

Volume 6|
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Newsletter



Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new school year at Grove Road!

I can hardly believe when I stand on the gate in the mornings that Summer was a mere month ago – I am determined to stay in sandals until October starts!

It has already been a very busy and exciting month at school, with lots of things going on across the school. It was wonderful to see so many people attending curriculum meetings with class teachers and being able to hear about year group expectations. All information that was circulated is available on the school website, under the different year group tabs.

We have welcomed lots of new faces to Grove Road this month, including children in many year groups across the school, and of course our new children in Red and Orange Class. It is a pleasure and a privilege to welcome you into our Grove Road family.

I hope you have had a wonderful start to the new school year and I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Harvest celebrations on the 3rd October.

Best wishes,

Mrs Grace Beckford

Acting Headteacher

Pastoral Support

Mrs Pires continues to offer pastoral support to all families every morning from the school office, from 9.00am until 10.00am. Mrs Pires is happy to speak on the phone or meet with families to support with a range of issues but also offer advice and signposting to other agencies. To speak to Mrs Pires, please contact her via the school office.



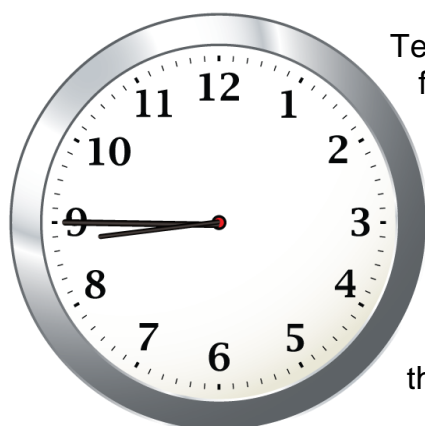
Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor on our board. Being a school governor is a very rewarding, voluntary position which can allow you to support the school on a strategic level. We welcome nominations from all parents – new and long-standing. If you would like to find out more, please send us an email, where we can also put you in touch with an existing governor to find out more about what the role entails. More information will also be included within this newsletter.



There is no experience needed and all training will be provided!

Classroom Opening Times & Before School Supervision



Teachers have been busily planning activities for children from 8.45am when the doors open so that we have a 'soft start' to the morning. Registers will be taken at 8.55am which is when the main gate will close.

We ask that children do not use the astro to play football or play on the equipment before or after school as there is no adult supervision. Unfortunately, a lot of learning time is lost from sorting out playground disputes during this time.

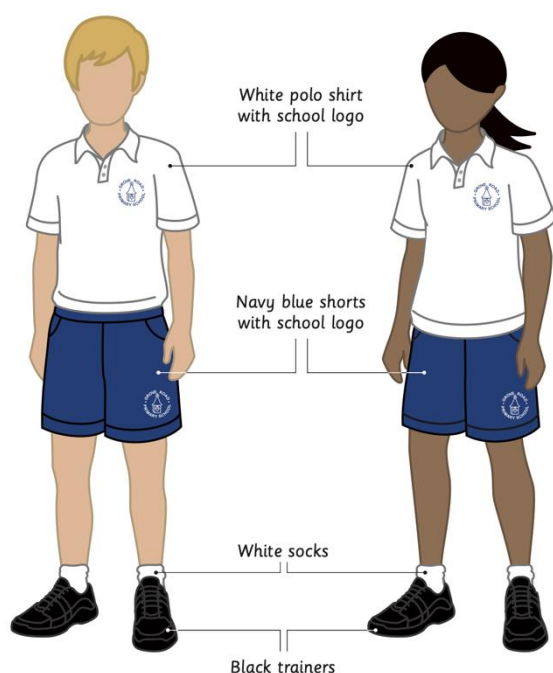
We appreciate your support in ensuring that children enter the classrooms at 8.45am and leave the site swiftly at the end of the day.

Second Hand Uniform

Please visit <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/grove-road-primary-school> to browse our selection and make any purchases that you would like. We are also accepting any donations of school uniform that you may have through the school office.

PE Day Reminder

Reception Orange	Year 1 Yellow	Year 2 Green	Year 3 Blue	Year 4 Indigo	Year 5 Violet	Year 6 Gold
Thursday	Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday & Thursday	Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday & Thursday	Tuesday & Friday	Wednesday & Thursday



Children should come to school dressed in their PE kit on these days with no jewellery on.

In the colder months, children may wear black or navy jogging bottoms along with their school jumper or cardigan. They do not need additional sweaters or leggings.

Class Spaces

**We Have
Spaces
Available**

We currently have spaces for new pupils in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 – this does not happen very often, so if you have any friends and family who are looking for a new school in the area, please direct them to the Hounslow admissions website.

Mathletics & Reading Eggs

Over the Summer, the company that makes our homework platforms have made some changes so that there is **one login** for both platforms. I am sure that this will make things a little bit easier!

This new place to log in is:

<https://student.3plearning.com>

Your child's login should be in their reading record (EYFS & KS1) or their planner (KS2). Your child's teacher will have shared when homework is to be set in their curriculum meeting, but do contact them if you are unsure.



Assessment Papers

Some classes completed baseline assessment tests in the first weeks of the year, these will be sent home with children for you to see. As the year progresses, we will continue to send home any copies of assessments completed for you to review with your child.

Class Emails

We continue to have class mailboxes for you to contact your child's class teacher. There is no need to also copy in the office to your emails – this can sometimes confuse the lines of communication. Class inboxes are monitored daily but please allow up to 48 hours for a response. For anything urgent, including reporting your child absent, please continue to contact the school office.

Red Class: red@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Orange Class: 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

Rainbow Class: rainbow@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Drawing attention to a child's successes – be they big or small – can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories – such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work – and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

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October Upcoming Dates

- 1st – African drumming workshop for the whole school
- 3rd – Harvest festival performances
- 6th – Orange Class hearing tests
- 7th – Open morning for prospective parents
- 9th – Gold Class national archives trip
- 10th – Hello Yellow Day
- 15th – School journey Y5&6 residential departs
- 16th – Blue Class Gurdwara trip
- 20th – Start of PANTS Week
- 21st – Violet Class British Museum Trip
- 23rd – Gold Class special assembly
- 27th – Half Term

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