



# The Grove Junior School

Dark Lane, Harpenden, AL5 1QB

Tel. 01582 760031 Email: [admin@grovejm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@grovejm.herts.sch.uk)

[www.thegrovejunior.co.uk](http://www.thegrovejunior.co.uk)

Headteacher Miss Lorna Urquhart

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Harvest 2026

It has come round to Harvest time and once again we will be collecting donations for the St Albans food bank. We are collecting donations together on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. The children can bring their donation in on Tuesday and staff will be available to receive them in the outside classroom on the playground at drop off time. The list of much needed items is attached to this newsletter. No perishable items please or anything that contains nuts. During the day, the children will take part in a celebration of the Harvest and Reverend Tim will be here to help celebrate with us. Thank you for your support.

## Recycling Centre Poster Competition

We have been incredibly impressed by the amazing recycling posters created by children in Years 3, 4 and 5 as part of the Recycling Centre Competition. We received over 100 entries, showcasing fantastic creativity, artistic talent and important messages about protecting our environment.

All of the entries will now be carefully judged, and the winning design will be transformed into a mural at the local recycling centre. What an incredible opportunity for one of the children to leave a lasting mark on the community!

A huge well done to everyone who took part. We look forward to announcing the winner next week.

## Open Classrooms

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into school for our Open Classrooms on Wednesday 14th October.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your child as they proudly share their learning and celebrate all that they have achieved since the start of the school year. From exciting class projects to pieces of work they are particularly proud of, there will be lots to see and enjoy.

We hope you can join us and look forward to sharing the fantastic start the children have made to the year.

## Message from the Governors

Following our notice for nominations for new parent governors, we are delighted to welcome Jaclyn Norman to the governing board. We also welcome Mrs Kilby as our new staff governor.

In other changes to the board, we say goodbye to Jo Hamilton-Watson, Philippa Waterman, Nicola Coad and Mrs Oxborrow. We are very grateful of the contribution they all made. Sheila Smith is stepping down as Chair of the Board, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank her, for her hard work and dedication to the board as Chair. The incoming Co-Chairs for 2026-27 are Amanda Ellison & Paula Lindores.

## Lost Property

We have already accumulated a significant amount of lost property during the first five weeks of term. Any items that are clearly named have been returned to their owners, and we will continue to do so wherever possible.

However, at half term, any unclaimed items that are not named will be donated to the PTA Uniform Shop.

Please take a few moments to check that your child's belongings are clearly labelled to help us reunite lost items with their owners. **There are still some items left over from Y6's trip to Mill on the Brue (towels, single shoes, fleeces). Please reach out to the school office if you are missing anything.**



## **PTA News**

### **AGM Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Our AGM is taking place next Tuesday 8pm via Teams. Come and hear about what the PTA have done in the last 12 months and plans for this year, plus we will be voting in the committee. Everyone is welcome to join via this [link](#).

### **Clothing donation Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Have a clear out this weekend ready for our clothing collection next Friday - 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](#). Bags need to be dropped next Friday morning in the bottom car park, on the grass area near the gate up to infants.

### **School disco Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

Disco tickets are still 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. Tickets cost £5 each, get them on [Classlist](#) until 14th October.

### **Quiz night Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

The ballot for quiz tables is now open! Tickets cost £22 per ticket (£176 per table) including Godfreys fish / halloumi and chips, plus the interval game. Please submit one application per table only by [emailing us](#). Multiple applications for the same table creates extra admin including returning tickets so please ensure only one person applies. The ballot closes on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October** and successful applicants will be notified on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Those successful will have until **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October** to pay and secure their table before it is offered to someone on the waitlist.

### **Fireworks tickets**

Please use our link below and we will earn commission - Katherine Warrington School low bang fireworks, taking place on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November** will donate 10% of every ticket sold. Plus **early bird prices apply until 8<sup>th</sup> October**. <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/katherinewarringtonschool/2390134/r/grove>

## **School Diary Dates**

### **October**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest festival**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Open Classrooms – 3:15-3:45pm**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Nasal Flu Immunisations

### **Half Term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **November**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – INSET Day – School closed to pupils.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Parents Evening 3:45pm – 6:45pm

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Parents Evening 3:45pm – 6:45pm

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Year 5 Bikeability week

#### **December**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term finish at 2pm

Have a great weekend



Miss Lorna Urquhart