



South Grove Primary School

NEWSLETTER 1 2026-2027

7th September 2026

Dear parents and carers

STARS OF THE WEEK W/C 7.9.26

1L	MUSA	4P	VICTORIA
1S	RUBY	4Y	NATHAN
2DM	ISAAC	5A	ERIKA
2H	AZAAN	5F	INDIA
3G	ALL OF 3G	6M	EMILIA
3SH	NADIA	6PB	DYLAN



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY W/C 1.9.26

Best Attendance ☺ **1L 98.1%**

Best Punctuality ☺ **1S, 3G & 6**

Class that needs to improve their attendance **5F 83.3 %**

Class that needs to improve their punctuality **1L & 2H**

Overall School Attendance this year = 88.1%

A VERY WARM WELCOME BACK! It was a pleasure to welcome everyone back to a new Autumn Term last week! The children looked rested and eager to immerse themselves into their learning in their new Year Groups - well they certainly looked like it! Our Parents and carers community looked very relieved to be dropping off the children and wishing school staff good luck!



I trust that you all had a good summer break with your children and families whatever you managed to do over the summer. I very much appreciate your support for sending your children in so smartly in their new school uniforms. They did look lovely! (Please remember that we have good quality second-hand uniform for sale, so please ask at the school office if you need anything). The children seem to have settled well and we continue to welcome our new families starting at South Grove across the year groups.

Our Early Years team were busy out and about with their maps, visiting our new Reception and Nursery families at home last week and today to get to know them before they start. We look forward to welcoming them to South Grove later this week.

YEAR 1 PARENTS AND CARERS



Thank you for helping us get the children into a new routine and way to line up in the morning. I know it is early days but they did incredibly well!

The children will line up by the dining hall each morning. It would be appreciated if parents will allow the children through the gate and come and line up with support from the adults out there without parents. Of course, during the first few days we understand that parents wish to do this but hopefully the children will get used to doing this on their own. We even had a few wishing to do this themselves last week!

So, from next Monday can we aim to allow the children to come in on their own. If they are upset for any reason then of course parents are able to bring them into the line themselves but to be encouraged to do so each day. Any messages can be passed on to the members of staff manning the gate.

At the end of the day parents and carers can come and pick the children up from the classroom door and see the teacher then if they wish to.

KEY STAGE TWO AND YEAR 2 LINING UP IN THE PLAYGROUND

With the rest of the Year Groups, Years 2,3,4,5 and 6, it is an expectation that they come through the gate on their own to line up.

Staff on duty need to see across all the class lines to ensure everyone is safe. If parents are coming on premises it makes this difficult at times to see. Parents can come on premises at the end of the day to wait outside the classroom door and meet with the teacher if required.



WE WELCOME NEW STAFF TO SOUTH GROVE!



We welcome **Miss Aurionna Barry** who is our new **Nursery Teacher**. She has moved from outside London to work with us. She has been busy carrying out home visits to our new Nursery children last week. She is a qualified Early Years Teacher and has just finished teaching Year 1 in a previous setting. She is very much looking forward to settling our youngest children into the Nursery and helping them at the beginning of their learning journey.



We also welcomed **Ms Alexandra Broodie** who started in Year 6 last week to job share with Mrs Perna in 6PB. She met and taught the class on Friday and is getting to know them all. She is an experienced teacher and will be a great addition to our Year 6 team.



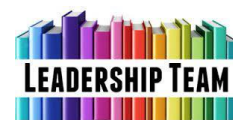
Miss Leanna Samuel has joined our Office team as the Extended Day Administration Officer. She comes with a wealth of experience running holiday clubs, a creche and a gym. She is getting to grips with Magic Booking and other systems so please bear with her!

I know you will give them all a warm welcome when you meet them and we wish them well as we welcome them to our South Grove community.



WHO'S WHO?

At South Grove we aim to continue our close partnership with parents, and are pleased to share with you our new staff team as part of our staffing re-structure. Here is our



Senior Leadership Team. You have the opportunity to meet the team at the beginning and end of the school day when we are out on duty supervising the beginning and end of the day.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM:

1. **Julie Maltwood** – Head Teacher
2. **David Combe** – Deputy Head Teacher & UKS2 Phase Lead
3. **Jill Moriarty** – Assistant Head Teacher for Inclusion and SEND & KS1 Phase Lead
4. **Angela Rice** – EYFS Phase Lead
5. **Brigid Montgomery** – Pastoral Care Manager, Attendance and Safeguarding Lead
6. **Jazz Ali** – School Business Manager

**SENIOR
LEADERSHIP
TEAM**



1



2



3



4



5



6

MIDDLE LEADERSHIP TEAM:

7. **Amarjit Sandhu-Hanif** – English Lead
8. **Charlotte Marable** – Mathematics and Computing Lead
9. **Georgia Winter** – Science & Sustainability Lead
10. **Chris Andrews** – Humanities and RE Lead
11. **Sally Lovell-Young** – PE, Sports and PSHCE Lead
12. **Mercedes Hubbard** – Art and Design Lead
13. **Laura Forbes** – Music and Performing Arts Lead



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER - INCLUSION AND SEND LEAD

Welcome to our new Assistant Head Teacher – **Ms Jill Moriarty**. She will be our new full-time SENCo but with additional responsibilities for inclusion across the school as well as KS1 Phase Leader. She is an experienced SENCo and has come from an all-through school in Tottenham.

TEACHER OF 'THE NEST' - THE SCHOOL'S SPECIAL RESOURCED PROVISION FOR AUTISM

I am very pleased to share with you that Miss Libby Johnson, our previous part-time SENCo is going to run our Special Resourced Provision. We have also re-named our provision to reflect our inclusive practice and using our school logo as inspiration. Here is **The Nest's** new logo that you will see frequently published as part of our communications.



We have a very experienced team of support staff that work alongside our new Assistant Head Teacher and Miss Johnson, Teacher of the SRP, to meet the needs of our children in both Mainstream and the Special Resourced Provision, for children with a specific need or those with EHCP's. We encourage regular communication between staff and parents regarding any need that a child has, and any concerns that parents may have about their child at any time no matter how big or small the concern may be. We will be setting up some coffee mornings so that parents of children with additional needs will have the opportunity to come in and chat.

If you need to get in touch with our Assistant Head Teacher SENCo please contact her using this email: senco@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk

PARENTS INFORMATION

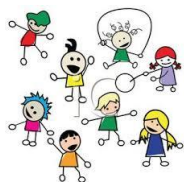
Newsletters - these are weekly on a Monday and contain lots of very useful information about what is going on in the school with dates to remember and details of the children's learning. You can access this via the school's website from the home page and they are sent via ParentPay e-mail. If emails or phone numbers ever change, please let the school office know but also update your email address within your ParentPay account as it does not allow the school to do this.

If, of course, parents do not have an e-mail address, paper copies will be available from the school office, but as a school we really do want to cut down on the amount of paper the school uses. It is also uploaded to the school website.

Emergency Contact and Medical Information Sheet for 2026-2027- this week you will receive an emergency contact and medical information sheet. It is very important that parents update their contact information sheets so please look out for them and **please return immediately**.



NURSERY SPACES



We still have a few Nursery places for September so, if you have a child who was 3 by 31st August this year and need a Nursery place, please apply now at the school office.

Speak to Ms McLean in the office if you would like further information.

September

**A child's right ...
to learn and
to go to school (28)**



Friendship

PE LESSONS

Nearly every class will have two PE sessions a week led by Mr Warren and their own class teacher. Children continue to wear their PE Kits and trainers/plimsolls to school on PE days. It is really important they also have their water bottle at school each day and take it home at night to be washed. **Please remember, NO JEWELLERY on PE days** and hair must be tied back.



PE TIMETABLE

RR	Friday
RW	Friday
1L	Tuesday and Thursday
1S	Tuesday and Thursday
2DM	Monday and Wednesday
2H	Monday and Wednesday
3G	Wednesday and Friday
3SH	Wednesday and Friday

4P	Tuesday and Thursday
4Y	Tuesday and Thursday
5A	Monday and Wednesday
5F	Monday and Wednesday
6M	Tuesday and Friday
6PB	Tuesday and Friday
The Nest	Thursday

LABEL LABEL LABEL!

Please can you make sure you write your child's name in/on their uniform, water bottle & packed lunch bag so that if it gets mislaid, we can easily return it to its owner



Do remember it will need checking after washing to make sure it is still clear.

At the end of each term any unnamed lost property is resold as second hand or sent to charity.

Thank you.

The Autumn term clubs letter was emailed to you all last Friday from ParentPay.



Make sure you sign up for the exciting range of activities we have on offer!! If you have not yet applied, please use this link:

<https://forms.gle/WLbFn2QM8HwkyLkG8>

Once you applied, if it is a school run club, we can allocate your child to that club and you can pay on ParentPay. Outside clubs have their own payment methods. Please do not hand cash to the office.

We will only let you know if your child HAS NOT got a place – so no news is good news. 😊

Please check dates as some start this week and some next week and **Cookery not until 8th October** (not 17 September as stated in the original letter)

Be quick though – Cookery Club is already full!!

KEY DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

Week commencing 7 th September	Football, Tennis & Athletic Clubs with Premier Education start this week
Wednesday 9 th September	Returning Nursery children start back New Nursery children start staggered entry across September 1/3 new Reception start
Thursday 10 th September	1/3 new Reception start
Friday 11 th September	1/3 new Reception start 9:00am Friends of South Grove parent meeting
Monday 14 th September	All Reception classes in full time
Week commencing 14 th September	Dance, Robotics, Coding, Young Engineers& Karate clubs start
Thursday 17 th September	Parenting course starts – weekly till December
Friday 18 th September	Parent Governor applications in by now
Tuesday 22 nd September	KS2 Choir (Years 3-6) starts 3:15 – 4:00pm
Wednesday 23 rd September	9:00am Parent Forum meeting – all welcome
Monday 28 th September	London Fire Brigade workshops with Year 2 and Year 5
Week commencing 5 th October	Year 4 swimming lessons for 3 weeks – details to follow
Tuesday 6 th October	Individual photos
Thursday 8 th October	Flu inoculation session Reception – Year 6 Cookery Club starts
Thursday 22 nd October	Year 3 Egyptian Day
Friday 23rd October	3.15pm - Break up for Half Term holiday
Friday 30 th October	Deadline to apply for secondary school
Monday 2 nd November	INSET – staff only, no children in school
Tuesday 3 rd November	School back for all children
Tuesday 10 th November	Flu inoculation Reception – Year 6 – catch up session
Friday 18th December	2.30pm - Break up for Winter Holiday
Monday 4 th January	INSET – staff only, no children in school
Tuesday 5 th January	School starts for all children

PLEASE NOTE, DATES AND EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PLEASE CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR REGULAR CALENDAR UPDATES

Birthdays

Just a reminder that as we have so many children with varying dietary requirements and some with serious illnesses or allergies, so please do not send in sweets or cakes to celebrate birthdays. You can hand them out yourself directly to the parents who will know their child's allergies, at the end of the school day in the playground but please **NOT** directly to the children.

We are unable to give these out in the classes and we hope you understand this.

Food Allergy
Ask before you eat.

South Grove Parent Forum

I am keen to get a date pencilled into the diary for the new academic year for our Parent Forum. We launched the group a couple of years ago and hold half-termly meetings that were valuable to gather parental thoughts on practices of the school and how these can be developed.

During this time we have successfully developed ideas to contribute to the Parental Engagement and Communication Policy, Use of Mobile Phones Policy, Home Learning Policy, Home School Agreement and the RSE Policy. All of these are now in place and created with parents' contributions.

The purpose of the group is to look at how it can support the development of parental engagement at South Grove, working with parents to maximise the support that we can all bring to each child and the whole school community, including parent to parent support and workshops that parents would find beneficial.

We wish to continue to develop parents support with school improvement, so sharing the school's priorities for the next academic year. This will include looking at the new Opening World's Curriculum that is now in its second year of delivery. Parents can also suggest areas that they would find beneficial to explore and discuss.



We will hold a meeting on **Wednesday 23rd September at 9.00am** - come to the office after you have dropped your children off. Along with those parents who joined the group last year, and who were hugely helpful in developing these policies, we would like to open it to any parent who would like to get involved so we can represent and gather contributions from as much of our South Grove Community as possible.



Free School Lunches - changes

We sent out information at the end of last year to everyone but just to confirm - although EVERY child is entitled to a free meal again this year due to an initiative from the Mayor of London, we still ask that you apply on the Waltham Forest Free School Meals Portal to see if you are entitled to Income Based Free School Meals here:

[https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/schools-and-](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/apply-free-school-meals)

[colleges/free-school-meals/apply-free-school-meals](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/apply-free-school-meals) .

This is especially important at the moment as there have been some big changes recently – some people may have lost their entitlement and some people may now be eligible so do check. There are now 2 types of free school meals – Targeted and Expanded and it means that more families may be entitled. The entitlement also generates government income for the school and your child's education.

If you are entitled to Targeted Free School Meals it will mean that you may be entitled to money vouchers to help with meals and free places at play schemes during the school holidays. Ms McLean in the office is very happy to support you to apply online if you need help.

Music at South Grove

BUILD A BAND summer school

Over the summer, pupils from South Grove, Stoneydown and Kelmscott schools came together for our Build a Band project, led by Ms Forbes, Holly and Harry, all music teachers at South Grove.

Hosted at Greenleaf Road Baptist Church, pupils spent a brilliant week creating, experimenting and making music together, forming four bands who performed their own gig at the end of the week.



With guest teachers, a creative clothing design workshop and plenty of opportunities to play, collaborate and meet other young people from the community, it was a fantastic celebration of creativity and freedom.

A huge thank you to everyone involved — and to our brilliant young musicians!



Watch this space for our next project! 🎵

🎵 Music at South Grove: Autumn Term Dates 🎵

We're excited to get our individual music tuition and school music activities underway this term. We are welcoming some new teachers to South Grove alongside our guitar teacher Holly. These are Piano teacher **Michael Bates** and Violin teacher **Sophie Hicks**.

Hi my name's Michael Bates, I'm a piano teacher, and I'm looking forward to start teaching piano lessons at South Grove. I've been teaching piano for more than 30 years at all levels/genres. My main objective with teaching piano is to make it fun and enjoyable, no matter what level, because when you enjoy what you do, you actually learn much faster. I can teach any music that your child knows and loves, plus incorporating some note reading, and will gently foster and encourage progress into higher levels of playing. Thank you!



Please take note of the following start dates:

- 🎸 **Guitar:** Monday 14th September
- 🎹 **Piano:** Monday 21st September
- 🎻 **Violin:** Friday 25th September
- 🥁 **Drums:** Start date TBC

There are still spaces for drum, piano and violin lessons with our new teachers. Contact musicbox@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk for more details.



🎸 Guitar clubs & Choir

The beginners guitar club will run for 10 weeks starting on Monday 14th September

The intermediate guitar club will start on Wednesday 16th September

Our Years 3–6 Choir will begin on Tuesday 22nd September, from 3.15–4.00pm. If your child would like to join, please speak to Ms Forbes to get your choir slip. Previous members must reapply. There is no Y1&2 choir currently.

🎄 Christmas Dates for Your Diary

- **KS1 Nativity:** Thursday 10th December (afternoon) and Friday 11th December (morning)
- **Whole School Carol Concert:** Friday 18th December (morning)

We're looking forward to another term full of music, singing and performing!



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PARENT GOVERNOR AND LINK GOVERNOR FOR SAFEGUARDING

We would like to extend our thanks to Molly Franklin, our Parent Governor and Link Governor for Safeguarding, for her dedication and support throughout this year as she now steps down from her role as a governor.



Molly has worked supportively alongside our safeguarding team – including myself, our Deputy Head, our Designated Safeguarding Lead and our School Business Manager – to ensure that safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do at South Grove Primary School.

Her commitment to keeping our children safe goes beyond attending meetings. She has worked with the Safeguarding team to share key insights, asks important questions, and help us continuously strengthen our safeguarding procedures.

As a parent herself, Molly brings a unique perspective to the Governing Body, helping us see safeguarding through the eyes of our school community whilst maintaining the rigorous oversight that this crucial area demands.



We have been fortunate to have her as our Link Governor supporting us working to keep our children safe. Thank you, Molly, for your valuable contribution to South Grove Primary School.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

Due to Ms Franklin stepping down as one of our Parent Governors, the Governors are seeking to appoint one Parent Governor to join our Governing Body. The post will be taken up soon as possible. We would welcome nominations for the role by **Friday 18th September**. Please see the full letter at the end of this newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact and speak to Miss Maltwood about the role if you have any questions.

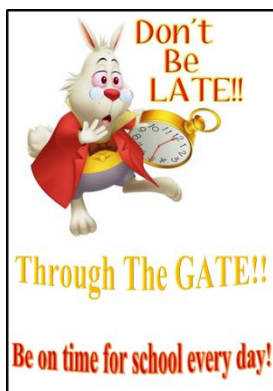




NO SMARTPHONES FOR CHILDREN

From now on, if you need your child to bring a phone to school it should not be a smart phone – just a simple cheap 'brick' phone to make and receive calls. They are to be handed to senior leaders on the gates and will be locked in the main office.

Parents / carers also need to have completed the permission form available from the office.



Morning School Gates

The gates into the playgrounds open at 8.30am as school starts promptly at 8.45am

Gates will then be closed and children will have to enter through the office

Article 12 – respect for the views of the child

Every child has the right to **express their views, feelings and wishes** in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.



Just a reminder...

Parents wishing to talk with the teacher

Communication with parents is very important to us and to working in partnership to support individual children in all aspects of their school life.

It is easier at the end of the day when parents pick up their children from the classrooms, to have conversations with the class teacher.

Need to Talk?

Parent Year Team emails: Parents can also email the Year Team email address (see below) and staff will get back to you as soon as they can, usually within 1 to 2 days. Staff do try their best to get back to parents as soon as they can around their teaching day. Of course, if it is urgent then please ring the school office to speak to a Senior Member of Staff. For general school queries use the parents@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk email address and remember that you can leave a message by pressing 1 when you ring the school on **020 8521 6000**

yearn@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
year1@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
year3@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
year5@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
thenest@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
senco@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk

yearn@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
year2@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
year4@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
year6@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
musicbox@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk



The Friends of South Grove (FOSG) our parent fundraising group, will hold its first meeting **this Friday, 11th September at 9:00am** in the dining room.

We would love to invite all our parents and carers to come along, meet other parents and get involved in this essential fundraising group. Of course, as always, anyone from all our families across the school is very welcome!



LAST BIT FROM ME....

Do remember, if you have any queries about your children's education or there is any change in circumstance that may affect their learning, please do not hesitate to contact your Class Teacher in the first instance or a member of the Senior Leadership Team if they are not available.

With my very best wishes

J. Maltwood.

Julie Maltwood
Headteacher



Issue with ParentPay

There is currently an issue with ParentPay which is charging some children 7p per meal. No one should be charged and we are working to sort this out - you do not need to pay.



South Grove Primary School

September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Parent Governor Vacancy

Due to one of our Parent Governors term coming to an end, the Governors are seeking to appoint one Parent Governor to join our Governing Body. The post will be taken up soon as possible.

Governors play a very important role in the life of the school, supporting the leadership and management team of the school to develop and improve the school further. They act as a 'critical friend' to the school.

If you feel you have the skill and commitment to support the school and the Governing Body, and are able to contribute to the future development of the school we would love to hear from you. The Governing Body meet 3 times a term, starting at 6:00pm and generally are for 2.5 hours or less. Documents that are discussed in the meetings are sent out a week before the meeting date allowing for reading time. It is the expectation that Governors will read the information given and come to the meetings prepared to discuss, so parents considering the role will need to be aware of this.

If you would like further information about being a governor, please do not hesitate to discuss it with myself or one of our Parent Governors – Molly Franklin and Ben Pheloung.

If you would like to put yourself forward as a candidate, please complete the reply slip below and return it to the school as soon as possible, and not later than **Friday 18th September**, either on paper or by email to:
parents@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk

If there is more than 1 candidate, an election will need to be held but this is a straight forward process. Please write a short paragraph saying why you want to become a Parent Governor - this will be typed and sent to all parents with a voting paper.

Should there be only 1 candidate, this person will automatically become a parent governor on the school governing body.

Yours sincerely

J. Maltwood
J Maltwood
Headteacher

✂.....

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO SCHOOL BY FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2026

I wish to stand as a candidate for election as Parent Governor at South Grove School.

First Name _____ Family Name _____

Preferred form of address (Mr/Mrs/Ms etc) _____

Home Address _____

Signature _____

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR STATEMENT (100 words maximum) saying why you want to become a school governor.

Your name and why you want to be a parent governor at South Grove Primary School will appear on any ballot paper that will be sent to parents in the event of more than one parent applying to be a school governor.

SOUTH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

CALENDAR 2026-2027



Autumn Term 2026

Term:	Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 18th December 2026
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR YEARS 1 – 6 PUPILS THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2026
	RETURNING NURSERY START BACK ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER
	New Reception start a staggered entrance from 9th September & New Nursery from 10th September– individual letters will be sent
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026 & Monday 2 nd November 2026
Half Term:	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2026 (inclusive)
Winter Holiday:	Monday 21 st December 2026 – Friday 1 st January 2026 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Friday 18th December 2026 at 2:30pm

Spring Term 2027

Term:	Monday 4th January – Thursday 25th March 2027
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR PUPILS TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2027
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Monday 4 th January 2027
Half Term:	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2027 (inclusive)
Spring Holiday	Friday 26 th March – Friday 9 th April 2027 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Thursday 25th March 2027 at 2:30pm

Summer Term 2027

Term:	Monday 12th April – Thursday 22nd July 2027
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR PUPILS MONDAY 12th APRIL 2027
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Wednesday 21 st & Thursday 22 nd July 2027
Public Holiday:	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 3 rd May 2027
Half Term:	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2027 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Tuesday 20th July 2027 at 2:30pm