

Grove Park Primary School

Newsletter No 5. 2nd October 2009



Black History Month



October is Black History Month when schools promote knowledge about African and Caribbean cultures. This year Grove Park is concentrating on stories and each week, each class will hear a different story from Africa or the Caribbean. In addition, the children will have two FREE workshops. The first is on Monday, 5th October, when we will have an African drumming workshop. We will also have an African art workshop on Thursday, 15th October, which focuses on drawing. We would love to hear from any parent who has family connections or has visited any African country or the Caribbean and would be happy to come in and share their experiences, through cooking, or sharing photos or simply telling stories from personal experiences. Please contact your class teacher if you feel you can help. Thank you.



Divali

Divali is the Hindu festival of lights, celebrated this year on 17th October. At school we will hold a special Divali assembly on Friday 16th October with a guest dancer to help us learn the story of Rama and Sita. The children will enjoy dance workshops throughout the day. This event is FREE. After the assembly, parents and carers are invited to join us for coffee and biscuits. We hope you can join us.



Eid

Thank you to all our Muslim families who shared such wonderful food with us last Friday to celebrate Eid. This festival celebrates the end of Ramadan, which is a month of fasting during daylight hours. Ramadan is a time when Muslims read the Qur'an (the holy book of Islam) They remember the time when the Qur'an was revealed to the prophet Muhammed (pbuh). The timing of this festival relates to the phases of the moon, in much the same way as Easter dates vary from year to year.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPTIONS

If you have a child in Year Six, now is the time that you should be making your decisions about which secondary school to apply for. You will already have received a pre-printed application form and guidance notes and I hope you were able to attend the General Advice Meeting at the Civic Centre last week. Secondary schools will be holding their open days from now until the end of October, and you are recommended to visit any school you are considering applying for (but please remember to tell us if you are planning to take your child out of school for any of these visits). The deadline for returning your application to Grove Park Primary School is **20th October 2009—and don't forget, you MUST provide proof of address in the form of a recent council tax bill.** Please remember to inform the office if you are making your application on-line or delivering the form yourself to the civic centre. Please refer to the guidance notes from Hounslow, 'Transfer to Secondary School in 2010' for further information regarding deadlines, open days, how to apply etc. (Don't forget, if you are not a Hounslow resident, you will need to apply through your own borough). If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure, please feel free to come in and ask or contact the admissions department at Hounslow on 020 8583 2721.

Parent Consultations—Thursday, 15th October 2009

We will be holding this term's parent consultation meetings on Thursday, 15th October. You and your child will be invited to come in to discuss with their class teacher how they have found the beginning of the year.

Timetables will be put up outside each classroom the week before the meetings, on Thursday, 8th, so that you may sign up for your preferred slot. Appointments run from 2.40 until 7.50 pm and are for ten minutes only. Should you wish to discuss anything in more depth, you are always welcome to make a further appointment with the teacher.



BOOK FAIR—Thursday, 1st—Wednesday, 7th October

Our book fair is in the school foyer from Thursday, 1st October until Wednesday, 7th. We are trialling a new company in response to parents views expressed at Parents' Forum. Come and see if you think this is a better choice for your child.

Calling any Parents (Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles) Who Can Spare an Hour or Two to Volunteer

Hounslow Association for the Blind is currently recruiting volunteers for the Home Visiting Service, which supports blind, partially sighted and deafblind people to lead independent lives. If you are able to spare a couple of hours a week/fortnight, you could help provide a valuable service to the visually impaired. The work is neither strenuous nor taxing, but a gentle, sensitive manner is essential. Full training and support given.

For further information please call: 020 8423 5141, or email: info@aftb.org.uk

Lost Property

It's only a few weeks into term and we are already overflowing with lost property! Please come in and look through to claim some of these lovely items. It seems such a shame to throw these away. Please

TERM DATES 2009—2010

AUTUMN TERM 2009

TERM DATES	Thursday, 3rd September 2009 - Friday, 18 th December 2009
HALF TERM	Monday, 26 th October - Friday, 30 th October 2009
* Inset Day	Wednesday, 2 nd September 2009 (SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING)
* Inset Day	Thursday, 19 th November 2009 (SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING)
* Inset Day	Friday, 20 th November 2009 (SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING)
* Occasional Day	Friday, 4 th December 2009 (SCHOOL CLOSED)

SPRING TERM 2010

TERM DATES	Monday, 4 th January 2010 - Thursday, 1 st April 2010
HALF TERM	Monday, 15 th February 2010 - Friday, 19 th February 2010
* Inset Day	Friday, 22 nd January 2010 (SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING)

SUMMER TERM 2010

TERM DATES	Monday, 19 th April 2010 - Thursday, 22 nd July 2010
HALF TERM	Monday, 31 st May 2010 - Friday, 4 th June 2010
* Inset Day	Monday, 7 th June 2010 (SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING)
* Bank Holiday	Monday, 3 rd May 2010 (SCHOOL CLOSED)