learners. More information in the Autumn term!



## PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

Forms are coming home today for nominations to be a Parent Governors. Each school has its own Governing Body, which plays an important role in the strategic management of the school. The Governing Body is made up of a cross-section of the local community and includes parent representatives of children at the school. Parent Governors have an important part to play in the work of the Governing Body. New Governors receive a borough wide induction, as well as having the support of our current Governors. Together with the Headteacher, they set the future direction for the school and decide how the school's budget should be spent. Governing Bodies make decisions collectively on matters such as the school development plan. They provide the Headteacher with support and advice, drawing on their knowledge and experience. They ask searching questions and respect the Headteacher's position as a professional leader of the school.

You can find out more about being a school Governor on [www.Governor.net.co.uk](http://www.Governor.net.co.uk) or asking one of our current Governors. I hope you are interested in becoming a Governor. If so please complete the nomination form today.

# SWIMMING GALA RESULTS

Grove Park had a great morning at the swimming gala on Thursday. We finished 2nd place overall, with St Mary's winning. Well done to all who competed, especially the girls who came first in the medley and freestyle.

## Girls events: individual

50m freestyle 2nd Jana

50m backstroke 2nd place Freya



50m breaststroke 3rd Place Sasha

## Boys events: individual

50 m freestyle 4th Place  
Tarun

50m backstroke 3rd Place  
Jayesh

50m breaststroke 4th  
Place Jamie



## Relays

3x25m girls medley 1st Place  
Breast—Holly  
Back—Lucy  
Free—Abi

3x25m freestyle  
2nd place  
Breast—Isaiah  
Back—Tom  
Free—Jayesh

3x25, freestyle 2nd Place  
Nick, Tarun, Isaiah

3x25m freestyle 1st place  
Jana, Abi, Freya

# STAFF NEWS

I know everyone is getting very excited about who their next teacher will be. Everyone will be told on July 8th, when the annual written reports also come home. The children will be the first to know as they meet their new teachers during an assembly that day and have some time in their new classroom and discuss the next year. I am sure you will be interested to know that **Miss Kathryn Taylor** has been appointed to teach in KS2. Miss Taylor has a wealth of experience and is currently teaching at an International School in France. I was delighted to see her demonstration of teaching as it was one of the most exciting lessons I have seen under such circumstances. The children certainly rose to the occasion and both Mrs Victoria Retallack and I agreed that having Kathryn onboard would be a real asset to the school. Miss Taylor takes the permanent position of Miss Rachael Carbin who left earlier this year.

I am also very pleased to announce that **Mrs Megan Fourie**, currently in Year 2, will continue as maternity cover next year. Megan has been a wonderful addition to our school and has been on 'permanent supply'. From September she will be a long-term, temporary member of our staff. We will review the position when we know how long **Mrs Hannah Hannington** wishes to take for her maternity leave.

Whilst **Mrs Victoria Retallack** is on maternity leave, **Mr Sam Birnage** will be our Deputy Headteacher. **Mrs Amanda Letch** will take over responsibility as SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) while Victoria is on maternity leave. As a consequence, we need an additional member of staff to cover this promotion and **Ms Alice Moul** has been appointed. Ms Moul has a lot of experience as a teacher in New Zealand and has recently been teaching in inner London.

I am sure you join with me in welcoming the new members of our team and of wishing Hannah and Victoria well for the arrival of their babies. Hannah and Victoria both plan to return to Grove Park in due course.

## Don't Forget **OPEN MORNING** Friday, 16th July

Year 3 and Nursery	9.15—10.15
Year 4 and Reception	9.45—10.45
Year 5 and Year 1	10.15—11.15
Year 6 and Year 2	10.45—11.45

This is a very special day for the children. We really hope EVERYONE has a special visitor. Please help us.