



Friday 5th March 2021

# The Grove Valer

## Return to school

Grove Vale will be welcoming back all children as normal on **Monday 8th March** including before and after school club provision and we look forward to the children's return. The government has said that attendance for children will revert to being compulsory as it was before the lockdown.

In order to minimise the contact between year groups, it will be necessary to have staggered drop off and collection times (apart from pre-school as times remain the same). There will be a one-way system in operation for entry and exit to the site in the Infant playground that must be observed to protect all concerned.

### Drop offs

- Reception and KS1 pupils will still have a soft start in the am and should arrive between 8.40-8.50am
- KS2 pupils will still have a soft start in the am and should arrive between 8.35-8.45am.

### Collection time

- Reception collection times are 3.20pm in the Infant playground
- Year 1 collection time 3.25pm in the Infant playground
- Year 2 collection time 3.30pm in the Infant playground
- Year 3—3.35pm in the junior playground
- Year 4—3.30pm in the junior playground
- Year 5—3.25pm in the junior playground
- Year 6—3.20pm in the junior playground

***Please see letter sent out via Parent pay for more information regarding school re-opening.***

## Year 6 Secondary School places

This week the year 6 pupils have received notification of their secondary school places. Can parents please inform the school office of schools offered, thank you to those who already have. If any parents are having problems or need any help or guidance please do not hesitate to get in touch with school.

## Loaned devices

Please could parents who have loaned iPads or laptops from school return these to the school office as soon as possible on Monday 8th March.

## Training Day

Thursday 1st April will be a training day and school will be closed to all pupils.



## International Women's Day

On Monday 8th March is it International Women's Day, we will recognise this as part of Feel Good Friday activities on Friday 12th March. Each year group will focus on an inspirational women. Alongside looking at their chosen person they will be looking at women in their own lives who are inspirational and look at how men and women have become more equal over time, stereotyping and assumptions.

#ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/> for more information.

## School Dinners

A reminder to order all pupils dinners via The School Grid for next week please. Please remember to select children's food choices for each day. All payments for junior meals must be done through the school grid. Any problems please contact the school office.

## International Maths Day

On **Monday 15th March** Grove Vale will be acknowledging International maths day, this day aims to get students excited and enthusiastic about learning Maths.

### **Purpose of this day:**

- Raising the Profile of Maths for Students and Staff
- Demonstrate Maths is fun
- Share Vision with Children
- Devote time to retrieval of maths facts
- Outdoor maths and real life maths
- Look at current maths – work around the census
- Opportunities to be creative, ambitious, resilient and curious

**We will ask pupils to be creative by dressing up as a famous mathematician or inspired by a math object.**

### **The day will be in 4 Parts :**

- **Outdoor Maths** – children have the opportunity to use outdoor math challenge cards to apply maths practically and in real life.
  - **Current Maths** – As the census is this year, children will complete work related to this.
  - **Retrieval** – pupils will create fun ways to build in some retrieval of the topics they covered in Spring.
- Real Life Maths** – Being exposed to problems that involve real life maths that they would encounter in their day to day life in contexts they can relate to.

## Comic Relief

Red Nose Day is back on **Friday 19th March** and will aim to bring the UK together (although we may be apart) to show just how powerful humour can be through the toughest of times.

This year to raise money they are doing 'dress up to donate' with the theme being superheroes. On Friday 19 March, pupils can dress up as their favourite superhero for Red Nose Day for the donation of £1.00. From Wonder Woman to Superman, the day of dress up will put the power to change the world in pupils' hands. By channelling their inner superhero, pupils will be able to unleash their superpowers to support people living incredibly tough lives across the UK and around the world. The money raised by Red Nose Day will support people in the UK around the world, and help tackle homelessness, abuse and mental health stigma.



The week commencing 15th March there will be bands and head boppers available in school for your child to purchase for between £1.00 and £2.00. It has never felt more important to raise smiles and money for those who are struggling more than ever, as the continued impact of Covid-19 brings unprecedented challenges to many. Money raised by Red Nose Day will help vulnerable people in the UK and around the world.



## Easter Celebrations

On **Tuesday 30th March** we will be holding our annual Easter Activities.

**Infants (pre-school, reception, years 1 and 2)** - will have an Easter bonnet parade. Children are encouraged to decorate a hat in an Easter/spring theme. We will then have a catwalk to see all the children wearing their hats and prizes given to the winners.



**Juniors (years 3-6)** - pupils can enter a decorated egg competition. Pupils can decorate an egg or create a diorama (a model representing a scene with three-dimensional figures) Prizes will be awarded for an entry from each class. Pupils can bring their decorated eggs into school from Monday 29th.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher.



## Kindness Week

We are very aware that some children may be very anxious about returning to school next week. To help all the children settle back in, we have decided that next week will be kindness Week where kindness is key!

Pupils are going to be thinking about how they can be kind to each other and carrying out these acts of kindness. Pupils are going to be noting down these acts on a coloured pieces of paper. These will be collected at the end of the week and a kindness sculpture will be created to show how together we support each other.

Monday 8th March	All children return to school
Friday 12th March	GV celebrate International Women's Day
Monday 15th March	International maths Day
Friday 19th March	Comic relief
Tuesday 30th March	Easter Celebration day
Wednesday 31st March	Break up for Easter holidays
Thursday 1st April	School closed—teacher training day
Friday 2nd April	Good Friday—School closed
Monday 19th April	School return for summer term
Monday 3rd May	May Bank Holiday—school closed
Thursday 6th May	Polling Day—school closed
Friday 28th May	Break up for half term
Monday 7th June	Start of summer term
Monday 28th June	Training Day—school closed
Wednesday 21st July	Break up for summer holidays

## Easter Holiday Club

We will be running a Grove Vale Holiday Club during the Easter holidays on the following dates:

### Week 1

- Tuesday 6th April 2021 - Easter Arts and Crafts Day 1
- Wednesday 7th April 2021 – Easter Arts and Crafts Day 2
- Thursday 8th April 2021 - Easter egg hunt & Easter Bunny challenge Day
- Friday 9th April 2021 – Red House Park Trip & Easter Film Movie Day

### Week 2

- Monday 12th April 2021 – Sports and Competitions day
- Tuesday 13th April 2021 – Build a bear / Craft Day
- Wednesday 14th April - 2021 - Daytime Camping experience
- Thursday 15th April 2021 - Holiday club party day & Entertainment Show

Children will be able (subject to government COVID Guidelines) to take part in various activities throughout the week.

All children will need to bring a packed lunch each day. Our holiday club will provide children with drinks and a snack during the day.

Session costs for this half term club are £18.00 per child per day. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

To book a place for our Easter holiday club you will need to fill out a request form, this can be found on the letter sent via Parent Pay on Tuesday afternoon.

You will be notified via email to confirm a successful place.

Deadline is Monday 8th March, places are limited and there has already been a big uptake.

Any questions please contact me [adam.dodd@grovevale.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:adam.dodd@grovevale.sandwell.sch.uk)



## World Book Day

All of the pupils in school and working remotely have had a fantastic day celebrating world book day.

**Reception** pupils have talked about which characters they have come dressed up as and what their favourite books are. They have completed oral book reviews, decorated book marks, made front covers for their favourite books and made their own books.

**Year 1** have had a very exciting day, sharing books, writing about their costume and characters and completing story telling yoga!



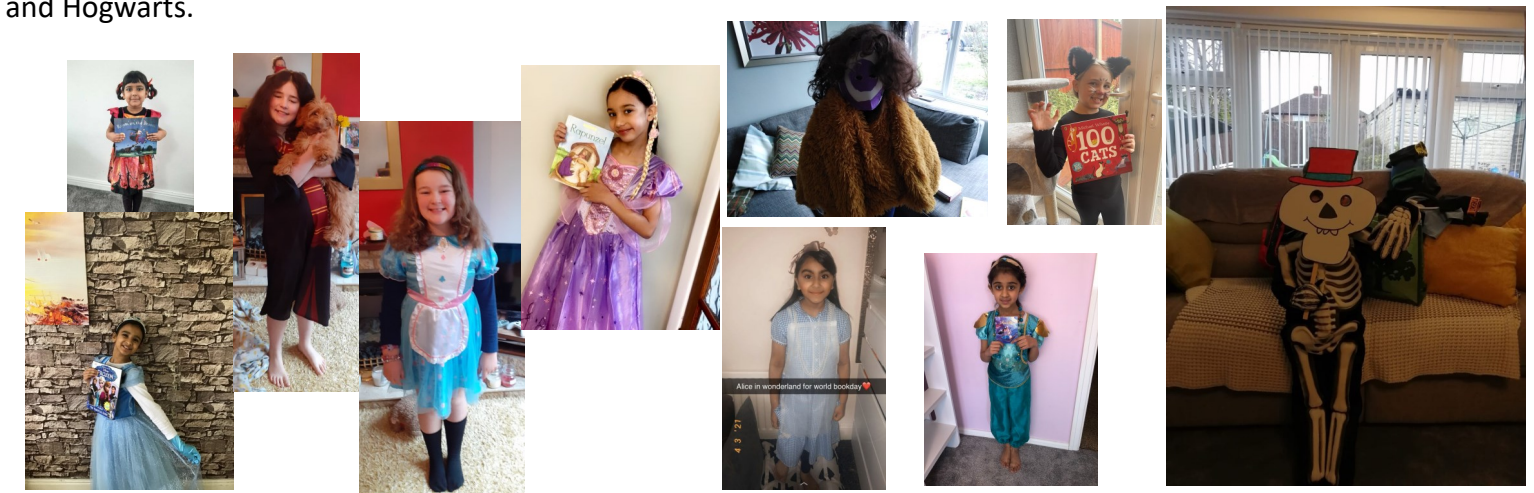
**Year 2** started the day with a Teams meeting where we listened and shared with friends at home what we have dressed as and why we chose this. We have then done a character profile of who we are and a book review of our favourite book that we have bought into school today. This afternoon we are going to go through our "masked reader" quiz, and a words game before doing something creative, making a cat in the hat from a paper plate and then making stick man from a stick

**Year 3** had a creative afternoon choosing a character from a book and used a range of materials : paints, oil pastel, gel trio and collage to decorate their character. Children also went on an orienteering book hunt around the play-ground, Wally was a bit hard to find !!!

**Year 4** have emerged themselves into world book day both in school and at home. We began with a catwalk and discussion of our outfits and our favourite books to read. The level of effort was outstanding for all children, we were so impressed! We read a fiction and a non fiction text and answered various questions about it. Children also entered a competition to be included in a Grove Vale book.... so exciting. We finished by choosing our favourite books, writing a detailed book review about it and also designed a new front cover based on their favourite part of that text.

**Year 5** came dressed as their favourite book characters by their favourite authors! We had a few Harry Potters, George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl, Hetty Feather by Jacqueline Wilson and Arrietty from The Borrowers. Children brought their favourite book into school. We also wrote a book review about our current class-read that we have using for English and Geography - Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson.

**Year 6** had a lovely day celebrating World Book Day. We started the day with a Teams meeting where children at home and in school were able to take part in a book character quiz as well as enjoying a giggle guessing the 'Masked Reader'....Sandwell's answer to Boris Johnson even made a guest appearance! Later in the day, the children were able to pick from a selection of activities including creating pop art characters, making book trailers on imovie/ powerpoint and producing our own storyland maps for famous locations eg. Wonderland and Hogwarts.



## International Women's Day

International Women's Day, also known as IWD for short, grew out of the labour movement to become a recognised annual event by the United Nations. International Women's Day started on Monday 8th March 1908 when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter working hours, better pay and the right to vote.

Since 1975, the United Nations marked IWD each year and each year it focuses on a different theme. In some countries it's a day of protest whereas in others the purpose differs but it is a way to celebrate the achievements of gender equality.

This special day celebrates women's contributions to society and raises awareness of the fight to succeed in gender equality. This inspires support for organisations that help women globally.

The women of the world deserve equality between all genders and so they are free from violence and discrimination. They want a future that is sustainable and peaceful. They require equal rights and opportunities for all women. Women are needed around the world at every table to make decisions of their own.

When women lead we can see positive results. Young women like Greta Thunberg are at the front of inclusive movements and are helping save the world by being an active part of it. Women's rights and needs should be heard throughout the world, as we thank them for being who they are. We support women leaders and women everywhere.

Rosalie (and Marissa) Dawes

