

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a fantastic first week back at Grovelands and we hope that you all had a very enjoyable half term. Our week started with an amazing explosion of learning in Year 2, where all the children dressed up as characters from a medieval castle and enjoyed lots of exciting learning experiences, culminating in a banquet in the school hall! We also enjoyed a fantastic Year 4 assembly today where we learnt all about Romans. It was a very well polished performance. A huge well done to all the Year 4 children and their teachers and teaching assistants.

Next week is book week and preparations for our many exciting activities are already underway. As ever, we look forward to seeing the children come in dressed up in their costumes on Thursday for World Book Day, and we will be sending home book vouchers with each child which can be used to claim a free World Book Day book or used as £1 off any other book. We look forward to sharing all of our exciting activities with you.

We enjoyed seeing so many of you at parents evening and hope that you enjoyed hearing about your child's progress and next steps. Our teachers worked very hard preparing the mid year reports to share with you and we hope they gave you a valuable insight into your child's next steps and how you can help at home.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

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

26 Feb	Book Week YR5 Black Death Workshop
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
7 Mar	Kitchen Relaunch Celebration Lunch for Children
7 Mar	Kitchen Relaunch Tea and Cake for Parents—2.15pm
9 Mar	Mill Cottage Farm Visit—Reception and Nursery
12 Mar	YR4 Roman Workshop
16 Mar	YR1 Assembly—9.00am
19 Mar	Scholastics Book Fair all week—3.00pm
20 Mar	Nursery Tour—11.00am
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
17 Apr	YR6 Residential Parent Meetings—3.00pm & 6.00pm
24 Apr	YR1 London's Burning Workshop
25 Apr	Class Photos
26 Apr	YR6 SATS Parent Meeting—3.00pm & 6.00pm
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.

Chairman's message

Many thanks to those of you who attended a meeting with Mr Hodges, some other governors and me earlier in the week. For those of you who could not make it here is a flavour of what we covered.

First of all, Mr Hodges briefly recapped on what you and staff had told us in the autumn term that you wanted to see improved; the list of priorities drawn up after that, and various actions taken since then. Some of the main points then raised in discussion were as follows:

- People were generally pleased with the changes they were seeing in the school and supported the direction of travel governors had decided upon, including the decision to advertise for a Head of School and continue with support from Mr Hodges. There was much appreciation for the effort put in by the Deputies and other staff; and people were now happy with communications from governors and the school's leaders.
- The additional and new sporting opportunities were very much welcomed and were seen to have benefitted the children. There was some concern about the condition of the playing field. After drawing attention to the new outside space and the very recent relaying of much of the hard play area, Mr Hodges outlined thoughts on how to try to enhance play space and maintain and build on the sports momentum.
- There was a plea for more musical opportunities. Mr Hodges explained that this had already been logged and would be looked at again now that usage of the school's rooms and spaces was being revisited and once he had looked at the budget for next year.
- Reassurance was given that we would recruit a new, full time teacher for year 5 for next year.
- Plans for improving the internal learning environment were discussed. Mr Hodges expressed appreciation for the work of the PTA in this and other areas. Just one example of the PTA's contribution was funding for lockers in the main corridor. This area would be less hazardous and look more professional, including for children working there in break-out groups.
- The Governing Body had filled most vacancies and just needed to find one non-parent to join, ideally with HR or legal skills. (If you know anyone who is not a current parent and might be interested, do ask them to contact me.)
- Much has been reviewed and plans have been drawn up and are being delivered; but in some cases it can take a while before you see progress or an outcome.

Last but not least, Mr Hodges explained that he was working with the School Business Manager to look at how best to organise and harness parent/carer volunteers – whether listening to children read or through practical help, such as decorating. We were very pleased to see nods of agreement and even enthusiasm at this point.

With best wishes, and thank you for all you do already to support our school.

Susan Foster
Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body

IN SCHOOL THIS WEEK...

NURSERY

In Nursery this week our story has been Handa's Surprise. We have been learning the sequence of events in the story by acting it out. We have also been talking about Africa and the animals that live there. To finish our learning we did some observational fruit drawings and made a very delicious fruit salad !!

RECEPTION

Reception have been extremely busy this week. We have been working super hard! In maths we have been ordering and comparing numbers and in Literacy we have been labelling the Gruffalo. It's was also Chinese New Year last week and we have been learning all about it in class. The children loved dancing like Chinese dragons and lions in PE.

YEAR 1

This week in Maths we have been revising addition and subtraction. We have been learning how to find the missing number in number calculations and we have been learning about doubles of numbers. In English we have been recalling memories from when we were babies. We have enjoyed looking at our baby photos and sharing our experiences.

YEAR 2

This week year two kicked off their new topic of Towers, Tunnels and Turrets with a fabulous medieval day. Lots of princes, princesses, kings, queens, knights, dragons and servants all turned up to school and took part in lots of castle activities, culminating in a medieval banquet. We have also designed and made our own coats of arms and begun to study alternative fairy tales.

YEAR 3

In class this week, Year 3 have been learning in Topic about the American heroine, Rosa Parks. We have been learning about persuasive language and have written letters asking for longer play! In maths we have been learning about different lines such as perpendicular and parallel.

YEAR 4

Year 4 have been working hard this week preparing for our year assembly. We really hope you enjoyed watching it! We have started to learn about the features of information texts in English and have been rounding decimals with 1 decimal place to whole numbers in Maths. We enjoyed thinking about our value of the month - Uniqueness, and learning how to describe in French the location of different cities in France.

YEAR 5

Year 5 children have been learning about multiples, factors, square and cube numbers and solving problems using these concepts in Maths. In English, we have been learning about poems from our current topic 'The Black Death' and have written our own versions.

YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a week in role as journalists, participating in a press conference and writing quotes for newspaper articles based on our class novel, *Pig Heart Boy*. In maths, we have been solving problems involving elapsed time and timetables. Our foundation focus has been next month's Value of Care and Compassion, as we will be presenting an assembly on the subject to the school!

Parent Forum - Homework

Mrs Coleman and Mrs Hall were delighted to see such a range of parents from across the school at the recent homework parent forum (and also have a sneaky peak at the new library!!)

Having the time to take feedback and answer questions was highly valuable for both the parents and for us as a school.

Positive feedback:

- ◆ choice and child ownership of the takeaway sheets
- ◆ range of activities on the takeaway sheets
- ◆ Year 2 and 6 workbook books

Discussion points:

- ◆ The different year groups' takeaway sheets, spellings and daily reading
- ◆ Clarification about the different types of tasks included: reinforcement of learning, application of skills or researching new topics.
- ◆ possible 'help guides' for parents which explain the methods, specifically in maths
- ◆ possible 'clues/ guidance' on the takeaway sheets

Staff will be discussing the feedback at forthcoming meetings and will use it to inform future decisions.

Looking to the future, we have a selection of possible themes but also welcome your ideas. Please feel free to email the office if you have a suggestion for our next meeting which takes place on 22 March 2018.

We look forward to seeing you then.

KEEP ON RUNNING.....



Jake G in Panthers has attended running club for the whole year -

100%. Well done Jake and all the runners that are still coming, even in the bitter cold. We are very proud of you all!



Care and support
through terminal illness

Daffodil pin badges are available from the school reception area if you would like to purchase one for a suggested donation of £1.00.

All donations collected are for Marie Curie which cares for and supports people with terminal illness. For more information visit mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.

Thank you

Bedtime Story

For our ever popular Book Week Bedtime Story, we will be inviting children to school on the evening of Wednesday 28th February at 6.00 – 6.30pm for hot chocolate and stories. Don't forget your pyjamas and teddy bear! Parents are invited to stay for a reading workshop in the main hall, and Year Five and Six we would love you to come and read some stories to the younger children or help give out hot chocolate.

Ready, Steady Read!

Children are invited to take part in a sponsored read to raise money to spend on some lovely Usborne books for our school. There will be prizes for the classes which raise the most money

Meet an Author

Children's author Kerry Gibb will be in school on Monday 26th February to talk to the children about her job and selling her books after school. Shalby Ballaman will also be sharing her expertise as an author with Years Five and Six on Friday 2nd March during some workshops, and also selling her books after school.

Book Week!

We will be celebrating World Book Day by having Grovelands Book Week from 26th February – 2nd March. In class, children will be learning about different books and stories plus these exciting activities.....

Mystery Readers

There will be photos of 'Mystery Readers' around school. If you can work out who they are, complete the answer slip and put it in the box by the office by Friday 2nd March. Prizes for the winners!

Book Character Dress Up

Reception to Year Six, dress up as your favourite book character, and Nursery as pirates on Thursday 1st March for World Book Day 2018. Prizes for the winner in each year group.

Lucky Dip!

There will be an Usborne Book lucky dip in the playground on Thursday 1st March at 3.00pm. £1 to enter and a prize every time!

School Council Competition Time!

Design a bookmark for your class. Hand it to your teacher by Thursday 1st March and the winning entry (judged by School Council) will be made into a bookmark and presented to all children in your class to use.

Book Swap

Bring in an old book you no longer read to swap for a different book to take home and keep. Please bring your old books to school on Friday 2nd March.



FROGS news....!



Watch this Space! We will be moving to an online payments system very soon. Further details will follow.

We are holding a second hand uniform sale in the playground after school on Monday 26th February.

**Our Pamper and Prosecco Night takes place on Wednesday 7th March 2018.
Save the date!**

Attendance last week

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
96%	97.1%	94.5%	96.5%	95.5%	95%	95.9%

Well done to **Year 1** for the best year group attendance
Well done to **Swans** for the best class attendance **98.8%**

Year Group Attendance from beginning of September 2017

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.6%	96.3%	96.2%	96.4%	96.5%	94.9%	96%

Overall attendance percentage to date: 95.8%

CERTIFICATES



Class

Behaviour

Otters	Kaitlyn
Squirrels	Erin
Badgers	Finn
Flamingos	Veronika
Swans	Olivia
Dolphins	Liam
Seals	Scarlett
Antelopes	Max
Giraffes	Ronnie
Zebras	Jaila
Leopards	Kitty
Panthers	Oskar
Eagles	Victoria
Kestrels	Paris
Cobras	Alex
Pythons	Kameron

WELL DONE EVERYONE