



## Grove School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to our **Year 6 cricket team** who came third in the Warwickshire Schools' County Cricket finals. Over 200 schools competed in this competition, What a brilliant performance from our Grove players. The inspiration to participate in this event with the Warwickshire Cricket Team came from one of our children, we would like to thank the parents of Hamza in Year 5 for introducing Grove to the 'Chance to Shine' project with Warwickshire Cricket Club.

**Educational visits** have been a great success, with opportunities to learn first-hand about fossils, the provenance of our food, the Victorians and their legacy in the Midlands as well as life during war time Britain. We've been busy, so far this term Year 2 children have visited The Brighthouse in Atherstone to explore the countryside; Year 3 children searched for fossils at Wren's Nest in Dudley, Year 4 children visited Tesco as part of the Farm to Fork trail, Year 5 children enjoyed a visit to the Black Country Museum, stepping back in time to see how the Victorians lived and Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum and The Lowry Gallery in Manchester. So many members of the public have complimented the excellent behaviour of our children on the trips, we are rightly proud of our children. Our **school website** has been updated over the summer holidays. Please look out for the '**Curriculum Journey**' pages, where teachers will upload good examples of childrens' work.

A **Spotlight on attendance** letter has been posted to all parents. We all agree that it's important that our children attend school regularly. Congratulations to the 39 children who achieved 100% attendance in 2016-17, we hope they all enjoyed spending their book voucher in the holiday and to the 380 children who achieved an attendance for the year of 96% and above in 2016-17. Rewards for 100% attendance each term include badges, certificates and prizes. We are celebrating good attendance.

In 2016-17 fourteen parents received **penalty notices** when they took children out of school during term time. From September 2017, pupil absence Court cases will be moved to the 'Single Justice' procedure. This will mean that if penalty notices are not paid promptly or the level of the offence necessitates the matter going straight to court, parents will be sent a 'Single Justice Notice.' The important thing is that children attend school regularly. Grove school does not authorise leave in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Our **school councillors** have been elected, do look on our website to see the terrific speeches they gave to their classes. School councillors will be working with their classes to update our anti-bullying policy. I know many parents have concerns about online bullying when their children are on the internet at home. We will have a focused week of work during 13-17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 on anti-bullying. The theme of the anti-bullying week will be 'All Different, All Equal.' Before this focused week our children will be exploring themes of speaking out, having a voice if they hear or see behaviour that is not acceptable. Our **Grove School Expectations** remain the core values of our school, these are:

- We are kind and don't hurt others or their feelings
- We respect all property
- We always try to do our best
- We are honest and tell the truth
- We are good listeners and thoughtful speakers
- We always treat others as we would want to be treated.



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**Illegal parking on Dawson Road** continues to concern myself, staff and governors. We ask that all parents and carers really think about the safety of our children. Please don't park on the zig zag lines outside the school buildings, they must be kept clear of cars to ensure that children can cross the road safely. I urge all parents and carers to help us with this. The safety of our children is our first priority.

**The academic year, key dates: Autumn Term 2017**

*Term Starts: Tuesday 5th September 2017*

*Half Term: Monday 23 October 2017 to Friday 27th October 2017*

*Staff training day, school closed to pupils: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017*

*Term Ends: Friday 22nd December 2017*

**Spring Term 2018**

*Staff training day, school closed to pupils: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018*

*Term Starts: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018*

*Half Term: Monday 19th February 2018 to Friday 23rd February 2018*

*Term Ends: Thursday 29th March 2018*

**Summer Term 2018**

*Term Starts: Monday 16th April 2018*

**Nursery to Year 4 (lower school building)** closed to pupils for local council elections: 3rd May 2018

*Half Term: Monday 28th May 2018 to Friday 1st June 2018*

*Term Ends: Friday 20th July 2018*

*Staff training days, school closed to pupils: Monday 23rd July 2018 & Tuesday 24th July 2018.*

**Educational visits and visitors November – December 2017:**

Reception	RG and half of RY Tuesday 5th December 2017 Severn Valley Railway RR and half of RY Wednesday 6th December 2017 Severn Valley Railway
Year 1	Tuesday 28th November 2017 Major Mustard visiting Grove School
Year 2	2Y Tuesday 28th November 2017 Aston Hall 2G Thursday 30th November 2017 Aston Hall 2R Friday 1st December 2017 Aston Hall
Year 3	Wednesday 22nd November 2017 Botanical Gardens
Year 4	4Y Monday 4th December 2017 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery 4R Tuesday 5th December 2017 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery 4G Friday 8th December 2017 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Year 5	Welsh National Opera
Year 6	6B and 6P Wednesday 15th November 2017 Thinktank 6G Thursday 16th November 2017 Thinktank 6R and 6Y Tuesday 21st November 2017 Thinktank ICT writing code using Scratch project with Link2ICT

Yesterday ten children from Years 5 and 6 attended an event at King Edward VI Handsworth to hear the author **Clare Balding** speak about being a children's author and her new book, 'The Racehorse Who Disappeared.' Clare was an inspiration to all our budding writers, we have many signed copies of her book in the reading areas in Years 3-6. I hope many children enjoy reading her new novel.

Thank you to all the parents who joined our **Reception reading workshops** this week; these workshops provided parents with the opportunity to see and hear how we teach phonics and early reading skills at Grove. Look out on our website for information on workshops in other year groups. Thank you also to all the parents who have attended our Year 6 secondary transition workshops.

**Parent's evening is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017, from 4:00pm – 6:30pm.** If you have ideas on how we can continue to develop our school website, please share your ideas with us at parents evening.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P Matty  
Headteacher

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