



GROVE ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER – 10TH NOVEMBER 2023



We will
remember them

NEWSLETTER



What a busy first week back for everyone, we wouldn't have it any other way though.

It was wonderful to welcome you all back for our Parents' Evenings, seeing our families leave happy and smiling makes our day too.

We have had children out representing our school at football tournaments, thank you to everyone that made this possible. The children were incredible, both on and off the field.

We welcomed families into school yesterday for an afternoon tea party with our younger children. What an amazing response and we look forward to hosting more events like this.

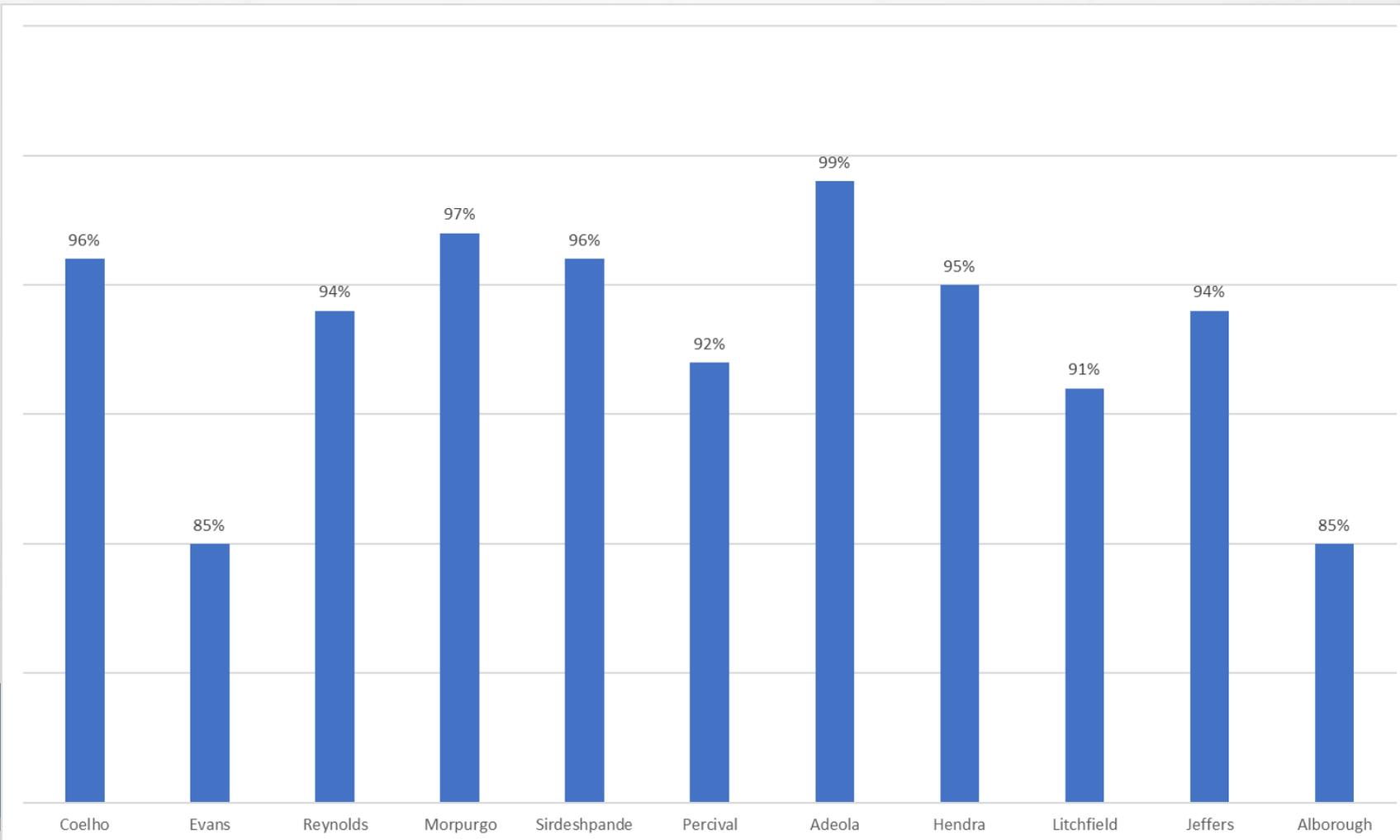
Thank you as always for your continued support, keep an eye out on the posters and dates section in this newsletter.

Mr Grayston



ATTENDANCE

Attendance totals for each class – Monday 6th November to Friday 10th November



SAFEGUARDING



Grove Road Community Primary School Safeguarding Team



Designated Safeguarding Lead
James Grayston - Headteacher



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Dawn Winkley – Deputy Head
& SENDCo



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Sue McGrogan – Parent
Support Adviser

Lead Governor for Safeguarding – Margaret Beagle

For further advice / referral information, please contact:
North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk>

- Please visit our school website for more information and links to safeguarding websites.
- [Grove Road Safeguarding Page](#)
- For more information about keeping children safe please click here:
- [NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online](#)
- These websites have wonderful advice about children keeping safe on Instagram and other social media sites
- [NSPCC – Share Aware](#)
- [CEOP Police Safety Centre](#)



STARS OF THE WEEK



JEFFERS	-	Reuben
LITCHFIELD	-	Thomas
HENDRA	-	Ishan
ADEOLA	-	Reggie
PERCIVAL	-	Theo
SIRDESH-PANDE	-	Summer-Rose
MORPURGO	-	Ella T
REYNOLDS	-	Maya
EVANS	-	Connor
COELHO	-	James P-P

congratulations





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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about X

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
 In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 13+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is editor in chief of gaming and esports, also television and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he is a specialist who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about teen and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iDont and Techradar.

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#WakeUpWednesday





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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items, from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT



DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only spending more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-Bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an expert and technology journalist with 11 years' experience in the digital marketing industry. She's also often talked to by the media. Carly is also a freelance technology journalist, editor and copywriter.



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**Click here
for tickets!**

FRIENDS OF
GROVE ROAD
INVITE YOU
TO A ...

Quiz Night

Do you have what it takes
to be the ultimate quiz
champion? Then gather your
friends and family and join us
for the FOGR Quiz Night.

£2 per person

Teams of up to 10 people or
buy single tickets and form
teams on the night.

Family friendly and kids rounds
(from KS2 upwards)

Drinks & snacks on sale on
the evening

FRIDAY, 24TH NOV

**STARTS 6.30PM
GROVE ROAD
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*More Info:
Friendsogroveroad@gmail.com*



**Click here
for tickets!**



We need new members to support our events

Thank you



Friends of Grove Road



Annual General Meeting

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Stay informed and get involved.

Join us to find out more about what we do and how you could help us support the school.

If you would like to get involved but are unable to make the meeting please email friendsofgroveroad@groveroad.nhs.uk

New date - Tuesday 14th November after school

When: Tuesday 24th October 2023 at 3:15pm
Where: Grove Road School

Join our Facebook group to hear more about our fundraising activities.



Parentkind
Member Association





What do we do?
We run fundraising events to raise funds to support the school

Who are we?
FOGR is a group of parents/guardians with children who attend Grove Road

- School discos
- Bake sales
- Xmas Fair
- Summer Fair

Want to get involved?
We would welcome any help you can give e.g.

- event preparation
- Set-up
- Running events

So we can run these fun events for our children

It's also a great way to meet other parents!

Get in touch for more information

Email us at Friendsofgroveroad@gmail.com

or find us on facebook
Friends of Grove Road C.P School



Friends of Grove Road are a group of Parent/Carer volunteers associated with Grove Road Primary School. We raise funds to support the school and enhance the education of the children

Please support FOGR raise vital funds for the school by signing up to the following online initiatives

Easy Fundraising

Sign up to support us
Shop with your favourite brands
We get a bonus £5 donation
It's not magic, it's easyfundraising!

@easyfundraising

Friends of Grove Road Fundraising Ideas
Help Friends of Grove Road raise free funds today by shopping online via easyfundraising.org.uk. Shop at no extra cost and raise free donations for Friends of Grove Road!



Your School Lottery

Email us at Friendsofgroveroad@gmail.com

or find us on facebook
Friends of Grove Road C.P School



THE WAY YOU MAKE PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL FOR MEALS, TRIPS AND CLUBS IS CHANGING

Following feedback on our current system, we are pleased to announce that we will shortly be changing our online payment platform to ParentPay. You will be able to pay online using your credit/debit card or make cash payments at PayPoint stores. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school.

What are the benefits to parents & pupils?

ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7

The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely - offering you peace of mind

Payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint

Full payment histories, balance alerts and statements are available to you securely online at anytime

More information, including your activation/login information has been sent out via email if you have not received this, please contact the school office

What are the benefits to our school?

You can help us reduce workloads for all staff as no more counting cash, chasing debt and stop cash collection services

Creates more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school

Improves school security

Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises

The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school.

IMPORTANT DATES



When	Event
Wednesday 11 th October—9:00am—10:00am	Coffee morning—Meet Mr Grayston & Mrs Winkley in the main hall.
Tuesday 24 th October—3:15pm	Friends of Grove Road—Annual General Meeting (AGM)—Everyone Welcome
Wb. Monday 6 th November	Parents' Evenings—Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (More information to follow)
Tuesday 7 th November—10am	Open Morning for Reception New Starters—September 2024
Friday 24th November – 6pm start	Friends of Grove Road – Quiz Night
Tuesday 14 th November	Year 3 Visit: Ripon Museums (Crime and Punishment)
Wednesday 15 th November	Year 4 Visit: Ripon Museums (Crime and Punishment)
Thursday 30 th November	Rec/ KS1 trip to Kirkstall Abbey Museum
Thursday 7 th December	Grove Road visit the panto!
Thursday 14 th December – 3:15pm	Carols on the playground with Singing Club



IMPORTANT DATES



When	Event
Thursday 14 th December – 6pm	Rec/ KS1 Nativity
Friday 15 th December – 2:30pm	Rec/ KS1 Nativity
Wb. Monday 18 th December	Christmas Party Week (More information to follow)

