



The Grove Junior School

Dark Lane, Harpenden, AL5 1QB

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www.thegrovejunior.co.uk

Headteacher Miss Lorna Urquhart

18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Inspirational Speaker – Bart Gee

We were delighted to welcome Bart Gee to The Grove this week for a truly inspirational visit. Bart, who was born with a physical disability called arthrogryposis, shared his remarkable story of determination, resilience and refusing to let others define what he could achieve. Despite being told that he may never walk, Bart has gone on to take part in activities including open-water swimming, driving and competitive sport, demonstrating what can be achieved through perseverance and a positive mindset.

Since his visit, we have received a great deal of positive feedback from parents whose children have come home talking enthusiastically about Bart's message. His honest and engaging presentation encouraged our pupils to believe in themselves, embrace challenges and recognise that obstacles do not have to limit their ambitions. The impact of his visit was clear to see, and we are grateful for the opportunity our children had to learn from such an inspiring individual.

A huge thank you to Bart for sharing his story and reminding us all that, with determination and courage, we can achieve more than we might ever have imagined.

Parking Reminder for Parents and Visitors

We have recently received complaints from local residents regarding parking at the top of Dark Lane, by the green gates. Please note that vehicles must not be parked in this area at any time. The access needs to be kept clear for allotment users and for local residents whose driveways are situated directly off the lane. We have also received complaints from residents of Sherwoods Rise of inconsiderate parking.

We kindly ask all parents, carers and visitors to be considerate when parking and to help us maintain positive relationships with our neighbours by using appropriate parking locations and observing all parking restrictions. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Instagram Changes

At our school, the safety and wellbeing of our children will always be our highest priority. As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we are making some changes to the way we share photographs on our Instagram account. Moving forward, we will no longer be posting images that clearly show children's faces. Instead, we will celebrate learning and special moments through photographs that focus on activities and experiences, such as side profiles, the backs of heads, hands creating, teams working together, and children engaging in their learning.

We know that families enjoy seeing snapshots of school life, and we remain committed to sharing the wonderful experiences taking place across the school. This updated approach allows us to continue celebrating our children's achievements while taking an extra step to protect their privacy and digital safety in an ever-changing online world.

Parent Governor Vacancies

There is still time to put yourself forward to become a school Governor. Nomination deadline: 25 September 2026.

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.



PTA News

Clothing donation Friday 9th October

If you're planning a clear out we are holding a donation drive - bring in your unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories for recycling and the PTA will receive money for every kilogram. The full list of what is accepted can be found [here](#).

School disco Friday 16th October

Disco tickets are now on sale, with 4 separate sessions the disco is open to children from Fusion pre school up to year 6, please ensure you book the correct timeslot for your child's year group and enter their name and class when buying tickets. Get them on [Classlist](#) now.

Quiz night Friday 13th November

Our popular annual quiz night is returning in November. Last year tables sold out in minutes so this year we plan to operate a ballot system. Get your teams of 8 together, and look out for more information coming soon around how to apply for a table.

School Diary Dates

September

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