



Newsletter

Spring Term 1

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WELCOME: Dear parents and carers, this half term seems to have whizzed by. That's not to say we have not achieved an awful amount, we have.

We have welcomed new students to the school this term, Joshua, Natan and Rojhat who are all settling well into their classes. We have also welcomed Ms Brown as a permanent member to our team.

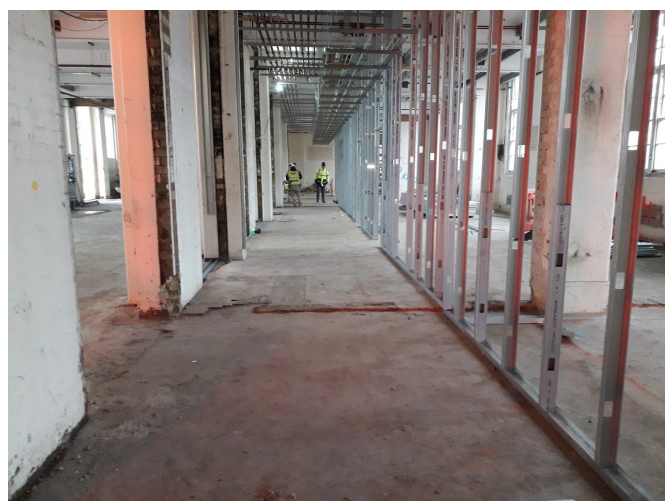
There is a lot of work ahead this term for recruitment to new posts as we plan towards our move next year. Plans remain to expand pupil numbers from its current intake of 45 to 64 pupils which means an increase of staff. We are delighted to share with you our recent appointments of Assistant Head and Associate Assistant Head. Both members of staff will form the expanding leadership team from September. In the meantime, we focus on the next rounds of recruitment for Heads of Department and teachers this half term, I hope to be able to share positive news with you in the next newsletter just before Easter.

Best wishes, Lucia Santi, Head of school

PERMANENT SCHOOL SITE UPDATE: We held a very successful public meeting was 5th February for local residents who came to hear about the

new Grove building project and the plans for the school. There was a really positive response to the school and it seems we are being very welcomed within the local community. We obviously wish this to continue as we regard our local community as a key factor in the success of the school.

Just before Christmas I was able to visit the permanent site and see some of the progress so far. Works are on schedule to complete and hand over keys on 21st August 2019. We are still aiming to transfer to our permanent site near Turnpike Lane from September 2019, so far this is on track. Demolition has nearly finished and the structure is taking shape, the layout is beginning to replicate those of the plans. We hope to be able to run tours for pupils and parents sometime late in the Spring term for those that are interested. Consultations with the contractors are underway to choose colour schemes and furnishings, which the pupils at the school have actively been involved in. Here are a few recent photos of the works so far.





LATE START FOR SEPTEMBER 2019: Due to the very late handover of the site, it has been formally agreed, by our local governing body that the beginning of the autumn term 2019 will start one week later than planned. This will be time for staff to transfer and set up the school ready for pupils to arrive. Usual INSET days will be allocated at the

start and across the school year and we will confirm dates as soon as we are able to.



INSET DAYS: The next INSET Day training for staff is on **Monday 25th February**. School is **CLOSED** to pupils that day. Staff will be furthering

their skills on communication systems and training in PECS.

The following INSET Day planned will be **Friday 28th June**, please add this date to your diary.

For more information about key dates, please visit our website and go to NEWS - KEY DATES, here you will find a list of closure dates and also proposed dates for the academic year 2019-2020. Please note there are 2 additional INSET Days to be added to the 2019-2020 calendar.



MEET AND GREET: We have been running a meet and greet session each half term for parents and carers. This is an opportunity for you to come in and meet members of the leadership team and discuss any concerns you have or celebrate positive feedback!

We are really interested in working closely with parents and carers and really encourage any of you who are free to join us at the planned times. So far, attendance has been low and we are really keen to make sure we get these open door sessions right so as to encourage as many of you as possible.

The dates for meet and greet for the rest of the year are as follows:

- **Friday 29th March 1.30-2.30pm**
- **Thursday 16th May 8.30-9.30pm**

➤ Tuesday 2nd July 10-11am

HOLIDAYS & AUTHORISED ABSENCE: We have had a number of requests for authorised absences from parents and carers. It is our policy to not authorise any requested time out of school for family holidays or similar. Research and data overwhelmingly links progress to attendance. Pupils whose attendance is good or better, make much better progress than those who do not attend school on a regular basis.



We understand there are times when absences happen outside of usual sickness and we understand there are challenges that some of our pupils have that impacts their attendance and we work closely with them and families to support this. However, extended periods of absences outside of medical needs are not encouraged and unfortunately, we can not authorise these.



FUNDRAISING:

Our Growing the Grove Fundraising campaign has been launched and we

need your help! Michelle Jefferson our parent governor is very keen to meet up with parents, carers and families who can offer some support in organising some fundraising events. Our target is £178,000 which we need to raise to fund the equipment for the playground and outside spaces at the new school site and to fit out the specialist rooms required to support the teaching and learning. Our school fundraiser, Angela Hay is leading the campaign to seek funding through larger organisations and so we are doing everything we can to support through local fundraising projects. Please let us know if you can offer support or would like to contribute.



- **End of Term:** Friday 18th February
- **INSET Day:** Monday 25th February
- **Start of Term:** Tuesday 26th February
- **Parent Workshop - Healthy Eating:** Monday 4th March 10.30-11.45am
- **Parent Workshop - Alex Kelly Social Skills Learning:** Thursday 7th March 9.30-10.45am
- **Parent Coffee Morning with Miss Huseyin:** Wednesday 13th March 10-11am
- **The Grove Local Governing Body Meeting:** Thursday 21st March 6-8pm
- **Pupil Progress Day** - School is **CLOSED** to pupils all day: Wednesday 27th March
- **Admissions Meeting for New Families:** Thursday 28th March 10-12pm
- **Meet and Greet SLT:** Thursday 29th March 1.30-2.30pm
- **Autism Awareness Week:** 1st - 5th April
- **Parent Workshop - Supporting Behaviours that Challenge:** Tuesday 2nd April 10.00-11.30am
- **Parent Coffee Morning with Miss Huseyin:** Thursday 4th April 10-11am
- **Break Up for Spring Holidays:** Friday 5th April at 12pm
- **Spring Holidays:** Monday 8th - Monday 22nd April
- **Start of Summer Term:** Tuesday 23rd April 8.30am



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS: Dates for secondary after school club starting after half term are as follows:

- 12th February
- 26th February
- 5th March
- 19th March
- 2nd April
- 23rd April
- 30th April
- 14th May
- 21st May
- 4th June
- 18th June
- 25th June
- 2nd July

The final session on 2nd July will be an end of year party.

Unfortunately, the football club that had been planned to start next half term has had to be cancelled as the coach is unavailable. We hope to pursue this for the summer term and will keep you informed of progress.

ALEX KELLY SOCIAL SKILLS INTERVENTION: Social skills interventions are going extremely well. Ms Lloyd has been working with each group on building the skills and confidence around social communication and interactions. Some of the themes the groups have been working on are;

- How we talk to others
- How we interact with others
- Who and what are important to us and how we express this
- How to start a conversation and what kind of questions you can ask of others.

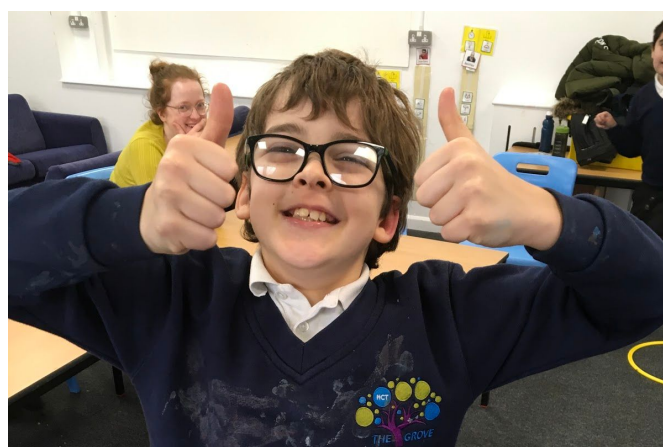
You can help your child at home by getting them to think of questions to ask you or by having different topics written on cards and choosing one when you are together. It can be hard for young people with autism to understand why we might have conversations “just for the sake of them”. We have to help them develop a repertoire of knowledge and skills that they are able to access when in social situations such as those that require conversations.

If you are interested, there is a parent workshop on Thursday 7th March 9.30-10.45am at the Heartlands site. Please come along and learn more about social skills, whether your child is using verbal or non-verbal communication there is something for everyone - all welcome.

CHILDREN'S WORLD MENTAL HEALTH WEEK:

last week was Children's World mental Health Week where the focus was on understanding how we can help ourselves to be happy and healthy. Pupils across the school took part in various activities including an afternoon called “Time to Talk” where pupils were encouraged to come together and talk or communicate positive experiences with each other. Turn out was good and the biscuits were a success!

It was lovely to see the engagement from pupils and staff on being healthy inside and out. Many of our primary pupils spent time in class exploring their emotions and understanding what this means to them whilst others took part in yoga, mindfulness and healthy eating choices.



Awareness of mental health and wellbeing is a key focus for us at school and we are currently reviewing how this can be slotted throughout the curriculum and be recognised through policy and practice. We will be running some consultations in the summer as part of this work.

STUDENT DETAILS: We are currently updating our records and would ask that if you have changed your address or telephone/mobile numbers recently to contact Lorraine Bellot at the School Office on 0208 340 4898 option 3 or email office@thegroveschool.co.uk

If we do not hear from you, we will assume that the information we hold is correct.



PARENT PAY: Please ensure you pay for your child's school lunch before the start of the new week. The cost per week is £11.00, you can also place a larger amount onto the account should you wish to.

SCHOOL LUNCHES: If you would like to change your child from school lunch to packed lunch, this can be done half termly.

Changes to school lunches at any other times during the term can only be considered if your child has a medical issue, or after review with your child's teacher if your child is not eating.

If you have any problems keeping up with payments, please contact Lorraine Bellot at the School Office on 0208 3404898 option 3 or email office@thegroveschool.co.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEALS: If you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals or you need to renew and have applied online, please inform the School Office of the outcome. If you have your entitlement letter, please send a copy to school for our records.

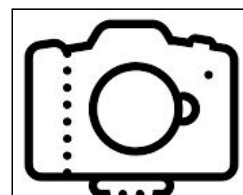
ATTENDANCE: If your child is absent for any reason, please contact Lorraine Bellot on 0208 3404898 option 3 before 9am with the reason for absence.

If your child has an arranged appointment, please inform the teacher or school office and provide a copy of the letter.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Lorraine Bellot at the School Office on 0208 3404898 option 3.

PHOTOGRAPHY: If you **DO NOT** wish for your child to be photographed or videoed, please contact the School Office on

0208 3404898 option 3 or email office@thegroveschool.co.uk



Primary News

Our Primary department had a surprise visitor this term. We were visited by A Royal Navy Helicopter pilot. He talked to the children about the different helicopters he flies and answered their questions.



Pupils wanted to know how big a helicopter is, and if helicopters fly fast. Other pupils were very interested in the pilot's uniform.

Primary pupils and staff have been thoroughly enjoying their PE sessions with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. It has been wonderful to see all our pupils actively taking part in these sessions.

As always, we are on hand each day to chat to parents and carers and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Many Thanks, Ms Georgiades

GOLD CLASS: Gold class have been learning about 'Living Things' through stories which have been 'Rainbow Fish' and 'The three little pigs'. The class have enjoyed experiencing the stories using their senses, using vocabulary to describe emotion, colours and shapes. We particularly enjoyed fishing games and building our own houses. The class have been exploring emotion through Rainbow Fish and trying to remember the sequence. To extend learning around the three little pigs by learning, pupils have been finding out about farm animals, recognising their sounds, knowing their names and using pictures of farm animals doing silly things to learn how to create sentences. In maths, the class have been learning about shape, money and counting. We have also started PE sessions with Tottenham Hotspurs foundation.



Next term, we are going to continue to learn about 'Living Things' through 'We're going on a

bear hunt' and 'Handa's surprise'. We will have the opportunity to learn about plants, grow plants in the classroom, and make food for a picnic!



BLUE CLASS: Blue class have been learning through the topic Living Things this half term. The children have explored sea creatures and farm animals through two sensory stories, 'The Rainbow Fish' and 'The three little pigs'. In topic work the children have created images of sea creatures and farm animals through painting and assembling materials onto paper plates.



The children have been sorting animals into different groups and sorted animals from other living things. They have learned some names of different sea creatures and farm animals and matched photographs of the animals with symbols. The class have also explored books and songs around farm animals and sea creatures and they have listened to and differentiated between different animal sounds. They have also explored sea creatures and farm animals through different sensory buckets.



In literacy the children have been exploring the props and they have been matching and sequencing pictures from the stories. The children have used different materials such as glitter glues, crayons, chalk and paint to create pictures and make marks. In phonics they have been listening to and differentiating between different everyday sounds.

In maths we have continued to practise counting and one to one correspondence through number action songs, puzzles and table activities. The children have created repeating patterns using different items such as paint, counters, beads, fruit and pictures. They have been sorting objects into shiny and non-shiny and they have been stacking and assembling blocks and building bricks in different ways.

In PSHE the children have continued working on



self help skills such as eating using cutlery, washing hands and brushing teeth as well as interaction skills such as sharing and turn taking. They are using PECS symbols to request food items at tuck time and toys and activities

during choosing time. We have continued with a weekly session of messy food play where the children are given the opportunity to explore different textures and taste different types of food. Each morning the children start with a sensory circuit and they have regular sensory breaks throughout the day. Thursday afternoons we have a PE session led by coaches from Tottenham Foundation. The children get to participate in different group games such as matching cones and passing a ball.

Next half term Blue class will continue learning about Living Things. The focus stories will be 'We're going on a bear hunt' and 'Handa's surprise' and the children will learn more about animals, plants, fruits and vegetables.

Secondary News

SATURN CLASS: This spring term Saturn class have been



discovering that we use money to buy things in most of our daily lives that we need and want.

We have found opportunities to

practice using money for real life situations. During tuck time, English and Maths lessons, we have started using a working till with a conveyer belt and a scanner to recreate shopping trips.



JUPITER CLASS: It was an extremely exciting half term for Jupiter.

Big news is that we have a new pupil in the classroom: Natan. We also said welcome to Ms Nida and Ms O'Hare, who have been joining the Jupiter teaching team!



This term, we have focused on measures in Maths: we can tell if an object is big or small, heavy or light, and we are

learning to measure height and weight. You can support work in the classroom at home by talking about measures and getting your child to guess measures and use measuring tools such as rulers, tape measures and weighing scales to record them.

In science we have been conducting experiments about density, separation and mixing.



Harry Potter has been our main character for English. Watching Harry Potter, we have learnt to retell a storyline; then, we have learnt to tell what a character is feeling, and what makes them feel that certain way. We have then analysed a setting. We will move on and bring all elements together: we will create our own imaginary creatures, place them in their perfect setting, and create a story for them. Why not create characters together with your child over the half term? They could draw and write about a magical creature.



It has been an important half term for PSHE. We have learnt about good and bad touch, and about growing up. We have learnt about the circle of relationships, and how we

behave differently with different people – mum, the teacher, the shop keeper, a stranger... This is very important, because it helps us stay safe! You can keep talking to your child about different

people they know and the different types of relationships that exist.

We have also learnt about the difference between needs and wants. We have presented at assembly, talking about human rights.

Two more very exciting things started this half term: our Drama workshop with Mousetrap Theatre Company, and our Dance Unfolding project with Dance Movement Psychotherapist Vicky. Mars and Venus class have been joining us in these activities, so we have had the opportunity to have fun with our friends, and learn new skills together.

MARS CLASS: This term Mars class has been working to develop their ability to construct sentences by increasing their understanding of colourful semantics.



Students have developed their understanding of concepts such as 'subject, verb and noun' by describing story book scenes and retelling events such as their space experience journey to Mars. This has also helped them to develop their punctuation and grammar skills as they have shown improvements in using capital letters and full stops when writing.

During numeracy this term Mars class has continued to develop their functional maths skills by increasing their money skills and applying these skills to solve maths problems by participating in practical activities such as role playing shopping and money board games. Students have been able to apply these skills to calculate the amount

needed to complete weekly shopping trips. During cooking session students have also been working on applying their understanding of measurements and weights during shopping and cooking experiences. Students are able to identify and measure different weights using scales, measuring cups and reading food labels.



During PSHE lessons students have continued to develop their ability to build and maintain positive relationships by exploring healthy and unhealthy relationships. Students enjoy exploring this through creative arts sessions and role play.



For science this term we have explored the concepts of force, friction and motion by completing a range of experiments such as the floating bottle experiment and making catapults. Students enjoy testing out their theories and reflecting on the results of their experiments.

VENUS CLASS: It has been a cold, wet January but Venus class still continue to work hard and have made an excellent start to the New Year.

All of the students are continuing to cook delicious meals in Home Cooking skills and they are all becoming proficient chefs in the kitchen. This

term we are starting to make meals that they could share at home such as pasta and pizzas so please let me know if they have cooked anything fantastic.



In English and Maths the year 11's continue to work towards their Entry level qualifications.

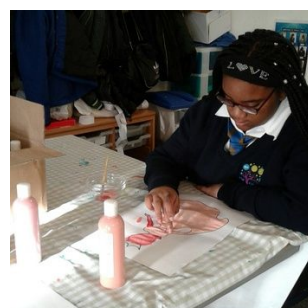
This term we have been talking and writing about future steps,

Object	Measurements in m & cm	Measurements in m & cm
height of the person	1.60m / 160cm	1.60m / 160cm
length of the arm	0.60m / 60cm	0.60m / 60cm
width of the shoulder	0.40m / 40cm	0.40m / 40cm

Object	Measurements in m & cm	Measurements in m & cm
length of the arm	0.60m / 60cm	0.60m / 60cm
height of the chair	0.40m / 40cm	0.40m / 40cm
width of the display board	0.60m / 60cm	0.60m / 60cm

practicing interview skills and what is needed for college or future jobs. All of the children in Venus class have taken part in interesting discussions

about their futures and what they can see themselves doing when they leave school. We have all enjoyed practicing interview skills and using role play to take part in real interview situations. In maths we have been learning about the time, how to read an analogue clock and learning facts about calendars, days of the week, weeks, days and months in a year.



We continue to go shopping every week and the students are becoming experts in asking for help in the supermarket if they need it and shopping independently and looking for items using shopping lists. It has been lovely this term seeing the students creating wonderful pictures in art

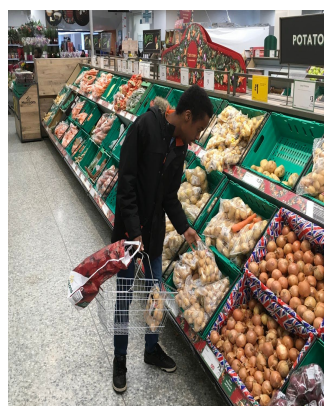
and working together to make models using Paper Mache.

Next term we look forward to work around travel and different countries and preparing for Easter and spring.

POST 16: Post 16 have had a great term. Students continue to enjoy all aspect of Post 16 curriculum and learning activities.

They enjoy using the common room in college for leisure activities and the college have reported on how well the students are settling in and mixing with other students.

Students are especially excelling in independent management of their transition time. Well-done



We were particularly impressed with Nahib recently who was teaching his fellow students how to make a chicken dish. Students are building confidence to make up recipes and shop independently, part of this is budgeting and using money effectively and learning how to ask questions.



Students continue to complete their work experience at our shop and build valuable skills, particularly those with communication

and working alongside others.

The focus in Post 16 continues always to be on skills for independent living and students continue to build their travel training awareness and their life and living skills.



A FINAL THANK YOU: On behalf of all the staff here at The Grove, we would like to wish all students, parents, carers and families a very happy half term holiday.

Thank you for your continued support over the last half term, we look forward to working with you over the next half term.

Just a reminder: School starts again on Tuesday 26th February at 8.30am

Best wishes from
The Grove Staff Team

