The Grove Junior School

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Headteacher Miss Lorna Urquhart

13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children in Need – Friday 13th November

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need today. It was wonderful to see the children arriving at school in their spots and stripes, helping to create a fun and colourful atmosphere across the school. Events such as Children in Need are a valuable opportunity for the children to learn about empathy, generosity and the importance of supporting those who may need a helping hand. Through their donations, the children have shown how small acts of kindness can make a real difference to the lives of others.

Thank you for your generosity and support. We are incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm and willingness to give back to others. There is still time to donate please use the link: https://www.justgiving.com/page/the-grove-junior-school-7?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Grove's Got Talent 2026

As we approach the final weeks before Christmas, it is time once again for our annual Grove's Got Talent competition. We are now inviting children to start thinking about, preparing and practising their performances. Each act will first be performed to the child's year group, with three acts from each year group being selected to go through to the Grand Final on Friday 11th December.

This year will be particularly special, as it will be the final Grove's Got Talent competition. Over the past few years, the school has placed a strong focus on developing children's oracy skills, confidence and spoken communication. As a result, from next year we will be launching our first 'Grove Get Talking' competition, which will provide a new opportunity for children to showcase these important skills. Further details will be shared in the new year.

We would love this final year of Grove's Got Talent to be our best yet and to go out on a high. Please support your child by helping them practise their talent at home and encouraging them to take part.

We look forward to seeing the wonderful range of talents our children have to share!

Premier Education Holiday Club at The Grove

We are delighted that Premier Education's Ofsted registration has now been approved**,** meaning families can use childcare vouchers and Tax-Free Childcare payments to pay for holiday club places.

Premier Education is keen to work closely with families at The Grove to ensure their holiday club provision meets the needs of our community. They are currently gathering feedback from parents to help shape future provision, including timings, activities and other aspects of the holiday club experience.

We would encourage all families to take a few moments to complete the relevant surveys and help Premier Education tailor this valuable service to what our parents need.

For families using childcare vouchers or Tax-Free Childcare: Please complete the voucher survey and let Premier Education know which provider you use so they can set this up on their system.

Childcare Voucher Survey: Tax Free Childcare Vouchers for Holiday Club

Premier Education would like to hear from all families about what would make their holiday clubs most useful and accessible. The survey includes questions about preferred times, activities and other aspects of provision.

Holiday Club Survey: Premier Education Holiday Club Survey

Your feedback will help Premier Education develop a holiday club programme that best supports Grove families while providing high-quality activities for our children.

Odd Socks Day – Monday 16th November

A reminder that Monday 16th November is Odd Socks Day, marking the start of Anti-Bullying Week.
Children are invited to come to school wearing a pair of odd, colourful or mismatched socks with their usual school uniform. Odd Socks Day is a fun way to celebrate our individuality and recognise that we are all unique. It also helps to promote the important messages of kindness, respect and inclusion that sit at the heart of Anti-Bullying Week. There is no cost to take part, so simply pull on your oddest socks and join us in showing that being different is something to be celebrated. We can't wait to see all the fantastic sock combinations on display!
All children will also be taking part in an Anti-Bullying Workshop on Monday or Tuesday, run by the company One Day Creative, with the theme of 'Break the Silence'. Thank you to the PTA for funding this!

PTA News

Win a Hamper

With Black Friday sales and Christmas shopping to be done we know a lot of you will be spending online right now. We'd love more of you to use easy fundraising when you shop online to raise money for the school. We've just received £185 for the last quarter but we know we could raise a lot more! It doesn't cost you any extra and as an incentive we are offering a food and drink hamper to be won. There are over 8,000 retailers offering free donations; supermarkets, clothing, home wear, tech, insurance, holidays and more!

Every time you shop and raise a donation you will receive an entry into the draw, with bonus entries for every £5 raised. The competition runs until 15th December with the winner receiving the hamper before Christmas. If you've signed up but not yet used it, now is a great time to start, or sign up here. If you're not sure how it works take a look at this 60 second video.

Christmas Cards and more

By now you should have received order forms for the brilliant Christmas designs that the children have created. You can purchase cards, plus other items including mugs, coasters, ornaments and tea towels featuring their design via the online shop. Its open until **Tuesday November 17th** with free delivery to school by December 3rd. If you have not received your code please email info@pta-groveschools.org.uk and we can re-send it.

Christmas Fayre Saturday 28th November 2-4pm

There are 2 weeks to go until the Christmas Fayre! There will be festive games, crafts, a trail, market stalls, face painting, photography and the secret room where children can choose a present to wrap for their grown ups to put under the tree. Plus we will have Boomting pizza, plenty of festive bakes, mulled wine, hot chocolate and more!
To put all of this on we need some help! We've done all of the organisation but we need volunteers on the day to man the stalls and games for us, the slots are only 45 minutes each and if you can't help during the event there are also slots to help set up in the morning / clear away after, and finally we need people to bake for our refreshments stall. If you can help with any of this please sign up on Classlist or let your class rep know.

Christmas Trees and wreath bases

These are available to order now for collection during the Christmas Fayre, or if you can't make the fayre you can arrange to collect by emailing us. The trees are premium quality Noormann Firs and each one sold raises money for the PTA. We even have parents of children have who have left the school still ordering from us so is testament to how good they are! Orders must be made by **9pm on Monday 23rd November** on Classlist, you can also share this link with family and friends.

School Diary Dates

November

Monday 16th November – Odd Socks Day
Monday 16th November – Anti-Bullying Week – workshops for children
Tuesday 24th November – Year 6 Heights and Weights
Friday 27th November – Southdown Lights Up
Saturday 28th November – PTA Christmas Fayre – 2pm-4pm
Monday 30th November – Year 5 Bikeability week
Monday 30th November – Mill on the Brue Information Evening for Year 5 Parents [6:30pm online]

December

Friday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11th December – Grove's Got Talent final
Tuesday 15th December – Year 3 Performance to parents in the afternoon
Wednesday 16th December – Year 3 Performance to parents in the morning
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th December – Carol Service at St John's for the children.
Friday 18th December – End of Term finish at 2pm

Good luck to anyone attending the PTA Quiz this evening; the junior team is ready and raring to go.

Kind regards



Miss Lorna Urquhart