



# GROVE ACADEMY



# Event News

**Wow! Another really busy half term has come to an end – where did that time go?**

**The first day of term seems so long ago, when children and teachers were getting to know each other! I am particularly proud of how quickly our new Year 3 children have settled into life at Grove! This was clear to see for their parents and carers last week who came to see their very first Grove assembly! They absolutely blew us away with their clear speaking, lovely singing and some really excellent dancers. Thanks to all our parents and carers for coming to share this MAGIC with us, and for being so encouraging for the couple of children who were a bit shy – fantastic!**

**We've had lots of events this half term, which I won't list as you can see them in this newsletter. Just to say that all of them make so proud to be the Principal at Grove, as our children and our community really are the best! It is always a pleasure to see so many parents and carers at these events.**

**Hope you have a lovely half-term break and that the weather is good to us all but please do ensure your children stay safe. Please talk to them about road, water and stranger safety. See you all on 7th November, best wishes**

**Mrs. Carrigan**

**Autumn Term 1**

## **School Development Plan**

**As many of you will know, I always try to speak to parents and carers when they come into school about how we are continually improving as a school.**

**I thought it may be useful to summarise here what our development priorities are for the coming year.**

**We are pleased to see the improvements we are making in our Year 6 outcomes every year – this year our progress measures increased by a huge amount (measure of progress from Year 2 to Year 6) so we are thrilled about this. Our attainment has improved on last year and has improved at a faster rate than national. We are not yet at the national average in all subjects and this remains our number one priority at all times – to ensure that at the end of Year 6 all of our children have been supported to reach their full potential and that our averages for reading, writing, maths, science, GPaS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Combined attainment (children achieving the national standard in reading, writing AND maths) are all in-line with national averages.**

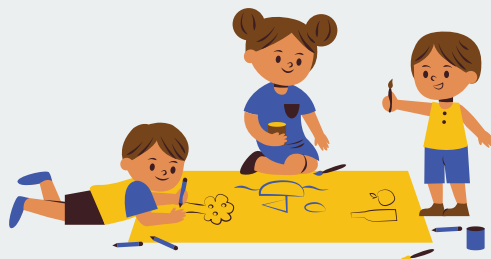


**Autumn Term 1**



## **Our other areas to develop this year are:**

- **To develop PE, PSHE, Music and ICT so that they are as embedded as all other subjects**
- **To celebrate the wide range of cultures in our school**
- **To improve the early identification of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and ensure the best provision for these children**
- **To continue to ensure that safeguarding is effective**
- **To provide staff training to better understand and meet the needs of the children with significant social, emotional and mental health needs**
- **Improve our outdoor environment**



**I will keep you updated on our progress towards these in these newsletters.**



**Autumn Term 1**

## ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

**Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have reported their concerns to us regarding road safety around the academy. We take this extremely seriously.**

Some of you will know that we have been working with the council for many years to ask them to take measures to address the road safety around Grove Academy. Despite many meetings, progress on this has been incredibly slow. It has not been easy to arrange meetings to chase this up. However, we now have a meeting booked in the near future to request an update on the proposed measures (which were consulted on with parents and the community earlier this year). I wish to reassure you that we are constantly lobbying them to speed up the action on this.

You will know that we use our 'Little People' when we can to try to deter motorists from parking on the pavement on Turner Street, however they can't be put out in windy weather. We are also experiencing some difficulties with managing the putting out and collection of these.

**Did you know there is a 'park and walk' scheme that runs from Forest Park? You can ask the school office for a car parking permit to park there for free whilst you walk to collect or drop off your child at Grove.**




### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Please write to the council, local MP Jo Gideon via email on [jo.gideon.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jo.gideon.mp@parliament.uk) and the Health and Safety Executive to report your concerns for children's' safety.**





# ATTENDANCE

<b>Whole Academy Attendance Target</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Whole Academy Attendance for Academic Year 2023</b>	<b>93.83%</b>
<b>3GC -94.36 %</b>	<b>5CPO -93.41 %</b>
<b>3HK - 93.02 %</b>	<b>5JBC -95.89%</b>
<b>3PB -96.04%</b> 	<b>5SJ -96.20 %</b> 
<b>3KN -96.61 %</b> 	<b>6CB -94.44 %</b>
<b>4CC-95.13 %</b>	<b>6CPE -93.36 %</b>
<b>4GB -93.58%</b>	<b>6EP - 94.88%</b>
<b>4KE -95.90%</b>	<b>6SK -85.40%</b>
<b>5AB -90.82 %</b>	

**Please look out for our new attendance rewards next term... all students will have the opportunity of receiving bronze, silver and gold certificates and badges starting from the 7th November up until the end of summer term. There will also be some exciting raffles coming up with a chance to win a small individual prize for children with 100% attendance (this also includes being punctual every day!)**



# Hallowe'en Reading Club

**As a special Hallowe'en treat, Mrs. Carrigan started to read 'Seven Ghosts' by Chris Priestly to some children in Years 5 and 6. She used her best spooky voice for this!**

We didn't quite finish it, so we will return to it after half term. What a great story it is – I wonder what the twist at the end is going to be?

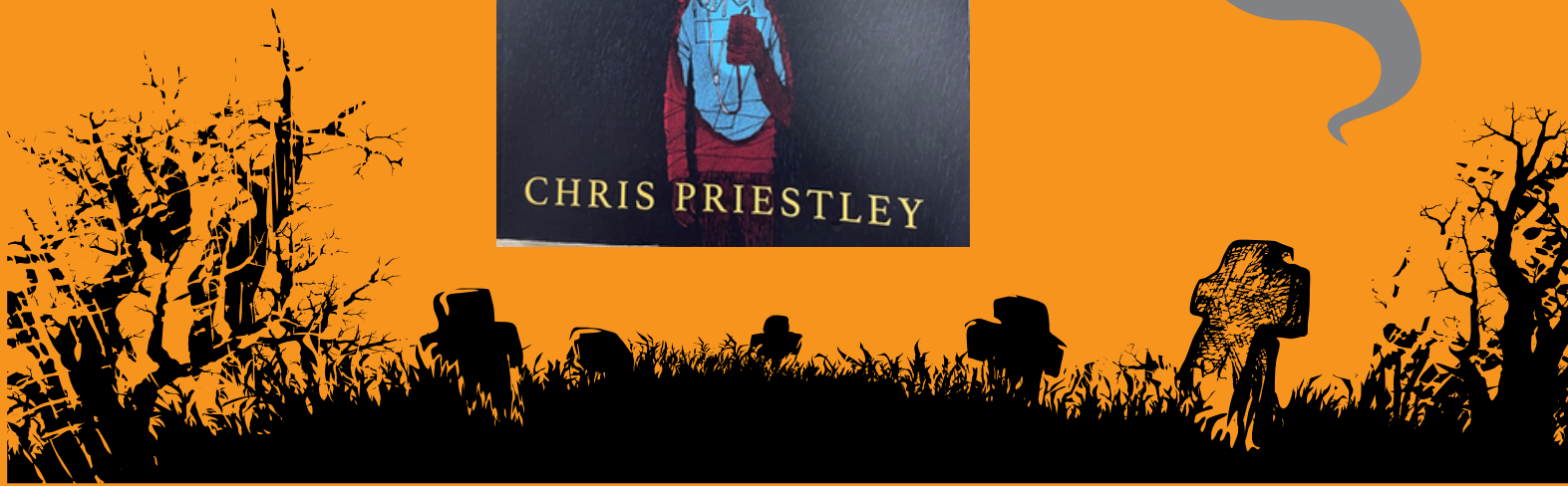
**Other questions / predictions we have are:**

**Is Jake the 7th ghost?**

**Is Grimstone Hall a real stately home?**

**What is the significance of the broken mirror?**

**Will Mrs. Fox be haunted by the ghosts?**

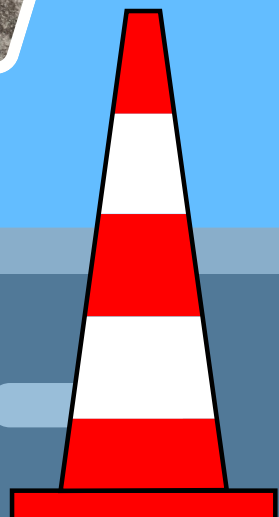
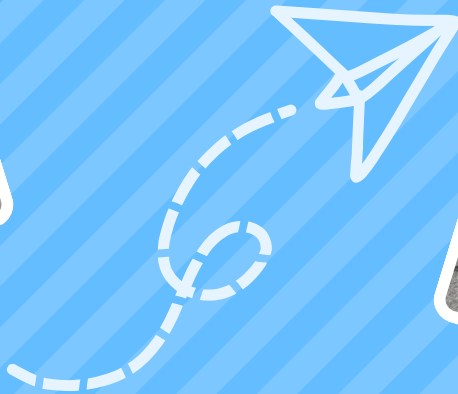




# Bikeability



We do this every year at Grove and it is such a great experience for our level 1 children who are in Year 4 to gain more knowledge and experience in road safety. Our Year 5 children build on that prior knowledge and ride on the roads - they showed great resilience around Grove with those busy roads and learned a lot! We cannot wait to do this again. Keep your eyes peeled for information next year. Make sure you have a road worthy bike and you can ride a bike.



# Watch Me Learn

## Reading

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Reading Watch Me Learn. It was such a pleasure to present information about how reading is taught at Grove, and the children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning with their loved ones. They are all true reading champions!

Your feedback was extremely valuable and therefore, I would like to provide you with some further support materials to support your children's reading at home.

I truly hope that you find these beneficial.

Thank you,  
Mrs Costa  
(English Lead)





# Watch Me Learn

## Reading

### Parent guide to great reading

1. During reading, we use 'in the moment of reading' skills to help ensure a thorough understanding of the text. Use:

- Predictions
- Background knowledge
- Asking questions
- Inference

2. Let the child read a page aloud







- Ensure they stop at the punctuation (short pause at a comma, longer pause at a full stop)
- Ensure they read each word correctly
- Ensure they self-correct if a word is read incorrectly

3. Use repair strategies to help break down the meaning of unfamiliar words

- Phonics
- Syllables
- Using the pictures for clues
- Re-read the sentence and put the word in context

4. Ask the child to retell the main events from what they have just read

- This should be in full sentences

Background knowledge		A text to self-connection I made was... The text made me think about what I know about.....(world knowledge) It reminded me of a text/film.....(text to text)
Prediction		I predicted..... I wondered..... A question that came into my mind was... At first I predicted.....but then I changed my mind...
Inference/Questions		How do we know that.....? Where is the evidence that suggests.....? Why.....? For what reason did.....? What does the word/phrase.....tell us?
Visualizing		Quick drawings Picto-words Thoughts
Repair strategy		I was confused here... I spotted that I didn't understand this part... One breakdown strategy I tried was...
Retell/VIP words/phrase		Re-tell using 5 fingers. Beginning Middle End

# Watch Me Learn

## Reading

5. Ask the children questions about the text they have read

Example questions

Retrieval: Use the text to find the answers

- Give one example of
- Whose perspective is the story told from?
- The mood of the character changes throughout the text. Find and copy the phrases which show this.
  - How did.....?
  - How often.....?
  - What happened to.....?

Inference: Use the clues in the text to explore

- How do these words make the reader feel?
  - What does this paragraph suggest?
- How do the descriptions of ... show that they are ...?
  - How can you tell that.....?
- What impression of ... do you get from these paragraphs?
  - What voice might these characters use?
  - What was ...thinking when...?
  - Who is telling the story?

Vocabulary:

- explore the meaning of words in context
  - Which word tells you that?
- Which keyword tells you about the character/setting/mood?
  - Find one word in the text which means.....
- Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to...
  - Find a word or phrase which shows/suggests that...

Explain:

- In what order do these chapter headings come in the story?
  - Why is the text arranged in this way?
  - What structures has the author used?
  - What is the purpose of this text feature?
    - What is the author's point of view?
  - What effect does ..... have on the audience?
- How does the author engage the reader here?

Summarise:

- Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?
  - What happened after .....?
- What was the first thing that happened in the story?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?



# New to Year 3 Open Evening

On Thursday 5th October, we welcomed Year 2 children and their parents and carers to Grove Academy.

During the night, the children and adults had the opportunity to tour the school, meet the staff and pupils; and experience some lessons that take place here.

There were many experienced Grove children teaching the Year 2s in various classrooms, such as using a 'micro bit' in computing, exploring magnets in science, making a pop-up slider in DT, playing the glockenspiel in music and making their own calm jars in PSHE. We all look forward to welcoming the new Year 3 cohort in September 2024!



GROVE  
ACADEMY



# Stoke City



## Penalty Shoot Out Fundraiser

Our Stoke City penalty fundraiser has been a winner for our children at Grove!  
The families and children at Grove raised a staggering £4008  
which will support our school and the Stoke City community trust. The money  
raised for Grove will go towards our Astro-turf fund!  
The children had a great time and scored plenty of goals!  
Well done Team Grove!



GOALS!  
GOALS!

GOALS!



# Multi-Cultural Day

Grove Academy is made up of children from 24 different countries who speak a total of 31 different languages. With such a rich diverse school, Thursday 5th October saw Grove Academy's first Multicultural Day. The children enjoyed learning about different cultural backgrounds, beliefs and values around the world, based on year group's continent allocation. From creating aboriginal boomerangs, line dancing and learning about Islam, the children were immersed in a diverse and exciting range of activities. Everyone had a chance to dress in a way which truly represented themselves, facilitating many interesting conversations amongst their peers. Each year group produced an All About Me piece of art work showcasing all the amazing things that make up who they are. The children really enjoyed the day and were eager to share all the great things that they had learnt.





# Multi-Cultural Day



*Take a look at some of our wonderful pictures from this special day.*







# Weightlifting Club



We have been very lucky this term to secure Staffs Lifting Club to host some weightlifting classes for our children. Each week they have been focusing on skills. The children start with a good warm-up and then focus on the main activity before a stretching off. The children even had a game of tug of war! The girls really showed the boys how to work as a team! Various skills the children learned were a 'Clean and Jerk' and 'Snatch'. These two key movements are what you see in the Olympics and are an Olympic sport.

There will be a school competition coming up, so keep your eyes peeled.

Miss Newton



CHAMPION

WINNER

# Girls'

# football

## Powerleague

On Thursday 12th October, we went to the Power League tournament. The tournament was meant for us to have fun and was not about the scores. Even though we didn't get into the semi finals we still did well as a team and scored lots of goals, we got 4-1 in a friendly match against ST Gregory's later that day.

Well done girls!

-Gabriella (Girls' football team player).





# Mixed football



## Powerleague

The Year 5/6 mixed football team competed at the Stoke Schools' tournament at the Power League, Stoke City.

They did brilliantly, showing great skill, sportsmanship, courage and determination.

The competition was very close, we scored 4 goals overall. The children did themselves and Grove proud and so did Mr Hannon who drove our new mini bus! They were a pleasure to take out, well done everyone!





# Harvest Festival



**Year 3 celebrated Harvest by performing an assembly for their parents. We had over 100 adults to watch us! Each class shared work on a different topic and we sang different Harvest songs. The all spoke so clearly, a super job with their first 'Grove Performance'.**

**Caroline from Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank also came in to school earlier in the week, to deliver an assembly about the importance of the Foodbank and the work they do.**

**Our whole school community have collected food, which will be donated to Stoke on Trent Foodbank and The Open Door charity.**





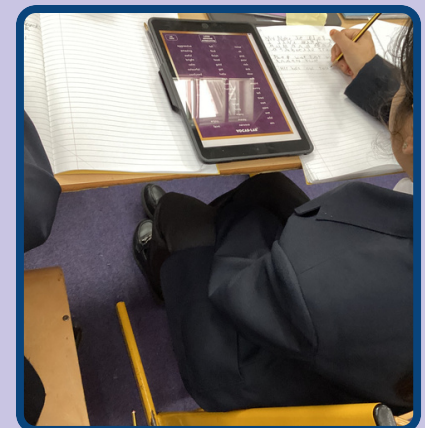
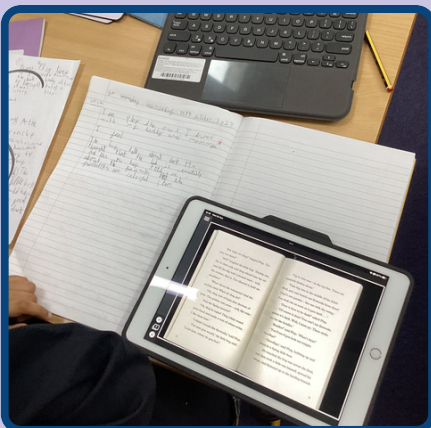
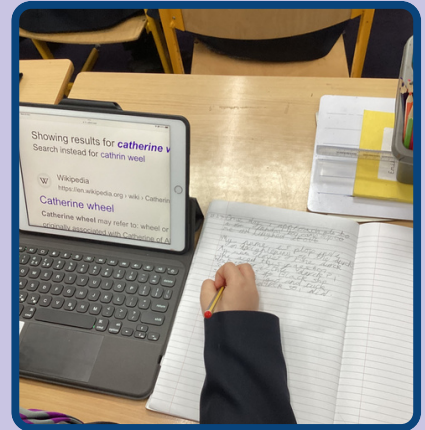
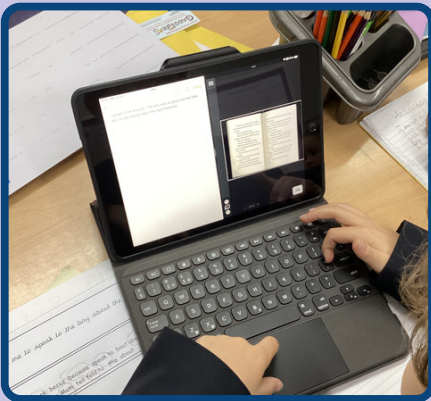
# 1 to 1 iPads Year 3



**This term Year 3 children and staff are trailing the use of their own iPad within lessons to support their learning. This iPad is being used to help deliver lessons on their screen, where they interact and answer questions throughout. We have used an app called 'Lumio' to support this and the children's learning.**

**They are becoming fantastic at using a variety of support tools on them, such as manipulatives in maths, vocabulary synonyms to improve word choices and being able to focus on key details to help their sketching in art lessons.**

**We are continuing to use them across all curriculum areas to support lessons and outcomes for children. They are loving having their own device in lessons.**





# Spooky Ball



**On Thursday 26th October, we held our annual Spooky Ball.**

**The event included:**

**a prize-winning pumpkin competition, spooky decorations,  
fancy dress and treat stalls!**

**Everyone had an amazing time showing off their extra spooky  
dance moves.**





# SpookyBall



**A huge thank you to everyone who entered  
the pumpkin carving competition –  
it was so hard to choose the winners**

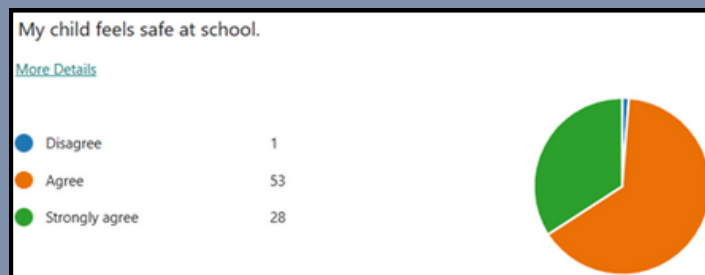
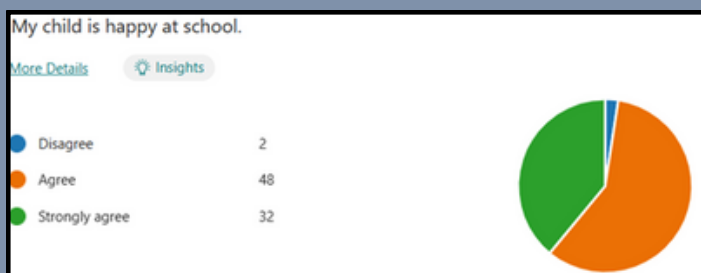
**HALLOWEEN**



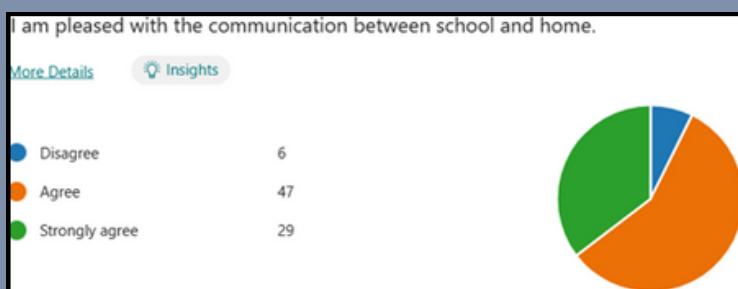
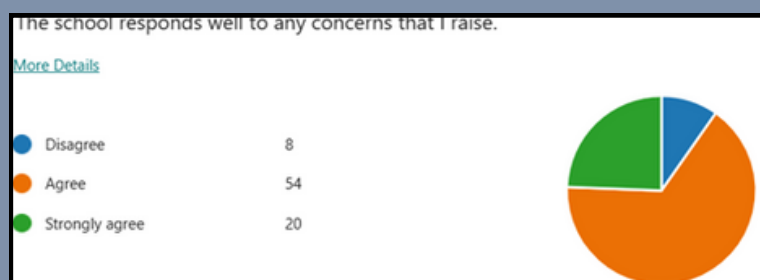
# Parent Survey Feedback

## What is the school doing well?

- Teachers care about children
- Everything spot on
- Enforcing uniform, holding events
- Settling children in, communicating with parents
- The school is doing excellently with reading.
- Supporting the children academically and emotionally.
- Great school amazing staff thanks
- Dealing with parent concerns
- Leadership team are always visible at drop off/home time.
- The school have a good focus on reading and maths skills



- My child was anxious about going Grove but has settled in really quickly and is volunteering to help out and join in with after school clubs. I like how welcoming the teachers all are and helpful with any queries.
- Opportunity for parents to be involved in the learning
- School opening and closing times
- It's a safe and effective educational environment for children
- I am pleased with the last years at Grove as it's been changed so much compared to first years when my child started to attend the school
- Looking after the welfare of the children. Children always come first



## Parent feedback

<p>What could the school improve? YOU SAID...</p>	<p>What we already do...</p>	<p>Our next steps are...</p>
<p>Other choices for after school clubs</p> <p>Have clear policies in place</p> <p>Improve the policing of bad parking around the school, people park on keep clear signs and also I have seen and smelt parents smoking right by the gates. This should be banned</p> <p>Show what children have been learning.</p> <p>More funding for trips for the parents who work but still find it difficult to afford.</p> <p>Add more zones</p> <p>When organising an event to take parents who work into consideration.</p> <p>Listen to the kids when they have something to say</p> <p>Showing parents how they teach certain aspects of a subject so we can continue to do so at home. E.g. how they teach division at school</p>	<p>We have a half termly review of clubs, led by pupil voice.</p> <p>We follow our cycle of reviewing policies. Our latest policies that we have reviewed are Safeguarding, Attendance and Behaviour, in line with parental feedback.</p> <p>We are liaising with the council to solve this issue. There are car park passes available from the office, to 'park and walk' from Forest Park.</p> <p>We have class assemblies and Watch Me Learn sessions.</p> <p>We have shared information about how to apply for Children's Holiday Fund.</p> <p>We have now increased our lunchtime zones.</p> <p>Most of our events now have two sessions-earlier and later</p> <p>School council have started to make important decisions. Staff training prioritises pupil voice. Children regularly write letters to Mrs. Carrigan to request changes.</p>	<p>We will continue to talk to school council children to support with club choices.</p> <p>We will work with Co-op Academy to continue to reflect and review policies.</p> <p>We will continue to work with the Local Authority to ensure that our roads are safer for our parents and pupils. (Next meeting is booked).</p> <p>We are moving to a more consistent approach where staff will update their class Dojo page to showcase the children's learning.</p> <p>We will continue to share this information when planning trips.</p> <p>School council are also making plans to implement new play equipment. We have plans to add an Astro Turf surface. We will continue to consider working parents.</p> <p>There are many plans for school council children, so we will continue to listen to pupil voice for future decisions.</p> <p>Workshops and parent guidance sheets will be something that we consider and action as a school in the near future.</p>





*See you in Autumn 2*

**Have a lovely half term,  
see you all on Tuesday  
7th November!**

