



Dear Parents,

Welcome back, we have had an excellent start to the year. We had some very good news in the summer holidays, 9 of our Year 6 pupils received their excellent **GCSE results in mathematics**. Congratulations to all of them for this tremendous achievement. We look forward to seeing them all at their award ceremony later in the autumn term.

So far it's been a busy start to the term. Many of our children have already been on a **school trip**. Year 2 children have visited The Brighthouse in Atherstone, Year 5 children visited the Black Country Museum as part of their topic on the Victorians in the Midlands and Year 6 went to Manchester to the Imperial War Museum and The Lowry Gallery. Educational visits at Grove are a great success, with opportunities to learn first-hand about fossils, the Victorians and their legacy in the Midlands and life during war time Britain. It's always a proud moment when members of the public comment on how well behaved our pupils are, staff have had many compliments so far this year.

The **school attendance letter** has been sent to all parents on 17th September 2018. A copy of this letter is on our school website. School attendance for 2017-2018 was 95%. It is so important that our children attend school regularly. A big congratulations to the 35 children who achieved 100% attendance last year. I hope they all enjoyed their prizes. We will continue to reward good attendance each term with badges, certificates and prizes.

At Grove many children have good attendance, there are just a few children who are persistently absent mainly due to family holidays taken in term time. As you know school does not agree to any family taking their child out of school in term time. From September 2017 to June 2018 school have actioned 68 penalty notices with Birmingham City Council. This is 34 individual children and 23 families. Three families were prosecuted in the Birmingham Magistrates Court for leave in term time, with one family being fined a total of £1031. Please ensure that holidays are booked during the school holidays. I've listed all the holiday dates for you in this letter to help you plan for this.

Staff look forward to sharing with you your child's progress this half term, **parents' evening** is on Thursday 11th October 4:00pm – 6:30pm. If you have ideas on how we can develop our school website to communicate with you, please share your ideas with us at parents' evening.

School councillors have been elected, they will be working with their classes to update our anti-bullying policy. Thank you to all the pupils who put themselves forward to be school councillors, they are certainly great ambassadors for our school.

Keeping children safe on the internet at home is something that I know concerns many parents have concerns. In November we will have a focused week of work during 12-16th November 2018 on anti-bullying. The theme of the anti-bullying week will be '**Choose Respect**.' There are some good ideas for parents on the anti bullying alliance website at <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

For pupils and parents the BBC website also has some great information on anti-bullying at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/anti-bullying-week>

Before this 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.

Just to let you know key dates for this academic year are:

Autumn Term 2018

Parents evening: Thursday 11th October 2018

Staff training day: Friday 19th October 2018

Half Term: Monday 29th October 2018 to Friday 2nd November 2018

Staff training day: Friday 7th December 2018

Term Ends: Friday 21st December 2018

Spring Term 2019

Term Starts: Monday 7th January 2019

Parents evening: Thursday 31st January 2019

Half Term: Monday 18th February 2019 to Friday 22nd February 2019

Staff training day: Friday 29th March 2019

Term Ends: Friday 12th April 2019

Summer Term 2019

Term Starts: Monday 29th April 2019

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2019 to Friday 31st May 2019

Parents evening: Thursday 11th July 2019

Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2019

Staff training day: Monday 22nd July 2019

There are lots of **workshops for parents** taking place this term, your children will be bringing home letters and leaflets inviting you to these events.

Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive in helping to **improve road safety** around our school. The cones and notices on the road are really helping to remind everyone who drives down Dawson Road that the safety of our children is of the utmost importance. I would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss the next phase of our travel plan developments on Tuesday 16th October 2018 at 9:00am at with Miss Mills in upper school hall.

As you may have noticed work on our **new sports hall** has begun. The contractors arrived on site during the summer holidays. They anticipate the new sports hall is due to be completed in the spring term 2019. So watch this space, I will keep you updated with progress and very much look forward to inviting you into school to see the new learning space when it is built.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P Matty
Headteacher

