

14th September 2026

Dear parents and carers

STARS OF THE WEEK W/C 14.9.26

N-AM	ZION	4P	LILA
N-PM	DUA	4Y	EESA
1L	MALI	5A	SAFA
1S	BINTOU	5F	AMELIA
2DM	FLYNN	6M	JJ
2H	TAHLA	6PB	RUBY
3G	KIRA		
3SH	KHADIJA	THE NEST	JAMIE



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY W/C 7.9.26

Best Attendance ☺	1L 99.3 %
Best Punctuality ☺	1S
Class that needs to improve their attendance	2DM 89.3%
Class that needs to improve their punctuality	2H
Overall School Attendance this year = 93.4%	

WELCOME!

It is always a real pleasure to welcome our youngest South Grove children who started Reception last week and spent one day in a small group with their class teacher. They all came in beautifully, all excited and ready for the next stage in their learning journey. It has been lovely to watch them excitedly arrive at school greeting their existing friends and see new friendships developing as they begin to bond as a Year Group. It was a real pleasure to meet and welcome all our new families. Thank you to all our new parents for arriving on time. It really helped!



They have their first full week in school this week, with today being their first day as full classes.

Our Nursery 2 children have also returned, including those that are full-time. Our new Nursery children are visiting with their parents to help settle them in. We will continue to welcome new families across the school and particularly new Nursery children over the next few weeks. We look forward to getting to know our new families to South Grove.

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM:

At South Grove, of paramount importance is the health and safety of all the children and staff in our care. The school takes safeguarding and child protection very seriously. We have a trained team shown here who support the school to do this.

From the Home Page of the school's website is the school's Safeguarding Policy. Please familiarise yourselves with the information given.

We also have a Parent/Carer Friendly Safeguarding Leaflet and one for the children so please familiarise yourselves with these.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Ms Montgomery and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Miss Maltwood.

In their absence the Deputy Head Teacher and EYFS Lead are trained.

SOUTH GROVE SAFEGUARDING TEAM



IF YOU HAVE A WORRY, YOU DON'T NEED TO KEEP IT TO YOURSELF....

PLEASE TELL AN ADULT WHO WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU

What School Must Do

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe so that they can achieve their very best (UNCRC: Article 29).

- Anybody who works or volunteers at South Grove will be checked by the police to make sure they are safe to work with children and they are then trained to identify potential child abuse and what to do if they are concerned.
- The school has Designated Safeguarding Leads who have had extra training to know what to do when a concern is brought to them.
- We will always listen to you and work closely with you if we are concerned about your child, but sometimes, as we mentioned earlier, we may not be able to discuss our concerns with you initially.
- We will help your child to learn about keeping themselves safe. Depending on the age of the children, lessons can include healthy eating, anti-bullying, online-safety, road safety, healthy relationships, drug and alcohol awareness. As part of these lessons your child will be told what to do if they are worried or concerned about their safety. Sometimes the children will do workshops delivered by theatre groups, Primary Mental Health Team, health professionals or the police as part of this curriculum.

What Parents Must Do

Parents are the most important people to keep their children safe (UNCRC: Article 19).

You should always:

- Feel confident to raise concerns about your child
- Talk to the school if you need help or support
- Read the school policies about safety issues
- Let the school know if your child has a medical condition
- Let the school know if you have any court orders relating to the safety of your child
- Let the school know if there is a change in your circumstances, such as a house move, a new emergency contact number, a change of name or change of parental responsibility
- Make sure the school has up to date emergency contact details for at least 3 people in case we need to contact someone during the school day
- Make sure the school know who will be collecting your child
- Make sure your child attends school regularly (we aim for at 100% attendance) and that you let the school know the reason if your child is absent.



Empowered to Explore, Inspired to Learn

Keeping Children Safe in Education

2026-2027

Article 19

Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Information for Parents

Keeping Children Safe

South Grove is committed to creating a happy and safe environment for our children to learn in. This leaflet will help you understand how we keep your children safe by telling you:

- How children can be harmed
- What we must do to keep your child safe from harm
- What you must do as a parent to help your child be safe and enjoy school

Child Protection

This is an important subject in which all staff receive regular training. Our priority is to work with you and discuss any concerns we have about your child with you, however there may be times when we have to involve other people. Everybody has a responsibility to keep all children under the age of 18 safe. Harm is identified in four ways:

Physical - (UNCRC: Article 37)

Sexual - (UNCRC: Article 34)

Emotional - (UNCRC: Article 19)

Neglect - (UNCRC: Article 24)

What you need to know about Safeguarding?

The law requires everyone working with children to inform Children's Social Services about any child thought to be in need of support or at risk of harm.

The law also requires all schools to have arrangements to safeguard children. The school has procedures in place to do this and a policy that all staff, regular visitors and volunteers must work to.

A copy of this is on our website.

Key Safeguarding Contacts:

Designated Safeguarding lead	Brigid Montgomery (Extended School's Lead)
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Julie Maltwood (Head Teacher)
Safeguarding Leads Team	David Combe (DHT Lead) Angela Rice (EYFS Lead) Amarjit Sandhu-Hanif (LKS2 Lead)
Named Safeguarding Governor	Molly Franklin
Chair of Governors	Ben Pheloung

Contact Details

Email	dsl@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk
Telephone the school	0208 521 6000 Ext 4

What does this mean?

If possible, we will discuss the referral with you and let you know it has been made, however sometimes social services ask us not to talk to you. They may do this if they feel your child may be put at more risk by informing you. It is always better for your child if we can work together.

We understand that you may feel angry, upset or worried because we have made a referral. The decision to make a referral is never taken lightly.

However, every member of staff or volunteer that works at every school has a duty to act in the best interests of children at all times. This means acting quickly to reduce any risks where a child's safety is of concern. (UNCRC: Article 24)

For further information:

QR Code to link to the Safeguarding Page on the school website



What will happen if we have concerns for your child?

If the school has a concern that your child is, or may be, suffering harm within or outside school, we will act according to our statutory duty in the law to protect your child from any harm or danger. All schools have a duty to refer cases if they have a safeguarding concern.

www.southgrove.waltham.sch.uk/Safeguarding
this link will take you to the safeguarding page on our website

FRIDAY ASSEMBLY

On Friday our assembly was about a Canadian boy called Chanie Wenjack, who was born and raised in Ogoki Post with his family. However, when he was nine he was forced to attend a boarding school 600km away, where he was not allowed to speak his own language, practise his own religion or even wear the clothes of his culture. This made Chanie extremely sad and so he decided to run away in the winter to try and return to his family. Unfortunately, he did not survive the brutal Canadian winter. However, his tragic story brought attention to the cruelty these children were put through and helped to end the practice. It was a very moving assembly and the children were stunned at how a child similar to their age was treated. This is why we are a Rights Respecting School, so that we never forget that some children do not have the same rights that we are fortunate enough to have.



Harvest

On Friday 25th September, the Salvation Army will be coming to South Grove to deliver an assembly on the importance of food banks and to collect the school's donations. It would be amazing if you could bring in donations from next week. They should take them to their classes and then the RRS (Rights Respecting School) ambassadors will come round collect them.

Families can make the biggest difference by donating long-life, non-perishable foods such as pasta, rice, tinned vegetables, beans, soup, tuna and fruit, as well as essentials like cereal, tea, coffee, and UHT milk. Toiletries (toothpaste, soap, sanitary products) and baby supplies (nappies, formula) are also really valuable, as they are often in short supply.

We had a fantastic response last year so let's make this year no exception. Thank you for your generosity in advance.



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.



Clubs

The rest of the clubs (except Cookery – starts on 8th October and Choir – starts 22nd September) start this week

If you have not yet applied please use this link:

<https://forms.gle/WLbFn2QM8HwkyLkG8> Once you applied, we can allocate your child to the club and you can pay on ParentPay. 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. 😊

Be quick though – cookery club is already full!

Attention all Year 6 Parents...

You must apply for a Secondary School place for your child by **31st October 2026**



We advise you to visit schools – open day dates are on the Waltham Forest Website. <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/apply-school-place/apply-secondary-school> Double check with the school though to check they haven't changed their date.

If you apply late you may not get the school of your choice.

Second-hand Uniform

We have plenty of clean second-hand uniform on sale at the office for £1.00 a piece – cash only please.

This is good for both the environment and your pocket.

If you wish to purchase anything it is on sale each day at 3.00pm

Transition meetings for parents in Year 1 and Year 3



As part of our Transition Policy, we offer parents with children who have moved from Reception into Year 1 and from Year 2 into Year 3, a brief check-in point, if they wished, to meet with the class teacher. These will take place week beginning 21st September during the first half-hour of the morning from 8:45am-9:15am.

Use this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/qjnb5JnXekc8Nh6S7> if you would like an appointment to meet with the class teacher just so that you can share key information with them that you feel will be important for them to know. This is, of course, an optional meeting.

We hope that this will really support the smooth transition into their new Phase within the school.

Healthy Packed Lunches

If you choose to provide a packed lunch, please try to provide healthy choices. **Sweets and fizzy drinks are not a meal and should not be provided. Please consider moving away from crisps.**

Because of SEVERE ALLERGIES across the school absolutely NO NUTS or SESAME please INCLUDING CHOCOLATE SPREAD!

Healthier lunchbox checklist:

- A good portion of starchy food eg wholegrain bap, thick sliced wholemeal bread, chapatti, pitta pocket, pasta or rice salad
- Plenty of fruit and veg eg an apple, Satsuma, handful of cherry tomatoes or carrot sticks, mini can of fruit chunks or small box of raisins
- A portion of semi-skimmed milk or dairy food eg individual cheese portion or pot of yoghurt?
- A portion of lean meat, fish or alternative, eg chicken, tuna, egg, or hummus?

There are quite a lot of insulated packed lunch boxes around which will keep food cool. These are a good idea to keep food fresh.



Also, KS2 can bring a piece of fresh fruit only for breaktime -no dried fruit except raisins but not coated ones. No sharing!

Check out the Beezees information at the end of the newsletter all about healthy eating.

Thank you for helping keep all our school community safe and healthy



Parent Forum – Next Wednesday 23rd September 9:00am

We would love parents – new and returning – to help us to develop Parental Engagement and communication. We wish to continue to develop parents support with school improvement, so will be 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.

Just come to the school office after you have dropped off your child.

The Friends of South Grove (FOSG) our parent fundraising group, held its first meeting last Friday.

We had some great ideas to start the year off and it was good to see some new faces. Do remember, we are still always open to even more new members We would love to invite all our new parents and carers to come along to the next meeting or to offer help with this essential fundraising group.



This year, the Friends of South Grove have decided to focus our fundraising on helping the school stay cooler during hot weather. We will be raising money for things like shade and other improvements to make outdoor spaces more comfortable for children and staff.

Our first fundraising event will be a **Sponsored Walk on Sunday 18 October, from 2:00pm.**

This is a family event, so children will need to take part with a parent or carer. The route will be approximately 2km, around St James Park and Low Hall Playing Fields, and families are welcome to walk, jog or run if they prefer.

We will meet at 2:00pm just inside the entrance to St James Park, at the bottom end of Lynmouth Road near the railway underpass, before setting off. The walk will finish at the playground, so families are welcome to stay afterwards for a play and spend time together in the park.

Sponsorship forms will be available to collect from the school office from Friday - we hope lots of families will be able to join us!

Any parents or carers who would like to join the Friends of South Grove can follow this link to join the WhasApp group - [WhatsApp Group Invite](#)



Emergency Contact and Medical Information Sheet for 2026-2027

On Friday you should have received an emergency contact and medical information sheet (**this year it is green**). It is very important that parents update their contact information sheets so **please return them immediately**.

If you change phone number or email during the year please remember to let us know.

You will also need to check your ParentPay account and change numbers or emails there too if necessary.

We will also be sending out a Google form this week for you to update your photo permissions

SOUTH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027



Autumn Term 2026

Term:	Wednesday 2 nd September – Friday 18 th 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

With my very best wishes

J. Maltwood.

Julie Maltwood
Headteacher

Keep Reading...



SOUTH GROVE LEARNING GALLERY!

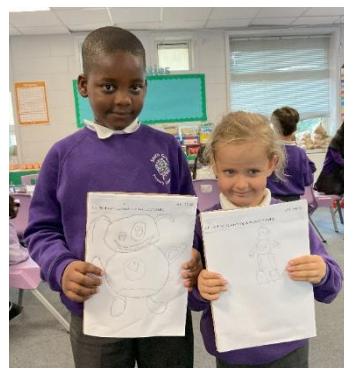
Reception

Last week saw our Reception children begin their first days in school. They were amazing! All of the children did extremely well to say goodbye to their parents and carers and quickly began to get familiar with their new learning environments.



Year 1

Year 1 had a great start back to school after a very long summer off for them, and a big change in moving on from Reception into KS1. The adults in Year 1 have felt very pleased with how the children have managed such a big change. The children have been exploring their new classroom environment, routines and playground this week to help get settled. Here are some pictures from our first week.



Year 2

Last week, Year 2 were learning all about Judaism. We began by thinking about things that are special and important to us and how we should look after and treat these things with care and respect. We then discovered that Jewish people have special objects and artefacts that are important in their religion and traditions. The children enjoyed finding out about these objects and what they are used for.

To help us remember what we have learned, the children created posters showcasing Jewish artefacts. These will be put up to be proudly displayed in our classroom so that we can refer back to them throughout our topic and continue building our knowledge of Judaism. We are looking forward to finding out more about Jewish beliefs, traditions and celebrations as our learning continues!



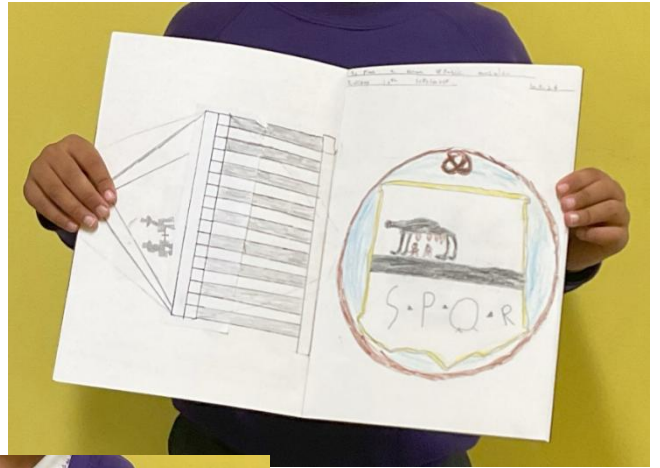
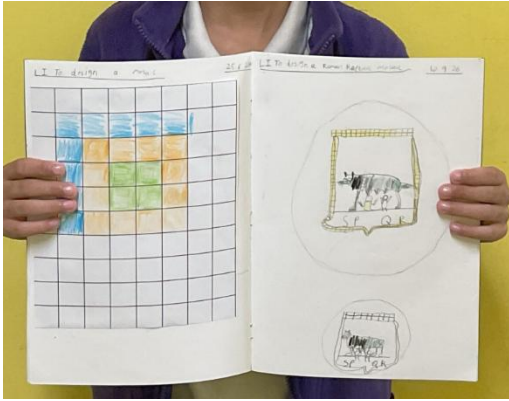
Year 3

What a week! New learning, new classrooms, new teachers! We have made the move from KS1 to LKS2 and we have been learning the rules and expectations of Year 3. We created our Class Charter, discussing our different rights and which ones were important to us and why there were important. We are looking forward to a fun year full of learning and more!



Year 4

Last week, Year 4 began their journey into ancient Rome by discovering how and why it shed its kingly shackles and became the world's first republic! We then designed some SPQR mosaics to be made properly in due time...



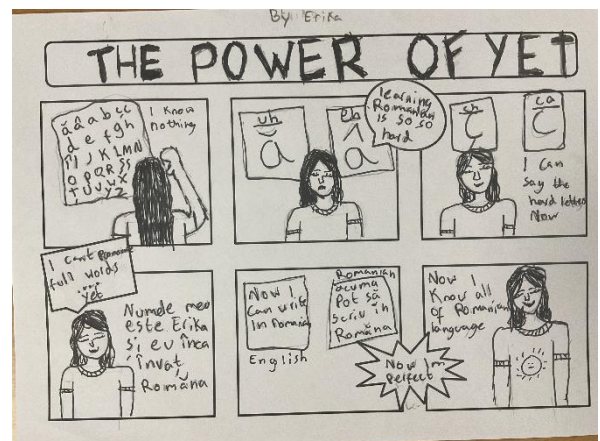
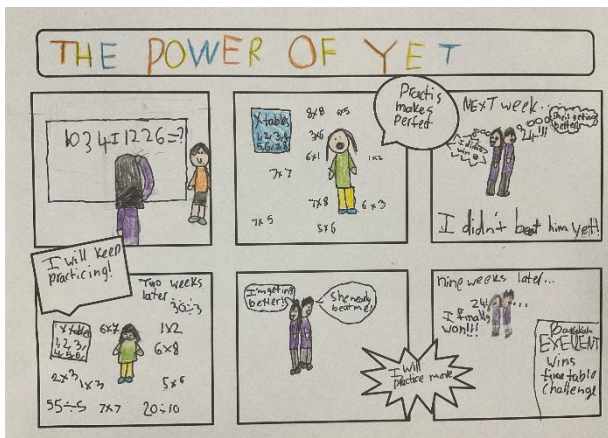
Year 5

We've been absolutely delighted with how well Year 5 have settled back into school over the first week and a half. The children have really impressed us with their excellent behaviour and positive attitudes to learning – they've come back ready to work hard and support each other brilliantly.

We've made a fantastic start to our new topics, exploring the Roman Republic in history and The River Rhine in geography. The children have been asking thoughtful questions and showing real curiosity about what they're learning. Our science lesson on forces was an absolute hit – the enthusiasm and engagement in the classroom was wonderful to see!

The work displayed shows the children's understanding of the 'power of yet' – a key idea from Ms Maltwood's first assembly about growth mindsets. It's been great to see them already applying this thinking to their learning, recognising that they might not be able to do something yet, but with effort and perseverance, they will get there.

We're really looking forward to building on this excellent start throughout the term.



Year 6

For our Year 6 class charter, the children have been exploring Heraldry – the art and study of designing special symbols called coats of arms. In the Middle Ages, coats of arms were used to identify people, families and groups, with each symbol, colour and image representing something important about them.

The children put their own creative spin on this tradition by designing a class charter inspired by heraldry. They thought carefully about the values, qualities and beliefs that are important to them. By combining history, creativity and reflection, the children created a shield representing themselves.



Changes to the Learning Gallery

From next week the Learning Gallery will feature a different Key Stage each week in rotation in the newsletter starting with The Early Years – Nursery and Reception



Keep Going! More info below...

HELP US SHAPE EXPERTS AT HAND IN WALTHAM FOREST

Right support,
right time,
right for you
& your child.

Parents and carers – we want to hear from you!

Experts at Hand will bring Educational Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Specialist Teachers into schools and settings to provide earlier support.

Have your say on how it should work in Waltham Forest.



Children
and young
people
at the heart

Stronger support
brighter futures



**SURVEY OPENS:
9am Friday
4 September**



**SURVEY CLOSES:
5pm Friday
25 September**

PRIZE DRAW!

You can choose to enter our
draw to win one of

5 x £20

Amazon vouchers.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CLICK THE LINK
TO TAKE PART!**



**CLICK HERE
TO TAKE PART**

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/c3yqR1E81G>



**WALTHAM FOREST
PARENT FORUM**
A STRONGER VOICE TOGETHER

Making healthy school lunches easy!



Helping children make healthier choices at school doesn't have to be complicated. A few simple changes can build healthy habits and help your children stay energised and ready to learn throughout the day. Here's a few tips to help you get started:

Tip 1:

Pack some healthy snacks

Including a healthy snack in your child's lunchbox, like a preferred fruit or plain popcorn, can help them stay energised throughout the school day and make nutritious choices easier.



Tip 2:

Know what options are available

Take a look at your child's school lunch menu together and talk about the healthier choices available. Exploring the options in advance can encourage children to try new foods and make balanced choices at lunchtime.



Tip 3:

Talk about healthy choices

School lunchtimes can be a great time to encourage independence and positive decision-making. Agree simple goals together and celebrate healthy choices throughout the week.



Want more healthy lifestyle support?
Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

* Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5-15

Scan here
or
Click to find
out more



wlf.maximusuk.co.uk

Ready to make new habits as a family?

Come along to our fun and free healthy lifestyle courses!

12-week Beezee Families courses starting

14th of September 2026



Get healthy eating tips



Make small changes that make a big difference



Fun activities for the whole family

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday



15th of September



17th of September



4.30pm to 6.30pm
Leyton County Cricket Ground
E10 6RJ



5.00pm to 7.00pm
Walthamstow School for Girls
E17 9RZ

Places are limited, so secure your family's FREE spot today!

Scan the QR code to get started or visit our website.



hellowalthamforest@maximusuk.co.uk



03308 186308



wlf.maximusuk.co.uk/
beezeeamilies

Our programmes are for children above their ideal weight, see our website for more information.