



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

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have finally reached the end of what has certainly felt like a very long half term! It has been an incredibly busy few weeks, filled with learning, achievements, special events and, of course, our recent Ofsted inspection.

As we head into the break, there is no doubt that Autumn has now arrived. The weather has certainly changed, with colder temperatures and wet, windy conditions forecast over the coming days. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved opportunity to rest, recharge and spend time with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school on Tuesday 3rd November, ready for another exciting half term of learning.

Welcome Back Mr David

We are delighted to welcome Mr David back to The Grove this week as our new Caretaker.

Many of you may remember that Mr David was part of our school community five years ago and played a key role in helping to create our wonderful library, which continues to be enjoyed every day. We are thrilled to have him back at The Grove and are looking forward to working with him on a range of exciting projects to enhance our school environment. I am sure you will join us in giving Mr David a very warm welcome back to the Grove family.

Parents Evening Parking

The booking system for Parents' Evening closes later today, and there are now only a small number of appointment slots remaining. Thank you to all the parents and carers who have already booked their appointments. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress and celebrate their achievements so far this year.

As the clocks go back this weekend, it will be getting dark much earlier than we have become used to. To help with access and safety, the playground will be open from 4.30pm for parents wishing to park on site for Parents' Evening. The lower car park will be closed, as the pathway alongside the field is uneven and will be too dark for safe pedestrian use. Parents arriving on foot may use either the side gate opposite the garages on Dark Lane or the green gate by the school office. Please note that the staff car park will not be available for parent parking.

Friendship Boxes

There is still time to donate items for our Friendship Boxes. Donations will be accepted until Wednesday 4th November, and we would be extremely grateful for any contributions you are able to make.

The Friendship Boxes are a wonderful way of supporting others and helping to make a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and support of this worthwhile cause.

Groverneer Elections

On Tuesday, our classes voted for the Groverneers and these have been announced today. Congratulations to the winners! It is worth noting that so many of our candidates' presentations were of high quality and we were definitely impressed with the children's confidence and oracy skills.

Also, thank you to the St Alban's District Council who kindly loaned us a polling booth and ballot boxes. This really gave the children an insight into real-life elections and the importance of the British Value of democracy.



PTA News

Help us raise free money!

You simply need to install the easyfundraising app on your phone before the end of the month. Every 10 new supporters who join with the app will unlock a £50 donation for the school, install the app on your mobile and follow the simple steps to join. We still need a couple more supporters to unlock the first £50, but imagine how much we could raise if everyone joined! [Get the app here](#). Thank you!

Wreath Making

The wreath making workshop on 1st December sold out very quickly so we are considering running a second one on **Monday 30th November**. If you are interested in coming along to this (you can also bring family and friends) please let us know by selecting a free ticket on Classlist and if we have enough people we will confirm after half term and collect payment.

Christmas Fayre Saturday 28th November

We are busy getting ready for the Christmas Fayre - one of our big fundraising events of the year, take a look at our [website](#) to find out more about what we have planned. One of the popular features of the day is the Secret Room, Fusion kindly run this for us and will help the children choose present(s) for their parents / grandparents etc or even older siblings. To help us stock our secret room we will be asking for donations of unwanted gifts and nearly new items in the week of the festival, so if you're having a sort out please put anything suitable to one side.

Quiz Night Friday 13th November

If you're on a table at the quiz night please get your food choices to your table lead as soon as possible, choose from fish, halloumi or gluten free fish. The quiz is held in the Junior hall, it starts at 8pm and the bar will be open from 7:15.

School Diary Dates

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 16th November – Anti-Bullying Week – workshops for children

Friday 20th November – Children in Need Non-Uniform Day

Tuesday 24th November – Year 6 Heights and Weights

Friday 27th November – Southdown Lights Up

Monday 30th November – Year 5 Bikeability week

December

Friday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day

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

Have a wonderful and safe half-term break. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Kind regards



Miss Lorna Urquhart