

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a very fun end to the week, celebrating all of our amazing maths learning in number day! Thank you for making such an effort with the patterned and numbered clothes. It has been great to see the children applying their maths to solve problems and doing lots of practical activities and investigations both inside and outside, from pancake making in Year 1 to orienteering in Year 5, there has been so much learning happening.

Another highlight of the week was the amazing Year 3 assembly yesterday. Everyone performed amazingly, it was great to see everyone having their special moment and the mini teachers, Cruella Deville and Winston Churchill were a particular highlight!

Congratulations also need to go to the children who competed at Excel yesterday. We came 6th out of 11 schools in the local area which is fantastic, but we are also celebrating how well these children represented our school and our values. Numerous people have fed back to us on the wonderful behavior demonstrated by Grovelands children and, as ever, we are very proud of them all.

I am sure most of you have noticed our new and improved website. Please do take a look if not— key dates, school calendar, recent letters and newsletters can all be found on this site, such a useful tool to refer to it if you are unsure what is happening within school.

Mrs Powers has been working wonders in our new library—we are delighted with all the new furniture and how inviting this area has become. We have also ordered lots of new books, extending the selection for the children even further.

We will be holding a Deputy Headteacher forum next Thursday regarding homework. Parents and carers are invited to come along and discuss aspects of development or changes you would like to see. Please do come along and join us so we can listen to your views.

An important announcement was made to staff during the latter part of this week. Please refer to Mrs Susan Foster's letter to you all on the following page for more information.

All I have left to say, is have a great weekend and see you all on Monday.

Best wishes
Mrs Chadda and Mrs Coleman

Attendance Matters

If your child is unable to attend school, you must phone the school office before 09.30am on the day of the absence. If no message is left in the office, your child's absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 per parent if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 per parent if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

Dates for your Diary 2018

- 6 Feb** Safer Internet Day
 - 7 Feb** Nursery Tour—11.00am
SEND Parent Drop-in Session—3.15-4.45pm
 - 8 Feb** Sign2sing
Parent Forum (Homework) —2.00pm
 - 9 Feb** **INSET DAY**
 - 12 Feb** **HALF TERM WEEK**
 - 20 Feb** Nursery Tour—11.00am
Parents' Evening—3.15 to 5.00pm
 - 22 Feb** Parents' Evening—4.00 to 7.00pm
 - 23 Feb** YR4 Assembly—9.00am
 - 26 Feb** Book Week
 - 28 Feb** Bedtime Story—6.00pm
Parent Partner Reading Workshop—6.00pm
 - 1 Mar** World Book Dress Up Day
 - 7 Mar** YR2 SATS Parent Meeting—9.00am
 - 9 Mar** Mill Cottage Farm Visit—Reception and Nursery
 - 12 Mar** YR4 Roman Workshop
 - 16 Mar** YR1 Assembly—9.00am
 - 21 Mar** Parent Safer Internet Workshop—6.00pm at Cleves
 - 22 Mar** Parent Forum—2.00pm
 - 27 Mar** YR4 Residential Parent Meetings—3.00pm & 6.00pm
 - 29 Mar** **BREAK UP FOR EASTER—2.00pm**
 - 16 Apr** **INSET DAY**
 - 24 Apr** YR1 London's Burning Workshop
 - 25 Apr** Class Photos
 - 3 May** **POLLING DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED**
 - 4 May** Reception Bocketts Farm trip
 - 7 May** **BANK HOLIDAY**
 - 8 May** Reception Height and Weight Checks
 - 14 May** YR6 SATS week
 - 16 May** YR4 Residential—Mill Rythe (return 18 May)
 - 25 May** **BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM—3.00pm**
 - 18 Jun** YR6 Residential—Land and Wave (return 22 Jun)
 - 3 Jul** YR6 Senior School Induction Day
YRs R—5 Shuffle-up day
 - 4 Jul** YR6 Senior School Induction Day
 - 11 Jul** YR6 Leavers' Performance—1.30pm
 - 12 Jul** Sports Day
YR6 Leavers' Performance—7.00pm
 - 16 Jul** Sports Day (back-up)
 - 18 Jul** Parent Report Drop-in and Meet next year's Teacher
 - 19 Jul** YR6 Leavers' Assembly—9.00am
 - 20 Jul** **END OF TERM—2.00pm**
NB. Please note dates are subject to change.
- Early Years = Nursery & Reception /
KS1 = Years 1 & 2 / KS2 = Years 3, 4, 5, 6

SCHOOL DINNERS

Please pay dinner money in advance every Monday or, alternatively, you can pay half termly using our online payment facility. Should you require log-in details for online payments, please speak to the main office. The cost of a school meal is £2.25. Please notify the office of any changes to school meal preferences a week in advance in writing. Thank you.

Update from the Chair of Governors to all parents and carers

When I wrote to you just before Christmas I promised to let you know as soon as I could governors' decision about the school's future leadership. Governors have worked extremely hard to consider all viable options and select the one that they think best, whilst at the same time working with the school's leaders in their drive to improve education at Grovelands. If you have not done so already, we hope that you will soon be experiencing or hearing about the improvements new to this term - the refurbished and restocked library; the new look website (which we hope is more user friendly, especially on mobile phones); improvements to IT (despite a recent problem outside the school's control); and a minibus shared with Cleves for a trial period to open up more opportunities for children's off site learning and sport.

Some of the factors governors have had to take into consideration in looking at leadership options are the national shortage of high quality and experienced headteachers; our determination to continue with the drive to improve Grovelands' children's education across the piece; the considerable amount of leadership change that staff have experienced over recent years; and the need to minimise risk. That said, after consulting widely, governors learned that although Mr Hodges, Mrs Chadda and Mrs Coleman are believed to be doing a great job in leading change, it was thought that even more could be done with a full time leader in place - though no-one wanted a radical change in direction. Governors have therefore decided that they think the best way both to maintain progress and yet also increase its momentum is to advertise for a full time Head of School, with Mr Hodges continuing to give strategic direction and support as a part time Interim Executive Head. We expect an advert to go out during the week of 5 February. Although we would be extremely pleased if someone could start earlier, given that teachers in employment have to give three months notice the most likely full-time start date would be September 2018. Governors will also be looking into drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding with Cleves to see whether the working relationship we already have would benefit from a more formal framework.

Mr Hodges, other governors and I would be very happy to answer any questions you might have about the decision to advertise for a Head of School or about the school's priorities for improvement (as set out in the School Development Plan) in person, and we are hoping to invite you to meet us on 20 February - Mr Hodges is sorting out details and will be in touch.

Meanwhile on behalf of all governors I would like to thank Mr Hodges, Mrs Chadda and Mrs Coleman for the fantastic way in which they are leading the school despite new challenges arriving every week; and to thank all staff for their enthusiasm, energy and commitment to our children.

Susan Foster
Chair of Governors

IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...

NURSERY

This week's story is The Gingerbread Man. We enjoyed rolling, cutting and decorating our very own Gingerbread Men; they were so tasty! We have also been practising writing our names. Lots of the children can now write the first letter independently, well done!

RECEPTION

This week in Reception, we have been learning about doubling numbers and working out our number bonds to 10. We have also been on a journey with Little Red Riding Hood, choosing things to put in the basket for Granny and describing the Big Bad Wolf. We made sure we kept an eye out for the wolf as he had run away from Granny's house in the story..

YEAR 1

In Year 1 we have been learning how to care for animals and creating information booklets. In Maths, we have been working out missing number calculations and recapping our number bonds to 10. Today we enjoyed problem solving with Numicon as it was numbers day.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have been busy practising their adding and subtracting, drawing tens and ones to help. We even understand when you need to exchange a ten. In preparation for our writing next week we have been watching some episodes of Morph and have created our own characters out of plasticine. In Science we investigated where in the classroom we could make ice melt the fastest.

YEAR 3

This week in Year 3 we have started to write our own version of Little Red Riding Hood. We have begun by describing the setting and creating our own villain! We have also continued learning about data and have learnt how to draw bar charts using the data we have collected.

YEAR 4

Year 4 have produced beautiful books of their Roman mystery stories this week and started to look at poetry by writing Kenning poems. In Maths we have been continuing to practise multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 and 100 and using this skill to convert different units of measure. We have considered our value of the month, Hope, and how we can use this to achieve our dreams.

YEAR 5

In Maths this week we have been learning about regular and irregular 2D and 3D shapes and reflections of 2D shapes across vertical, horizontal and diagonal grid lines. In English we have been planning and preparing for a persuasive piece of writing about our Alchemy Island. The children have also enjoyed conducting experiments to test what substances dissolve in a liquid in Science.

YEAR 6

This week in year 6 we have been completing our mock SATS and we have all made heaps of progress! In English, we have been writing performance poetry from the perspective of Cameron's heart in 'Pig Heart Boy' and then used percussion instruments to bring them to life.



SAVE the DATE
Safer Internet Day
2018 | Tuesday
6 February
www.saferinternetday.org



Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day and we will be celebrating this within school.

Activities will be taking place to inspire a national conversation which will be Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre. The celebration sees more than a thousand

organisations getting involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Please also talk with your children about how they can stay safe online.

We will also be holding an online safety workshop at school for children on Wednesday 21st March, and a follow-up parent workshop that evening at 6pm, hosted at Cleves. More information about the workshop will follow after half term.

**THE DEAF HEALTH
CHARITY
SIGNHEALTH**

sign2sing

Sign2sing is an annual event, organised by the Deaf Health Charity SignHealth, which raises essential funds to help vulnerable deaf children and adults.

The children will be signing this year's song 'Here's Friends Forever' on Thursday 8th February 2018. Please send your child into school on this day with a suggested £1 donation in support of this worthy cause. **THANK YOU.**



NSPCC Numbers Day—thank you for sending in your children with shapes or numbers featured on their clothing in support of this charity. We will let you know how much we raised in next week's newsletter.





Well done to the Year 6 children who took part in a Dodgeball Tournament last Friday. We were thrilled with their performance beating four other schools in this exciting energetic game. A super team spirit and a “we can do it” attitude prevailed during the afternoon. Children who took part were India, Molly, Harvey, Louis, Alex, Danny, Ashton and Shelbie.



ERPPSA Indoor Athletics Competition



WOW, is all I have to say. The children were simply fantastic! They ran hard, focused harder and did their very best in all their disciplines.

Not only did they end up in the top 3 for a lot of their events, their behaviour off the track was impeccable. I cannot express enough how well behaved they all were, such a credit to Grovelands. A big thank you and well done to the squad for their commitment to training. It definitely paid off. We came joint 6th out of 11 schools (with a mixture of private schools attending too). Amazing!

I will run one more session next Thursday, for some fun runs which will complete the end of our Indoor Athletic Training. Well done all— Mrs Matthews.



INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION UPDATE!

Year 1 have done it again! Miss Forsey and Miss Carlo were amazed at how determined the children were and how they cheered on their house. We focused on throwing and catching, relay running and sack races! The competition was very close. Well done to Chestnut house who were the overall winners.



Attendance last week

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.6%	95%	98.2%	97.3%	98.4%	95.7%	96.6%

Well done to **Year 4** for the best year group attendance
Well done to **Pythons** for the best class attendance **99.3%**

Year Group Attendance from beginning of September 2017

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.3%	96.1%	96.2%	96.4%	96.6%	95.1%	96%

Overall attendance percentage to date: 95.8%

CERTIFICATES

★★★★★★



Class	Behaviour	Achievement	Writer of the Week
Otters	Saira	Harry Ma	Thomas
Squirrels	Amel	Evie	Sami
Badgers	Nina	Link	Darragh
Flamingos	Harry	Jack	Sienna
Swans	Aiden	Sean	Freddie
Dolphins	Scarlett	Lily H	Harley
Seals	Jackson	Ranell	Matthew
Antelopes	Miles	Emily	Frank
Giraffes	Kacper	Kacper	Millie
Zebras	Molly	Tianna	Rayan
Leopards	Allisha	Tilly Mae	Jemma
Panthers	James Pa	Emilia	Jake
Eagles	Joanne	Andrea	Isis
Kestrels	Betty	Ciaran	Zosia
Cobras	Lily	Dylan	Katie
Pythons	Paulo	Daniel	Libby



Pen Licence

Beau—Zebras
Megan—Zebras



Grammar Wizard

Eva—Panthers
Mariam—Cobras

WELL DONE EVERYONE