



The Grove Junior School

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Headteacher Miss Lorna Urquhart

9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony

Year 3 had a fantastic trip to Celtic Harmony this week, where they immersed themselves in life during the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Despite the wet weather, the children embraced every activity with enthusiasm and curiosity.

During the day, they ground wheat into flour using quern stones, explored a range of prehistoric weapons and learned how they were made, and created their own clay pots. The staff at Celtic Harmony were particularly impressed by the children's excellent prior knowledge and exemplary behaviour throughout the visit.

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers and staff who supported the trip and helped make it such a valuable and enjoyable experience for the children. We are very proud of the way Year 3 represented The Grove.

Harvest 2026

A huge thank you to all the families who have generously donated items for our Harvest Festival collection. Your kindness and support will make a real difference to local individuals and families who rely on the food bank's services.

We would also like to thank Reverend Vickers for leading a thought-provoking Harvest Assembly. Using water as the focus of his message, he encouraged the children to reflect on how something we often take for granted is essential to life and wellbeing. The assembly provided an important reminder to be thankful for what we have and to consider those who may be facing challenges.

Thank you for helping us make this year's Harvest collection such a success.

Recycling Centre Poster Competition

We were delighted to welcome a local councillor into school this week to judge the fantastic entries for our Recycling Centre Poster Competition. With over 100 entries from pupils across Years 3, 4 and 5, it was no easy task!

Congratulations to Bea in Year 5, whose brilliant design was selected as the winner. Even more excitingly, the mural has already been painted at the recycling centre, so do pop along and take a look if you are passing by.

A number of children from across the school who entered the competition were also given the opportunity to visit the recycling centre and help paint the new mural, making this a truly memorable community project.

A huge thank you to Mrs Jackson for organising this wonderful opportunity and to Mrs Dunford for transforming Bea's design into a beautiful mural. Well done once again to Bea on her fantastic achievement!



Open Classrooms

A quick reminder that our Open Classrooms event will take place on Wednesday 14th October from 3:15pm to 3:45pm.

We would love to welcome parents and carers into school to see the fantastic learning that has taken place since the start of the academic year. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to share their work, celebrate their achievements and proudly show you what they have been learning in class.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the excellent start to the year that the children have made.



PTA News

AGM Tuesday 6th October

Our AGM is took place this week, the committee voted in is as follows:

Chair - Helen Kierney

Vice Chair - Sara Farmer

Treasurer - Jyotika Badwal

Secretary - Gemma Wallace

Take a look at the attached document to see how much money we raised last year and where it was spent! A big thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and came to our events to make it all possible!

School disco Friday 16th October

Just one week to go until the school disco, our DJ will be playing tunes to get the kids dancing! With four 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](#) by **Wednesday 14th October**.

Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale Friday 23rd October

Our popular Krispy Kreme sale is back! Enjoy an end of half term treat, [Classlist](#) is now open for pre orders, we will also be selling individual doughnuts on the day until we run out, but please order in advance if you'd like 3 or more to avoid disappointment. Pre orders close on **Sunday 18th October**.

Fireworks tickets

Please use our link below and we will earn commission -

Katherine Warrington School low bang fireworks, taking place on **Friday 7th November** will donate 10% of every ticket sold. <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/katherinewarringtonschool/2390134/r/grove>

Harpenden Rugby Club Fireworks on **Sunday 1st November** will donate 25% of each ticket sale <https://buytickets.at/hrfc/2437687/r/grove>

Christmas Fayre Saturday 28th November

Make sure you have the Christmas Fayre in your diaries for an afternoon of festive fun! We are currently seeking an event sponsor and raffle prizes. If you own a business, or know someone who does who would like to get involved, please [get in touch](#).

The Curiosity Box

We've teamed up with the [The Curiosity Box](#), who make hands on STEM kits that make learning fun - the perfect gifts for curious kids. They have a range of subscriptions and one off boxes for 4-11 year olds AND their families, ideal for Christmas, plus spooky science Halloween boxes are now available. They will donate 10% to the PTA until 31st December when using our unique code at checkout: **PTAGROVES**

School Diary Dates

October

Wednesday 14th October – Open Classrooms – 3:15-3:45pm

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

The weather is definitely turning, please can you make sure that your child brings a coat to school every day.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorna Urquhart', written on a light blue background.

Miss Lorna Urquhart