



The Grove Junior School

Dark Lane, Harpenden, AL5 1QB

Tel. 01582 760031 Email: admin@grovejm.herts.sch.uk

www.thegrovejunior.co.uk

Headteacher Miss Lorna Urquhart

11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Meet The Teacher

It was fantastic to see so many parents at our Meet the Teacher sessions this week. We hope the presentations gave you a helpful overview of your child's learning, the curriculum they will be covering, and our expectations for the year ahead.

The presentation slides will be available on the school website next week once the final sections have been completed. In addition, each year group has produced a curriculum newsletter outlining the topics and key learning for this term, along with suggestions for how you can support your child's learning at home. These newsletters are attached to this edition of the newsletter and can also be found on our website.

As always, we value the strong partnership between home and school. If you have any questions or concerns during the year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher via their class email address. We look forward to working together to ensure your child has a happy and successful year at The Grove.

Mobile Phone Use on School Grounds

As part of our commitment to safeguarding all children, we kindly remind parents and carers that mobile phones should not be used whilst on the school playground or anywhere on the school site.

We have noticed an increase in mobile phone use during drop-off and collection times. To help maintain a safe environment and protect the privacy of all children, we ask that phones are kept in pockets or bags whilst you are on school grounds.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in helping us ensure that the playground remains a safe and welcoming space for everyone.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We are currently seeking nominations for Parent Governors to join The Grove Junior School Governing Board. This is a rewarding opportunity to play an active role in supporting the school, working alongside governors, staff and senior leaders to help ensure the very best outcomes for our children.

We are looking for parents who can commit time, enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute to the strategic direction of the school. The role involves a four-year term, attendance at regular evening meetings and occasional visits to school during term time.

If you have a child attending The Grove Junior School from September 2026 and would like to find out more, please contact Sheila Smith (Chair of Governors) at SSmithgov@grovejm.herts.sch.uk or Amanda Ellison (Deputy Chair) at AEllisongov@grovejm.herts.sch.uk.

Nomination deadline: 25 September 2026.

Further information and nomination forms are available from the school office. We would encourage any interested parents to get in touch for an informal conversation about the role.

Reading Volunteers

A massive thank you to all our reading volunteers last year and we are so pleased that so many of you have agreed to continue helping us promote a love of reading at the Grove. If you are interested in becoming a reading volunteer please contact the office and Mrs Jackson, our English subject lead, will be in touch. It's from 9:00 - 9:30 straight after drop-off during assembly time and we are happy to be flexible around you and your schedule.



JOIN THE FUSION FAMILY

We are looking for a Breakfast Club Playworker to join our team.

Do you enjoy spending time with children, creating fun mornings and helping them start their school day with a smile?

Fusion Childcare Services is looking for a friendly, caring and enthusiastic Playworker to join our Breakfast Club team at the Grove Schools.

This could be the perfect opportunity for a parent or grandparent, family member who would like a few extra hours and looking for a rewarding role that fits around family life.

You'll help create a happy, welcoming start to the children's day by:

- Providing a nutritious breakfast
- Organising fun games and activities and supporting children's free choice play
- Supporting and engaging with the children
- Helping children get ready for their school day
- Creating a safe, caring and positive environment

The hours:

Tuesday – Wednesday | 8:00am – 8:45am

There is also the option to add Mondays and Thursdays, if you would like additional hours.

If you have your own children, they are welcome to attend Breakfast Club while you work, making this a particularly convenient opportunity for parents.

We're looking for someone who is reliable, caring, enthusiastic and enjoys working with children. Previous childcare experience is welcomed, but what matters most is having the right attitude and a genuine desire to help children have a great start to their day. No training or qualifications necessary as all will be provided.

If you think this could be you drop Abby an email on

admin@fusionchildcareservices.co.uk

Safer Recruitment checks and an Enhanced DBS check will be carried out as part of the recruitment process.

Come and be part of the Fusion family!

PTA News

Please see the PTA newsletter attached.

School Diary Dates

September

Monday 14th September – Year 5 trip to Hazard Alley

Monday 21st September -Year 6 Residential to Mill on The Brue

Friday 25th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning – hosted by the Infants

Tuesday 29th September – Individual Photos

October

Wednesday 7th October – Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony

Friday 23rd October – Nasal Flu Immunisations

Half Term – Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October

November

Monday 2nd November – INSET Day – School closed to pupils.

Tuesday 3rd November – Parents Evening 3:45pm – 6:45pm

Thursday 5th November - Parents Evening 3:45pm – 6:45pm

Monday 30th November – Year 5 Bikeability week

December

Friday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner

Friday 18th December – End of Term finish at 2pm

Have a lovely weekend



Miss Lorna Urquhart