

Volume 13 |
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Newsletter

*“Our family
school where
all are equally
valued”*

Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back to all of you! It has been the most positive and uplifting time seeing the children back in school – we are not a school without them!

I understand what a frightening and difficult time this is for everyone and the decision to send your children back to school must have been a worry. However, I hope you agree that school is a safe place for the children and we have put many measures in place to look after all the children, the staff and families at this time.

A copy of the school Risk Assessment and “Back to School” handbook has been emailed out to all families and copies are available on our website.

It asks parents to do a temperature check of their child/ren before coming to school. We do have to check again when they arrive at school as part of our procedures, it is not necessary to share this information with you as a parent unless it is a high temperature. If your child has a high temperature they need to stay at home and they will need to be taken for a Covid-19 test at one of the many testing centres. Only when you can produce a negative test result will your child be allowed back in school. If you receive a positive test you must notify us and follow the isolation guidance in the school handbook.

Unfortunately, by putting these safety measures in place it does mean that we have to lose some of our familiar practices and procedures. For example, we can no longer have parents at the classroom doors delivering messages. In order to keep the classroom and the “Class Bubble” safe we have to ask you to stay in the class gardens and communicate with us in other ways. This goes against the welcoming ethos of the school however; it is a necessary requirement at this time and we ask politely that you all stick to this practice. Teachers are not being rude – they are following Government Guidelines!

For many parents whose child is starting Grove Road school for the first time, this experience is particularly saddening as parents are

unable to help settle their child into the new classroom. Nevertheless, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of those parents who have supported the current procedures and I look forward to inviting you all into the school as soon as it is possible. Your children have done incredibly well this first week and you should be very proud.

I too am proud – of all the children. It is inspiring how well adjusted they are and how adaptable they have become. Playtimes and lunchtimes are not the same and classrooms are set up differently, yet the children have taken all the changes in their stride and appear happy and pleased to be in school and see their friends again.

A big thank you to all of you parents, the children look amazing in their school uniforms. There is a real sense of pride as they march through the gates so smartly dressed. Please do remember to label all of your children's uniform and property. If your child loses an item of clothing it is much easier to find if the item is labelled clearly with your child's name. We try very hard to keep the cost of the uniform as low as possible but we do understand, especially at this time, that all costs are difficult and no-one wants to be spending money unnecessarily. If your child comes home with a jumper or cardigan that is clearly not their property, regardless of whether there is a name or not on it, please send it back to school as soon as possible please. Any families experiencing financial hardship should make an appointment to speak to myself, confidentially, to explore ways of helping.

And here we are at the end of the first week already! Thank you all again for your continued support and understanding. We could not open successfully without it.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Take care of each other.

Best wishes
Lyn Gray



Welcome to new staff and pupils

We are very pleased to welcome some new faces to our staff team this year. Miss Amanda Musaheb joins us from Lancashire and will teach Year 4 – Indigo Class. Miss Hope Supple is our new Year 5 – Violet Class teacher and Mr Jack Beasley who is from New Zealand is our Year 6 – Gold Class teacher and Key stage 2 Leader. I am sure you will give them all a very warm Grove Road welcome.

We also welcome our new pupils in Nursery and Reception who have done incredibly well coming into school. It is not easy at 3 or 4 years old to leave mum and dad sometimes but they are trying very hard – well done. A big welcome too to some new faces in other classes around the school. Although we have not been able to welcome you in the usual way and invite everyone into school for visits, we do hope that you will enjoy being part of the Grove Road family.

Although not new to the school, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Beckford has accepted the position of Deputy Head Teacher for the term. She will be helping to induct all the new staff and ensure the curriculum and learning meets the needs of pupils in these difficult times.

Class emails

As parents are unable to talk to their child's class teacher at the door, we are reintroducing the class emails which we offered parents whilst at home during lock down.

Red – red@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Orange – orange@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Yellow Class – yellow@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Green Class – green@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Blue Class – blue@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Indigo Class – indigo@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Violet Class – violet@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Gold Class – gold@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Please use this email address to communicate any urgent business with your child's class teacher. Any medical should go through the school office as normal.

These email boxes are monitored and should not contain any abusive or aggressive language. Any such emails will be blocked from further use.

Water Bottles

Please could you ensure that your child has a water bottle in school each day please. It is still quite warm at this time of year and the children are still drinking a lot of water. They are refilled throughout the day but need to be taken home at the end of the school day to be washed. Water bottles are available to buy at the school office for £1.00

We always encourage the children to have sips of water during class time but we will never force a child if they refuse to drink. Please understand that the class teacher has 30 children to remember and thus individual requests to check their child's water consumption is not appropriate. Children drink when they are thirsty and need to learn themselves when it is appropriate to have a drink of water. Many thanks.

Admission to Secondary School 2021

Online applications for starting secondary school 2021 is open. Leaflets and information are available in the school office for parents who have children in Year 6 informing them of the process and what to do next.

If your child was born between 1 September 2009 and 31st August 2010 you will need to apply for a secondary school place. The Closing date for applications is **31st October 2020**

There is a "Secondary School Transfer September 2021" brochure with all the information you will need. It is available from the London Borough of Hounslow website:

www.hounslow.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

For advice and guidance contact the admissions team on - 0208 583 2711

Or email - admissions@hounslow.gov.uk

Admission to Reception Class 2021

Online applications for starting school in Reception Class 2021 will open soon. Leaflets and information are available in the school office for parents who have children in the nursery informing them of the process and what to do next.

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31st August 2017 you will need to apply for a Reception Class place. The Closing date for applications is 15th January 2021.

There is a “Starting School in Hounslow in September 2021” brochure with all the information you will need. It is available from the London Borough of Hounslow website:

www.hounslow.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

For advice and guidance contact the admissions team on - 0208 583 2721

Or email - admissions@hounslow.gov.uk

Curriculum Meetings for parents

Next week, we have our annual curriculum meetings for parents. Normally these take place in school giving you an opportunity to meet the class teacher and ask questions regarding your child’s new year group and their curriculum expectations. Unfortunately, this year, they will need to be held remotely and thus teachers will send out a Zoom Meeting link on their curriculum letter for you to attend instead. Although not the usual face to face meeting this still gives everyone ample opportunity to listen to the information provided and ask any questions you may have about that new year group. Please check the school calendar for your child’s class date and time. Please remember this is only for parents and children should not attend.

Congratulations

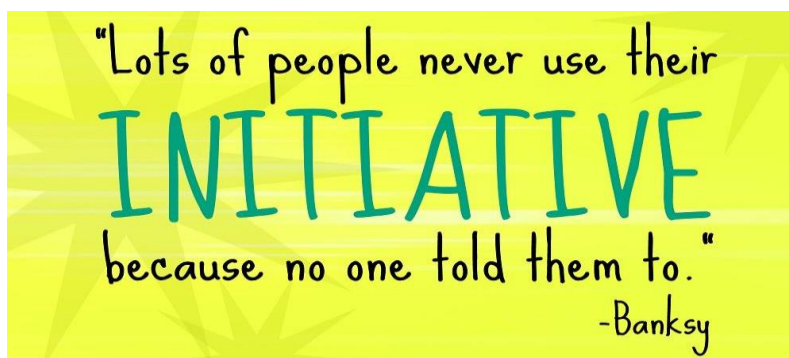
Congratulations to Sumaya Abdulle who is our new head girl and to Steve Reid who is our new head boy. Both children wrote excellent applications for the roles and impressed the staff with their wise words and ambition. They will be supported by their deputies Hayat Jama and Yousef Kohestani who also wrote wonderful applications.

Social Media

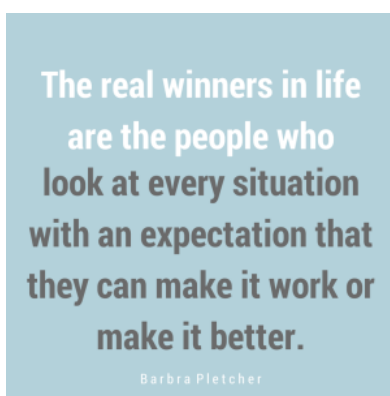
You may have heard about a recent video distributed via TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and other social media providers which contains extremely distressing content involving suicide. Whilst the providers are working to take down the video, it may have already been inadvertently viewed by pupils, by older siblings or may be embedded within other innocent looking videos. We thought it best to warn you about this in case you wish to discuss it with your child or limit their access to social media for a few days.

Whilst all students receive lessons in online safety during PSHCE and Computing, it is always good to reinforce these messages about staying safe online when possible. As always, if you have any concerns please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher or speak to Mrs Beckford.

School Value for this Term – Initiative



- *This is when we demonstrate our independent skills and know when to just get on and do!*
- *We show that we can organise ourselves appropriately and be ready to learn.*
- *We demonstrate that we will make mistakes but we can learn from them.*
- *We can use our collaborative skills and support one another when it is appropriate to do so.*
- *We may have ideas that we will share and explore with one another.*
- *We may demonstrate leadership skills and the ability to take on new things and ideas with confidence and just go for it!*



Back in School again





Coming up in September -

2nd – INSET Day

3rd – INSET Day

4th – INSET Day

7th – Children back to school Years 1 - 6

7th – Group 1 Reception start school

7th – Group 1 Nursery start

8th – Group 2 Reception start school

9th – Group 3 Reception start school

9th – Group 2 Nursery start

14th - Group 3 for Nursery start

14th – Year 1 Curriculum Meeting with class teacher (remotely) 4pm

15th - Year 2 Curriculum Meeting with class teacher (remotely) 4pm

16th - Year 3 Curriculum Meeting with class teacher (remotely) 4pm

17th - Year 4 Curriculum Meeting with class teacher (remotely) 4pm

18th - Year 5 Curriculum Meeting with class teacher (remotely) 4pm

21st - Year 6 Curriculum Meeting with class teacher (remotely) 4pm

23rd – PANTS Week (NSPCC) Work in school