



Friday 6th September 2019

The Grove Valer

New School year

Welcome to a new school year! We hope you had a very enjoyable summer and that you and your children are ready for the exciting year ahead. A very special welcome to all the children and families joining Grove Vale Primary School this term. Our new Reception and Pre-School children are starting over the first two weeks.

We had our first 2 reception intakes this week and all the children looked wonderful in their new uniforms and settled in really well. The pre-school staff have been completing home visits ready to welcome the new children at Little Valers in the next couple of weeks. We look forward to getting to know our new pupils and families over the coming weeks.

A Few reminders

- ◆ Thank you to all parents for ensuring that all our children have the correct uniform and shoes for the start of the new year adhering to the uniform policy.
- ◆ All school uniform, including P.E. kit, coats and shoes must be named.
- ◆ PE kits should have been sent into school and should remain in school for the half term just in case PE day changes.
- ◆ Please ensure that your child has a water bottle (containing water only) in school every day. Pupils in Juniors are permitted to bring a piece of fruit or a healthy snack for morning break time. **No biscuits, sweets or crisps please.**
- ◆ No dogs or pets apart from guide dogs are allowed onto the school grounds.
- ◆ Please ensure emergency contact details are kept updated. If you have changed your home, work or mobile numbers please inform the school office as soon as possible.
- ◆ Please take care when parking. Do not park on zigzag lines, corners, the pavement or across neighbours' drives.

Walk to school initiative

As of this term we are promoting children walking to school. Children will complete a daily interactive **WOW Travel Tracker** by **clicking on an icon that shows how they have travelled to school**. If they travel sustainably (walk, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge.

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school>—for more info.

Attendance and Punctuality

Soft Start—juniors can enter the school from 8.35am and infants from 8.40am. A member of staff will be on the junior gate and a member of staff on the gate in reception and doors from year 1 and 2. The junior gate is locked at 8.45am and infant gate locked at 8.50am. If children are late they need to come through the office.

Please remember that if your child is absent from school you must phone school before 9.30 a.m. to let us know.

School Meals

A reminder that ALL Infant pupils are entitled to a free school meal. There is a charge for all pupils in Juniors. Payments need to be made via Parent Pay. If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals please speak to Mrs Farley in the school office. Menus have been sent home, displayed in the main entrance and school halls.

Medication in School

Please can all parents make sure that all medication (inhalers, epi-pens, medicines). Some medication has been sent home as it is out of date, please send new medication back to school as soon as possible. These medications should stay in school at all time. Any questions please speak to your child's class teacher.



Term Dates 2019-2020

Autumn term 2019

INSET day: Monday 2 September 2019 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS

First day back: Tuesday 3 September 2019

Half-term holiday: Monday 28 October 2019 to Friday 1 November 2019

Term ends: Friday 20 December 2019

Christmas holiday: Monday 23 December 2019 to Friday 3 January 2020

Spring term 2020

Term starts: Monday 6 January 2020

Half-term holiday: Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020

INSET day: Monday 24 February 2020 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS

First day back: Tuesday 25 February 2020

Term ends: Thursday 2 April 2020

INSET day: Friday 3 April 2020 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS

Easter holiday: Monday 6 April to Friday 17 April 2020

Summer term 2020

Term starts: Monday 20 April 2020

Early May Bank Holiday - Friday 8 May 2020 - SCHOOL CLOSED

Half-term: Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020

INSET day: Friday 26 June 2020 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS

Term ends: Friday 17 July 2020

INSET day: Monday 20 July 2020 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS

Summer holiday: Tuesday 21 July to Monday 31 August 2020

Core Value

This half term our core value is Empower me. As part of this, we are having an empower me day on Friday 13th September. During this day pupils will look at how to give constructive peer and self assessment.

Forest School

Monday afternoon: Yr 2

Thursday Morning: RH

Friday Morning: RGB

Can we remind parents that children **MUST** have appropriate outdoor clothes and shoes to take part in the session (jogging bottoms, jumper, wellies or walking boots, waterproof coat, hat and gloves). If they do not have suitable clothes they will not be able to take part in the session. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact school or MR Dodd.



Aldi Stickers

This year we are collecting stickers for the Aldi Initiative 'get set to eat fresh'. If you spend over £30 on your weekly shopping you will be given a sticker to add to our school chart to enable us to get some sports kits for our school. Please bring any stickers into reception. Many thanks in advance, for your support.

Football

Girls Football matches:

Hanbury Friendly football match @ Hanbury Wednesday 11/9/19

John Bosco Monday 23rd Sept @ GV

Boys Football matches:

Hanbury Friendly Football match at Hanbury Monday 9/9/19

LEAGUE GAME GV Vs. Ferndale @ GV Tuesday 17/9/19

Any questions please contact Mr Dodd.



Timezone—Medieval Day

On Thursday, the children in Year 2 learnt what it was like to live during the medieval era and explored what life in our capital would have been like for children and adults. The children did lots of role play, played medieval games, dressed up as soldiers and even made their own felt. It was a fantastic day and the children learnt lots of great new facts.

Timezone—Ancient Greece

On Wednesday, Year 6 welcomed Timezone into school to launch our Myths and Mortals topic. We began by dressing up, learning about the city states and debating which of us would lead Greece into battle. After, we played with historical games and toys and took part in Ancient Greek lessons, learning to write words and numbers on a wax tablet and with a quill. Finally, we took part in military training and battled against each other to prove we were the most disciplined cohort!

Picture News

Key question:- Are our actions more important than words?



Environmental activist, Greta Thunberg, set sail from the UK, on a 2-week journey to attend the UN climate summits in New York and Chile. Fans gathered to wave her off on her voyage across the Atlantic. The 16-year-old made a speech ahead of departing from Plymouth on the Malizia II, a solar-powered racing yacht with underwater turbines. Greta said she was dedicated "to do everything I can" to tackle climate change which is a "very big problem".

Things to talk about at home... Why do you think Greta chose to sail to the event instead of flying? Do you think it was the right thing for her to do? Why? What do you think would have been hard about traveling in a small boat for 2-weeks?

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Miss Klair, our new year 1 teacher. We also welcome our new teaching assistants: Miss Patel in reception and Ms Grewal in pre-school.

Congratulations to Mr Platten and Mrs Hennessey on their weddings over summer.

Flip and Dippy

A letter has been sent out this week about the PFA event.

Flip and Dippy 'The Greatest Show' an evening of crazy clown fun for all the family.

At school on **Friday 20th September 6.30-8pm.**

Refreshments and circus items will be available.

Please return the form by Friday 13th. Tickets cost £3.50, all children must be accompanied by an adult.



Secondary School Applications

A reminder that the deadline for secondary school applications is **Thursday 31st October**. All applications now have to be made online.

<http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200303/school-admissions/349apply-for-a-school-place>





Fantastic news...Magical Maths is coming back to Grove Vale Primary School for the 5th time!!

Magical maths is a super fun after school club designed to boost children's confidence and better engage them with maths. We have been invited back for the 5th time to run our super maths club. This is a brand new club with new activities so if you have been before, you are invited to attend and continue the fun and learning.

The KS2 club runs for an hour a week after school starting **Thurs 19th September 2019** and will run for 5 weeks. Each week has a different theme and includes a dressed up character including Professor Poopenshtinken (maths genius), the Mathemagician, Stately Holmes (the maths detective) and the Olympic Mathletes! Parents receive weekly email updates to see what their child has been learning (but you must give your email address to obtain this).

Dates and Times of KS2 Club

KS2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6only) - 3.35pm to 4.35pm on Thursdays

19th Sept, 26th Sept, 3rd Oct, 10th Oct and 17th Oct

Please ensure you register your child to the correct year group

For more information and to sign up, visit www.magicalmathsclub.com

Or call 0121 392 7475

Spanish Club

Calling all budding linguists! There are still some spaces available in the award-winning Grove Vale Spanish Clubs starting up again next week. Get involved in learning another language the fun way, with role-plays, songs, stories and games. All clubs run at lunchtime on the following days:

Mondays - Year 2 and Year 3

Tuesdays - Year 1 (new group) and 4&5.

Contact Señora Fennell at clarefennell@outlook.com for all enquiries or to book your child's free trial. ¡Hasta pronto!



Friday 13th September	Empower me day
Friday 20th September 6.30-8pm	PFA Flip and Dippy Event
23rd-27th September	Edgmond Hall Residential Year 3 and 4
Monday 7th October	Year 3 Healthy Eating Talk—school nurse
Thursday 10th October	World Mental Health Day
Monday 14th-18th October	Black History Week
Thursday 24th October	School photos
Thursday 24th October 3.45-6.45pm	Parents evening
Friday 25th October @ 2.30pm	Year 2 Parent workshop 'London Structures'
28th October—1st November	HALF TERM
Thursday 31st October	Deadline for Secondary school applications
Friday 20th December	Break up for Christmas Holidays
Monday 6th January	Spring term start—pupils back to school