

Grove Park Primary School

Newsletter No 3. 18th September 2009



Coffee Mornings

We have already lined up some great coffee mornings for you! So get out your diary and jot down the dates:
Friday, 25th September: Our annual Eid coffee morning will follow the Year 6 assembly. This year the children will celebrate Eid in assembly on Monday, 21st. Over the last few years, this has included a wonderful feast of exciting foods, donated by kind parents. We are hoping to Celebrate Hajj through a shared assembly on Friday, 27th November

Friday, 2nd October: Harvest festival and coffee morning. This year we will hold a **bread making competition** for adults and children (details to follow) We will support the Upper Room with donations of lots of tins (and they have especially asked for soup) and inviting our elderly neighbours to join the assembly and coffee afterwards. Our neighbours will also take home a bag of harvest goodies from the donations from the children. The coffee morning will be a chance to share the bread we have baked!

Friday, 16th October: Divali. We will enjoy a dance demonstration to learn about the story of Rama and Sita during the assembly and the children will then have dance workshops. Parents will be invited to share coffee after the assembly with Indian food.

No-one wants to feel bullied at Grove Park School and we are very proud of the overall standard of behaviour at our school. However it is very important that parents know what to do and how to help if an incident of bullying occurs.

What is bullying? Bullying is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone.

There may be an element of repetition involved.

It can involve physical or verbal attacks, name calling, exclusion from a group, malicious gossip, damaging or stealing the property of the victim or coercing the victim into acts, which they do not wish to do.

Bullying often seems to have a lot to do with the use or misuse of power.



Anti-Bullying guidelines

HELPING YOUR CHILD

IF YOUR CHILD IS BEING BULLIED: TALK TO THE SCHOOL

We can tackle bullying best by working together to support your child.

Let us know if you feel there is a problem. Inform the class teacher - a note or a quick word outlining the problem.

Keep us informed even if the bullying has stopped.

Encourage your child to tell a trusted adult and check they have done so.

Keep a diary; record incidents that your child tells you about. This will help you discuss the matter with us and help us to identify any patterns. Discuss with your child's class teacher ways to help your child in and out of school.

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS: IF YOUR CHILD IS A BULLY

Talk to your child - encourage him / her to understand the behaviour is not acceptable and to see how it hurts the victim.

Try and find out why he / she is behaving in this way.

Do not physically punish your child - this may encourage more bullying behaviour.

Find opportunities to reward your child for good behaviour. Praise them whenever you can.

Your child may be bullied by others and is reacting by bullying someone else. It is advisable to discuss this with them.

Help is available from several sources to assist your child to change his / her behaviour. Ask the school how you can get this help for you and your child.

Make it clear to your child that you support the school policy on bullying and that you understand what will happen if the bullying continues.

Make sure your child knows the consequences of his / her actions. Remain calm when talking to your child.

Please come and discuss any relevant issues with us.

Bike Enthusiast Required

Grove Park Primary School has a set of 30 children's bikes which suit Years 3, 4 and 5. We have all the relevant cycle helmets, but our bikes need to have a safety check and some maintenance to make them suitable for our children. If you would like to help us by tightening nuts, oiling parts and checking brakes, please come in to our office for details. Ideally we would like to pass on this knowledge to our children. So if you can also have a small group (4 KS2 children at a time) to help you, this would be wonderful.



Once we have got the bikes back in tiptop order, it would be wonderful to have some volunteers to help our children learn to ride the bikes safely round the playground. By Year 5 the children take a cycling proficiency course to help them learn road safety, but we know there are a few children who are still rather wobbly and would love some additional support, prior to this.



Thank you

Grove Park children at Secondary School

Many of our Year 6 children from last year have already been back to tell us of their adventures in secondary school and they all seem to be having a great time. It is very different for them, but they are approaching the changes with confidence and pride.

You might like to know the schools they now attend:

Most went to Chiswick Community School
Other schools include: Notting Hill and Ealing

The Green School

Latymer

Twyford

Christ's in Richmond

Ibstock

Putney Park

Hampton Community College

St Catherine's

Hershall Grammar

Brentford School for Girls

Parents' Forum

Many thanks to the wonderful number of parents who came to this week's parents forum. It was a very open discussion and some of the articles in this newsletter stem directly from the parents ideas. Thank you so much for the inspirations! It was also lovely to have a parent governor, Shadaan Aliya at the meeting. I know she came away with ideas for governors.

I feel it is really important that we work hard to develop and continue to improve the excellent relationship we have between parents and the school. There are not many schools who offer this open forum and I really value it.

Piano lessons Available

Adam Blackburn offers piano lessons for £20 per hour

Beginners right through to Grade 8

Very close to the school

Please call Adam on 020 8580 4804 for further details



The School Development Plan is written by the school governors, the staff and the senior leadership team of Grove Park Primary School. It helps shape the strategic direction for the school. Below you will see a very brief set of headlines to keep you informed about the main areas for development. You may wish to ask about any of these in Parents' Forum or directly to any of the senior teachers: Mrs Victoria Retallack, Miss Kate Upsher, Mrs Hannah Hannington, Mr Sam Birnage or myself, Mrs Marion Lee

Key areas for development 2009-2010

Staff development and retention

Next tranche teachers to undertake management training of 'Leading from the Middle' (3 senior teachers)

Training for new senior team

Governors – a new team who will develop and strengthen their understanding of our school

Curriculum

Habits of Mind - Killick and Costa the next step in helping children develop their own responsibility for learning

Literacy

Open new library and encourage reading for pleasure / suitable books for children to read in each year group

Develop 'talk for writing' across the school: Speaking and listening / Podcasting

Develop storytelling across the school – Pie Corbett / Suitable stories for each class to 'learn' orally

Maths

Develop and streamline written maths calculation progression across school

Foundation Stage / Early Years

Transition into year 1 Hounslow project

Outdoor learning Roehampton / Hounslow Project especially for Early Years

Music

Develop 'singing school' using music to learn maths/literacy facts and enhance the curriculum

IT

Review assessment of IT against National Curriculum level descriptors and scheme of work – new software and training as appropriate

Roll out MLE (Managed Learning Environment) and enable children to work on computers from home

Podcasting/ use of sound in IT: training to edit film

PE

To build up provision and increase opportunities for all children

Assessment

Embed data meetings to discuss each child's progress and tracking using Target Tracker software

Premises

Transform dining area into multi-function learning place (floor, ceiling, lights, window, screens)

Complete library project (ceiling and lights , additional seating and shelving support – plus books?)

Every Child Matters

Investigate other schools' Provision Mapping. Can we improve ours?

Parents workshops on basic skills in a variety of formats- weekly?

Increase parent helpers and dad's in school

Target children for extra curricular activities, including clubs

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| 2nd September | INSET DAY |
| 3rd September | Children back to school |
| 4th September | Nursery parent talk in hall 10am Reception class talk in hall 2.30pm |
| 7th September | Walk to School Week 11 new reception children start |
| 8th September | Walk to School Week Year 6 meet the teacher 3.15 21 reception children |
| 9th September | Walk to School Week Year 5 meet the teacher 3.15 |
| 10th September | Walk to School Week Year 4 meet the teacher 3.15 |
| 11th September | Walk to School Week Year 2 meet the teacher 3.15 |
| 14th September | Reception children stay to lunch |
| 15th September | Parents' Forum 9.00 Swimming starts Y3 and 6 Year 1 meet the teacher 3.15 |
| 16th September | Nursery play morning Year 3 meet the teacher 3.15 |
| 1st October | Black History month begins PTA AGM 8pm |
| 2nd October | Harvest festival |
| 5th October | Quiet Week |
| 6th October | Quiet Week Parents' Forum 9.00 |
| 15th October | Parents' consultation 3.15 - 7.30pm |
| 16th October | Divali assembly |
| 17th October | Grove Park Football Tournament at Chiswick Community School |
| 19th October | PGL for Y6 |
| 20th October | Y5 and Y3 swimming |
| 23rd October | Jeans for Genes Day |
| | HALF TERM |

Dates for Autumn Term

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| 2nd November | Back to School 8.55 a.m. |
| 2nd November | Focus Week: Technology Storytelling |
| 3rd November | Focus Week: Technology Storytelling Parents' Forum 9 am |
| 4th November | Focus Week: Technology Storytelling |
| 5th November | Focus Week: Technology Storytelling |
| 6th November | Focus Week: Technology Storytelling |
| 13th November | PTA Quiz night |
| 19th November | INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 20th November | INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 27th November | Ei-UI-Adha (Hajj) assembly 9.00 am |
| 28th November | PTA Christmas Fair |
| 30th November | Decorations up by end of week Christmas post begins |
| 1st December | Parents' Forum 9.00 am |
| 4th December | Occasional Day SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 7th December | KS1 dress rehearsal |
| 8th December | Last swimming 10am KS1 production |
| 9th December | OAP party Y6 PM |
| 11th December | KS2 carol concert 9.00 am |
| 14th December | KS2 Panto (Snow White) in Richmond |
| 15th December | KS1 Cinderella Panto in school |
| 16th December | Parties for all children |
| 18th December | School closes at 2.15 |
| | Holiday |

Spring Term Dates

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| Monday | 4th January | Back to School |
| Tuesday | 5th January | Swimming starts Y4 and Y5 |
| Tuesday | 12th January | Parents' Forum 9.00 |
| Friday | 22nd January | INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Monday | 25th January | Assessment week |
| Tuesday | 2nd February | Parents' Forum 9.00 |
| Thursday | 4th February | Parent consultation evening |
| Thursday | 11th February | Valentine's Disco |
| | | Half term |

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| Monday | 22nd February | Philosophy week |
| Friday | 26th February | Philosophy week Coffee morning |
| Tuesday | 2nd March | Parents' Forum |
| Friday | 5th March | Coffee morning: |
| Monday | 8th March | Quiet Week |
| Friday | 19th March | Coffee morning: |
| Thursday | 25th March | pm East partnership meeting |
| Friday | 26th March | Coffee morning: |
| | | Easter holiday |