



The Grove Valer

November 2008

Gearing-up for Christmas!

We always seem to begin this section of the Grove Valer by saying how busy we have been: Well, dare we say it again but we've been so busy! Last half term was easily one of the busiest and most productive half terms ever, and this is set to continue over the year. We have seen loads of PA activity (including a quiz night with a great turn-out. We won't mention who won), school disco and a bags for schools collection (thanks so much for your donations). Add to this a really productive clean-up day and you can see that there has been loads going on! Thanks to all of the parents and helpers who turned up for clean-up day and it was particularly great to see some new faces too.

We held a very successful and different Meet the Teacher, for which we received good constructive feedback as well as a hugely successful Health Week. The school year to date has also seen a great deal of changes regarding how we track pupil progress in school, inform our planning and fully utilise our brilliant support staff even more effectively in school. We have also changed both Literacy and Numeracy planning forms as well as having a whole scale review of science teaching in school and a mini review of Big Writing...and all that (and more!) in one half term!

At the end of November, staff will be completing pupil assessment tracking data for the term, and then we can really begin to get into the Christmas spirit by preparing for celebrations and Christmas performances (see diary dates) during this magical time.

Thanks for your continued support

Please do not hesitate to come into school if you have any questions, questions or suggestions.

Mr Leivers, Mr Orgill and all of the team at Grove Vale.

Children in Need

Donate £1 and Get dressed up tomorrow!!!

The school will again be supporting Children in Need this year and we are inviting all children and staff to arrive at school dressed up as a character from TV, film or a book! All we ask is that all those who get dressed-up donate £1 to Children in Need. There will be a special assembly where children can parade their costumes and prizes will be awarded across the school. Please get involved, join the fun and support a really good cause at the same time!

Ps Mr Leivers will once again be dressing up as Spandau Ballet's Tony Hadley

Punctuality

Thank you so much for your support on our punctuality focus since half term. We are now closing the gates 5 minutes after the bell in the morning. This is to ensure that we can monitor punctuality more closely and also be sure that the school is more secure once the children are inside. We are keeping a very close record of children who are late, so that we can speak to parents if necessary.

As we've said before, although we all have a good reason for being late from time to time, it's so important that children learn the life skill of punctuality, but also that they are in school for an orderly start to the day and the learning that occurs from the first minute. We are currently seeing a marked improvement in punctuality in school!

Our PA @ Grove Vale

Next meeting Tuesday 18th November 7pm in the Staff Room - please come along to discuss the special Christmas events we can plan for our children!

To help save our environment we are trying not to print the Minutes of the Meetings - if you have had paper copies in the past, can we please ask that you try and access them on-line via the new updated website or give us your 'e' mail address - help us reduce our carbon footprint!!! Any problems please let us know. Please check out the new website and give us your comments/suggestions and any help you can offer!!

Finally, Villa Football Coaching: Things got off to a great start! Apologies to anybody who requested a place and didn't realise they had been allocated one - anyone effected has hopefully received a note inviting them along for the next session on Friday 14th November. There are a few places available so please let us know if you want to join - this is a professional 'soccer clinic' and one to one tuition is included when the coaches feel it is necessary - it is great fun but also a great basis for budding football stars!

Any questions please contact the School Office or contact Ange Banks - PA Chair on 07793 432191 or e mail ange.banks@blueyonder.co.uk

Hola Cesar!

You may be aware that our Key Stage 2 children are now having weekly Spanish lessons in school. It will be mandatory for schools to teach Modern Foreign Languages from 2010, and we are glad to be able to offer it already. The Spanish sessions are being delivered by Cesar Moreno our Foreign Language Assistant. Having recently arrived from Chile, Cesar splits his time between our school and Q3. The sessions are very popular with our children and Cesar is a real asset!

Ps Cesar is also taking some goalkeeping coaching sessions with the Y5/6 football team. We must be the first school in Sandwell to boast a South American football coach!

Open Day

We had a very successful open day in October. The result of this was new children joining our school after half term. Numbers continue to grow and we would again like to welcome new families to our school.

The Open Day is also vital for our new Reception intake in September and again we had an excellent turn out. Special thanks to Ranjit Gill and Kiran Kangure for their help and to Mandy Dyer for arranging refreshments on the day. All were also able to give the parents' (and grandparents'!) perspective to our visitors.

Clean-up Day

Thanks to those parents, children and staff who gave up their Sunday morning to help us during the clean-up. It was great to see some new faces as well as the regulars. Thanks also to Ange Banks for the wonderful bacon sandwiches! We got lots of jobs done so well done.

Diary Dates

(Dates and times are correct at time of going to print)

Children in Need	Friday 14th November
School closed: Staff Training Day	Friday 21st November 2008
Year 3 Egypt Day	Tuesday 25th November 2008
School Choir to NIA—'Young Voices'	Tuesday 25th November 2008
Year 6 out @ Wednesbury Museum	Wednesday 10th December 2008
Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance	Wednesday 10th December 2008 @ 1:30pm and Thursday 11th December 2008 @ 6:30pm
FS Christmas Performance	Thursday 11th December 2008 @ 1:30pm
FS trip to Sandwell Valley Farm	Tuesday 16th December 2008
Lower Key Stage 2 perform Scrooge!	Wednesday 17th December @ 6:30pm and Thursday 18th December 2008 @ 9:30am
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 19th December 2008 @ Normal time
School reopens	Monday 5th January 2009

Reminder: School will be closed for staff training on Friday 21st November