



The Grove Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back!

Welcome back to another academic year. We hope that you have all had a lovely summer break and that everyone is ready for their return to school. To those who are joining us for the first time – we look forward to getting to know you and hope that you quickly feel part of our wonderful community.

Over the next week, we will be publishing our curriculum letters which let you know what your child will be learning over the term ahead. We hope that this is useful – if you have any questions, please catch your child's class teacher at the end of the school day.

As always, the SLT and pastoral support team will be on duty each morning. If you have any concerns, please approach one of us and we will seek to help you. Class teachers will be on duty at the end of the school day as well.

School timings

Please can you ensure that your child arrives at school between 8.35 and 8.45. Lessons start promptly at 8.45.

Uniform

When children are in school, they are part of a community and by wearing a simple uniform we aim to promote a feeling of equality, partnership and belonging. Uniform is therefore encouraged for all children. The school colours and clothing are as follows:

- Grey skirts, pinafores or trousers
- White polo t-shirt or shirt with the school logo on
- Emerald Green sweatshirt with the school logo on
- Year 6 children wear a plain white shirt and school tie
- Appropriate black coloured footwear (not crocs)

Parents can order sweatshirts, polo shirts, cardigans and PE kits via Arbor but are welcome to purchase non logo uniform from any supplier of their choice.

For warmer weather

- Green chequered pinafore, grey shorts in warmer weather
- Appropriate low-heeled shoes or sandals. No Flip Flops / crocs.

For PE

Children wear navy or black shorts and a T-shirt in their house colour for PE activities. Trainers or plimsolls are worn for outdoor P.E. and indoor games. Children have bare feet for apparatus work and dance. Navy or black joggers and sweatshirts can be worn for outdoor P.E.

PE T-shirts can be ordered via Arbor.

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Enhanced Resource Base for ASD at The Grove.

Last term, I wrote to inform our community that we had formally expressed an interest to run an Enhanced Resource Base for pupils with ASD. Some of you, who have been with us a while, will remember that we once had a class called The Aviary. This was our nurture class, run by us, for pupils in our school who had a diagnosis of ASD or had social/communication difficulties and found the mainstream classroom environment difficult. This provision had to close to the financial pressures felt by the school in line with the national picture.

However I am thrilled to say that our expression of interest has been accepted and that the Local Authority will be formally consulting on The Grove running this enhanced resource base (ERB). This is a hugely exciting development for The Grove. Not only will we be able to use our expertise to support pupils referred into The Aviary but we will also benefit from on-going training from the Local Authority specialist teams which will support every child in our school.

Enhanced Resource Bases (ERB) are a key development in the local, and national, support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), who do not need a special school place but require more support than a mainstream primary can offer as part of its ordinarily available practice. This is a national drive to reform and improve outcomes for pupils with SEND as well as to further develop inclusive practices in mainstream schools. This is a journey that The Grove has been on for the last 5 years which puts us in a strong position to lead an ERB. We have chosen to run an ERB with a specialism in ASD (Autism).

The ERB will also provide increased financial security for the school as it will bring in further income.

As with the original Aviary, pupils will be educated initially in The Aviary itself. Over time, they will then start to access learning in a mainstream classroom, with support, when it is appropriate. We have had many children in our school benefit from this approach and we are keen to support a wider number of children, from across Cambridge, to feel this success. Our staff also benefitted greatly from having The Aviary as Mr Cumberland and Mrs Hardy continually sought to upskill themselves to ensure The Aviary was using the most up to date research in teaching pupils with social/communication needs. The work of The Aviary was also used to support the improvements in practice across the school. This training hasn't stopped since The Aviary closed – in fact this change meant that we had to look even more closely at the curriculum and provision we had in every classroom as we could not provide an alternative. This is something that we never stop doing.

Thank you to those who approached Mrs Hardy and I, last term, to ask about the ERB and to show support for this development. I have put the FAQs at the end of this newsletter, again, for your information. If you have any questions, please do come and talk to Mrs Hardy or me – you also have the opportunity to attend two formal consultation meetings on the 23rd September 2025 which will also be attended by members of the Local Authority who are running this project.

There will be more information from Cambridgeshire County Council later this week as the consultation formally opens on Monday 8th September and runs until Friday 3rd October 2025.

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Information/FAQs provided by Cambridgeshire County Council about an Enhanced Resource Base (ERB)

What is an ERB?

An Enhanced Resource Base (ERB) provides education for a maximum of 10 pupils, taking a dedicated and personalised approach to meeting individual need. ERBs are located within a mainstream school but work as an independent facility. They are overseen by a member of the mainstream SLT team, and education is delivered by a qualified teacher with significant experience working with children with SEMH or social communication needs (ASD). Pupils within an ERB will be expected, in time, to access aspects of the mainstream school for increasing amounts of time up to 80%.

Who are we aiming to support?

We know that there are an increasing number of pupils who are not accessing school. Many of these have EHC plans. Often these students access limited packages of education that are not able to meet all their needs. Independent provision is often located away from the family's locality, requiring long distance travel. Many of these children miss out on large portions of education by being in this situation and have limited prospect of inclusion in their local community. The ERBs aim to reconnect children and families with mainstream facilities with additional support, allowing them a route back to inclusion as well as access to wider support. This better meets the needs of children and families, keeps children in their communities and provides both effective and cost-effective education.

What are the benefits?

The benefits include greater educational / community inclusion, re-engagement with education, social inclusion and educational progress. The framework is built on sound, evidence informed psychological principles and supported by a range of professionals including psychologists. As well as providing pupils and families with these benefits, the model has proved to deliver better value for money. Building on this success and founded on a sustainable model, the local authority is aiming to increase capacity in such provisions across the county in partnership with schools.

How will this benefit my school?

The benefits are myriad. ALL children benefit from an inclusive environment where they feel a sense of belonging. The wider school will benefit from the wider support offered by the educational psychology team and other professionals to the ERB. This includes a range of free training opportunities. In addition, the school will benefit from higher than usual levels of support from services such as educational psychology. Inclusion is set to form part of the inspection framework going forward and the ERBs provide an excellent opportunity to showcase this in your school.

On an on-going basis, staff will receive support to implement and embed the training and principles in the setting. The local authority also provides access to additional training both planned and 'as required'. Support with transition and other aspects such as transport and wider support for the families is also provided.



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Dates for your Diary

New dates/times have been added in red.

Tuesday 23rd September at 9.00 in the small hall – Meeting about the Enhanced Resource Base for pupils with ASD at The Grove Primary School.

Tuesday 23rd September at 6pm – online meeting about the Enhanced Resource Base for pupils with ASD at The Grove Primary School.

Monday 13th October at 2pm – Open Afternoon

Thursday 23rd October 3.30 – 8.00pm online parent/carer meetings

Friday 24th October – school closes at 3.15 for half term

Monday 3rd November – INSET Day

Tuesday 4th November – children back to school

Wednesday 10th December at 9.15 and 2.15 – EYFS and KS1 Nativity play

Monday 15th December at 2pm – Open Afternoon

Thursday 18th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day

Friday 19th December – school closes for the Christmas Break at 2pm (Orchard closes at 4pm)

Monday 5th January 2026 – children return to school

15th – 19th June 2026 – Y5/6 Residential Trip to Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust in Essex



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My School Fund

We are part of 'My School Fund', which offers cash back to parents for online spend, as well as money for the school.

If you would like to sign up, visit myschoolfund.org and search for 'The Grove'.



How does it work?

My School Fund links your spend to your chosen school, meaning every time you make a purchase at participating retailers you both benefit through an innovative cashback scheme.



You + Us = More

Introducing My School Fund, an exciting new initiative that combines the spending power of parents, guardians and carers in order to boost school budgets.

myschoolfund.org

What's in it for me and my child's school?

Both you and your child's school will receive eGift Cards to spend in participating retailers based on a percentage of your overall spend.



£ Add that all up across the school's network of families and together we can all make a big difference!

Visit myschoolfund.org and register for free today!

Getting started



Step 1

Visit myschoolfund.org to sign up for free and link to your child's school



Step 2

Register your credit/debit card to your account



Step 3

Spend at participating retailers



Step 4

Start receiving your eGift Cards!

Thursdays
8.40 - 10am



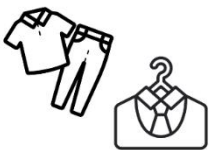
'Coffee with Kindness'

in The Grove School Community Room



A little time and space for Grove School parents to take a break, be themselves, and connect with each other.

Pre-school children are welcome with parents



Second Hand School Uniform available weekly
Suggested donation
£1 per item

WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Play now to boost our fundraising!
Tickets cost just £1



NEXT DRAW – SATURDAY

6th SEPTEMBER 8PM

YourSchoolLottery

New – we are hoping to raise funds for the school via YourSchoolLottery. Weekly draws with a guaranteed cash prize for one Grove ticket holder every week. For every £1 ticket purchased, 40p is donated back to the school. More details can ticket purchases can be found here:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/the-grove-primary-school-and-nursery/s>



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Rosettes at achievement assembly have been presented to:

Friday 5th September

Duckling: Amaanah, Una

Robin: Adil, Gemma

Puffin: Arya, Maryam

Kingfisher: Seb, Harley

Flamingo: Ayaz, Michael

Toucan: Zach, Muhayaddin

Falcon: Begzad, Mya