



Grove Goldfinches

The Grove Primary School PTFA

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Round up of the year

Thinking back on this academic year, I feel immensely proud of what the PTFA have achieved.

Over the last three terms, we've organised a welcome picnic for Reception Children and their parents in September, a hugely successful Christmas Fair and Christmas cards designed by every pupil at The Grove, 4 discos, Mothers' and Fathers' Day Gift Shops, an Easter Treasure Trail, a Chocolate Quiz, Friday Treat Day and 'Big Friday' with ice lollies, refreshments and a raffle, as well as organising costumes for the Arbury Carnival Parade in conjunction with Kettles Yard and running a stall at the Carnival itself.

We have also supported the school by selling tea, coffee and ice lollies at Sports' Day, and running a Second Hand Uniform Shop at the Reception parents welcome evening in June.

Finally, we were successful in securing a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to allow Year Six Pupils to participate in 'Collaborate to Create', a year long project which culminated in a Puppet Show performed to parents and other members of the local community in early July. The pupils benefitted greatly from this project and the school would have been unable to run the project without the grant funding.

Through the above events, the PTFA have raised £1,700 this year. All money raised is used to directly benefit the children at The Grove.

So what has the money been spent on?

We have received various requests for monetary spend from the school during the year and we are thrilled to have been able to fund some very worthwhile additions to school life. Anyone who has visited the KS1 playground since December will have seen the colourful new playground markings, which have brightened up playtime enormously for the younger children. We also paid to replace a rotten section of the KS2 'Trim Trail' with a new rolling log to challenge the older children.

Parents attending KS2 Sports' Day last week were greeted by the sight of 4 large gazebos, one for each house, to keep the children sheltered from the sun. These have now been scattered around the school field and give the children some respite from the heat during play and lunchtimes.

The PTFA has also funded Christmas crackers for the children at the school Christmas Lunch, leavers' gifts for the pupils in Year 6 as they move on to Secondary School in September, a visit from the Raptor Foundation for Year 3 children and a picnic for Reception children and their parents in September to welcome them to the school.

We have received a few suggestions for what other items might be purchased to benefit the school and we will consider these in discussion with Ms Martin for the next academic year. At the end of this academic year, we have c.£1,700 left in the bank to carry into September.

Dates for your Diary

We are already thinking ahead to September, and have some events planned for the Autumn Term as follows:

- Welcome Picnic for new Reception children and their parents – Friday 14th September at 14:00
- **Big Autumn Fair – Friday 28th September 15:15 – 17:00**
- Disco – date TBC
- We will also, once again, be producing Christmas cards designed by the children.

Volunteers

One of the most pleasing things for me during this year is that we have encouraged some new, regular, helpers onto the PTFA. This has helped enormously with being able to run so many events during the year and lightens the load for everyone. So a big thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with our events during the year. Sadly we have also said goodbye to some of our key helpers during the year and more are leaving at the end of this term, as they move on from The Grove. I would like to wish them well and also thank them for all of their hard work.

Given the turnover of PTFA helpers, we can always use more people! I'm very aware that, in some schools, the PTFA can be seen as a little cliquey and I'm keen to avoid this at The Grove. Everyone is always welcome to come along and help at any of our events and we are extremely grateful for any offers of help received.

Being a volunteer doesn't have to mean coming along to meetings (although you are welcome if you want to) and doesn't need a vast time commitment. We have a Facebook group / email list where I put out pleas for help (selling ice lollies on a Friday afternoon for example) and people can just do the odd half an hour here or there. If you would be willing to be added to this group, please let me know in person on the playground or by email to goldfinches@grove.cambs.sch.uk.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very happy summer holiday. I hope you all have a good rest and enjoy spending a few relaxed weeks with your children.

See you in September!

Clare Cordell
Chair – Grove Goldfinches PTFA