

EDGE



GROVE

Newsletter

17th September 2018



Dear Parents

Non-uniform day, ice cream van on the Paddock, George Ezra songs in assembly, brownies at snack time - it is a wonder that I still have my job! It's fair to say that Amber was a very popular 'Head for the day' and I certainly felt the school was in safe hands allowing me to explore Hampton Court Palace with year 5 on a rare excursion out of school. For the staff, the chance to wear denim on a school day was definitely a highlight of the new regime and more than made up for the homework they were set. Thank you Amber for looking after Edge Grove so well and also to Mrs Dawson for having to deal with two demanding Heads last week.

As a school, we are constantly under scrutiny which is no bad thing; the DfE, Independent Schools' Inspectorate, the HSE and others all ensure that the highest standards of teaching and learning, safeguarding and health and safety are monitored and maintained. Last week we were able to add two more to this list as we were visited by the Good Schools' Guide and our latest review in the Tatler Schools' Guide 2019 was published.

The Tatler guide features a selection of the top prep and senior schools in the country and should the need arise, they are not shy of dropping schools which do not meet their high standards. "Bye bye polluted London, hello 48 acres of

Calendar

Tuesday 18th September

Year 3 and 4 parents' reading workshop, Theatre, 8.30pm

Year 7 Baccalaureate E-Cube workshop, Team Spirit, Sports Hall, 8.30am

Wednesday 19th

Pre School individual and sibling photos - *has been rescheduled to 24th September*

Football v Lochinver House 1st, 2nd Colts D-F (A), 3rd, 4th Colts A-C (H)

Football v St Columba's College, Colts G-J (A)

Hockey v Beechwood Park, U13 U11 (A), U10 (H)

Thursday 20th

SchoolBase Online parents' workshop, IT room, 8.45am

Football v Lochinver House, U9A, U9B, U9C, U9D, U9E (H)

Hockey v Chesham Prep, U9 (A), 3pm

Friday 21st

Year 8 Baccalaureate E-Cube workshop, Stress Management, Chapel, 8.30pm

U13 Squash and Badminton v Lockers Park (A), 3.30pm

Year 3 - 4 mixed, Year 5 - 6 boys Swimming Gala v Westbrook Hay (A), 3.30pm

Hailey Prep Schools' Singing Day - *cancelled*

Saturday 22nd

Pre School Open Morning for prospective parents, 10am - 12pm

Sunday 23rd

Monday 24th

Pre School individual and sibling photos

Lower School games open afternoon for parents, 1.45pm

Rush hour concert, Theatre, 5.30pm

beautiful Hertfordshire countryside..." starts the very positive review which certainly captures the essence of our school. Confident, happy children given the freedom to learn and grow in a creative but academically rigorous environment. On Tuesday, after a gap of five years, we were once again visited by an editor of the Good Schools' Guide who, following a chat with Alex and me, toured the school with our pupil leadership team. Once again, our pupils were the stars and she was so impressed with their confidence and enthusiasm for the school that she awarded them all merits! Our review is yet to be published officially but without spoiling too much, "This is a delightful prep with an ethos of discovery and learning through doing...both aspirational and fun...the children seem to genuinely appreciate the big skies, lush grounds and round the clock activities." A short extract which highlights how pleased we are with how quickly the writer understood what we seek to achieve at Edge Grove, the unique and special qualities of the school and how perceptively she gauged the children's enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for their learning and school life in general.

As we move into week 3, I hope everyone feels settled and comfortable with the daily routines. Life continues apace and there is rarely a dull moment (just as it should be) but please do not hesitate to speak to your child's form teacher, head of school, a member of the SLT or me if you need any clarification or have any queries or concerns. Do please read the information letter carefully and keep a close eye on the calendar.

A few reminders from me... If you would like your son or daughter to benefit from the tremendous musical opportunities at the school and learn an instrument, please email Mrs Tomsett at ctomsett@edgegrove.com and copy in your child's form teacher. Likewise, if you would like your child to experience flexi-boarding at Edge Grove, please contact Mr McManus, our Head of Boarding at boarding@edgegrove.com who will be very happy to help.

Finally, an important aspect of ensuring your children are safe at school is our tick-off process at the end of the day. Unfortunately, on Thursday last week over 30 parents did not sign out their children with members of staff which is extremely worrying. This leads to a great deal of extra work for teachers who then have to make numerous phone calls home at the end of a very long day. Please can I ask that all parents ensure they have ticked-off with a member of staff before leaving school and whilst I realise this may involve a short

wait in the queue, it is essential to ensure the safety of our pupils. Thank you for your help and consideration.

With best wishes

Ben Evans

Summer Ball update

Thanks to the support from everyone involved, the Summer Ball raised nearly £9000 which will be split between the Rainbow Centre and the Lower School Development Fund.

The images from the evening are able to be viewed and downloaded now:

WEBSITE: <https://photographicsynergy.com/>

PASSWORD: EGBALL

LINK: <https://8217.tifmember.com/v/photos/egball?ppp=0>

50% SIBLING DISCOUNT

Future Stars
THEATRE ARTS

new venue
LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 2018!
Edge Grove School

FREE TRIAL!

DRAMA ☆ DANCE ☆ SING
WE WILL BRING
OUT YOUR CHILD'S
STAR QUALITIES!
FUTURESTARS.CO.UK

GinspireMe Gin Night

Alex Evans

What a fantastic night! As you can see from the before photo and the very blurred photo taken later on in the evening it was an excellent night in which we sampled more than a few gins. There was a phenomenal variety and as a staunch gin-hater I can now inform you that I have found no less than three gins that I rather like. It was also a wonderful evening for meeting new parents and catching up with those who have been at the school for some time. A great mixture of staff, governors and parents made for a relaxed, sociable and thoroughly enjoyable evening. As one parent commented (after about four gins), 'This is the best school ever!'.

With huge thanks to GinspireMe <https://ginspire.me.uk/> and Bonnie May Food and Events <http://www.bonniemayfoodandevents.com/>.



Boarding Activity “Laser Tag” Evening

Friday 14th September 2018

On Friday night we had 40 very excited pupils, including 16 Year 3 pupils who were boarding for the first time, join us for a fun filled evening of Laser Tag on our front lawn. The evening started with a delicious ice cream from the visiting ice cream van; then the pupils went upstairs to their dorms to change and familiarise themselves with their home for the night. We enjoyed a delicious supper before the action began. We had 6 games of laser tag which was great fun before enjoying a snack of milk and cookies and then going upstairs to shower and get ready for bed. The pupils were up early on Saturday morning and enjoyed a hearty breakfast before having some free time outside on the adventure playground. All the happy faces were evident of a very successful evening.



To view more photos of the evening please click on the link <http://firefly.edgegrove.com/boarding/boarding-evenings/laser-tag-2018>

Professional Artist Series

Pupils and parents had an enjoyable evening meeting professional artists at the official opening of the Edge Grove Professional Artist Series last Friday. Please have a look at the artwork as you pass through the front hall.



Pre Prep News

Gill Emmerson,
Head of Pre Prep

My visits to each classroom last week reassured me that learning was in full swing and that those early smiles at the start of term weren't just an illusion – I really think that they are here to stay! Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a live streamed themed drawing class linked to Roald Dahl Day 2018 . Their weekly writing had been inspired by *The Enormous Crocodile* and my personal favourite *The Twits*, and this adventure shared with children from all over the country was really something extra special. Pupils in Reception and pre school are still very much engaged in exploring their environments and these get wider day by day as Forest School sessions begin.



Lower School News

Samantha Robinson,
Head of Lower School

Year 3

Year 3 have had an eventful week; learning the ropes of Lower School and embracing all the changes with a smile. Maths lent itself to exciting activities associated with number and amongst the many activities, the children started their journey to the weekly times tables challenge. In English, children were introduced to Stone Age Poetry and even got to write some of their own rhyming couplets! This tied in nicely with our Topic this half term where children touched upon what life may have been like back in the Stone Age. With the shorter and darker days drawing near, year 3 started to explore Light & Shadows in Science, thinking about what a light source actually is and where light comes from. Although the chill has set in in the mornings, we are still hanging on to the Autumn sunshine and making full use of the outdoor pool this week. Finally the Forest School was brought back to life by the children as they experienced the woods once again, decorated their wooden name stamps and looked for the mystical creature in the shelter!



Year 4

The year 4 trip to Paradise Wildlife Park was packed full with information and close up views of some of the most fascinating species on the planet. What a great introduction to the science topic on animal habitats and the food chain! The white lion roared on cue as the children passed his enclosure and around the corner most groups listened to the talk about penguins whilst watching them feed. Sadly, these penguins' homes are being destroyed by man in their natural habitat. Meerkats, birds of prey, otters, camels to name a few were hard to leave behind. Lunch and a final play in the adventure playground meant that the day was packed full and 58 exhausted children returned safely.



Maths and English lessons are in full swing. We have been using metaphors to write our on descriptive poems and revising formal methods of calculation.

Middle School News

Kate McManus

Head of Middle School

What a brilliant full first week back! In true Edge Grove style we have provided an abundance of exciting and creative opportunities for your children to learn and grow. Friday saw a new Headmistress for the day. Amber delighted the year 6 pupils who she tasked with singing and dancing in their assembly to George Ezra's - Shotgun. The pupils then had to break up into form groups and compose a short form song. We shall see the results of this next week! I have also heard that she made a brilliant French teacher too! It was really wonderful to meet so many of you on Tuesday at the Middle School Welcome Evening and I hope that you found it a useful and informative evening.

In English year 5 children have been using the story of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, which they read over the summer break to begin creating biographies for the author C S Lewis.

In science the year 5 children have been excited about entering the science labs for their first lesson! They have been studying the characteristics of living things and how to decide if something is alive or not. They have also looked at fossils and played a game to see if they could become fossilised, as well as handling real fossils.

The year 6 children have been learning to identify parts of a flower and their functions in plant reproduction. The children also played games to help them remember the key facts and are making posters to consolidate flower parts.

In geography year 5 pupils have been discovering that geography can be split into different categories, namely, physical, human and environmental. They have been discussing what geography they have studied before and why it is so important. They have been thinking about all the geographical terms they have seen, heard or used in the past and which category of geography they would fall under.

The year 6 pupils have been looking at the tourist industry, why it is growing so fast and the impacts that growth has had. The pupils have been tasked with writing a postcard to their friends describing somewhere they have been and all the activities they

did whilst there, food they ate, unusual clothing etc they may have seen. We will look at how these activities feed in to the growth of tourism and what the most popular destinations are.

In year 5, the children have started looking at stories from the Bible, identifying the difference between the Old and New Testaments as well as exploring the facts about The Torah.

In drama year 5 and 6 children have been creating tableaux and using mime to enhance their facial expressions and body language. They have been discussing how these two elements are integral to performing and developing audience empathy with a character.

In PE this week the year 5 and 6 pupils have had a variety of different lessons due to some swapping around for school photos! We have had trampolining and circuit training and also seen the start of the Ignite sports academies in Netball, Basketball, Hockey and the elite athlete programme.

In religious studies year 6 have been exploring about Islam and the idea that Muslims believe in one God. They discussed the many different attributes of God and used Mr Evans as our School God to come up with lots of fantastic ideas!



Upper School News

Anna Warren,
Head of Upper School

Be Involved

The second week of term has brought more than enough opportunities for our Upper School pupils to *be involved*; both Year 7 and Year 8 enjoyed team building Bushcraft activities in Hatfield Woods, as part of the outdoor learning strand of the Edge Grove Baccalaureate. For Year 7 it was even more of an adventure with the addition of a night's camping in the beautiful woodland. On arrival, the 'tribes' (aka their new Edge Grove form groups) were challenged to work in a team to construct and light their own fire. It didn't stop there; next steps were to prepare, cook and eat lunch (as well as wash up afterwards of course). The tribes enjoyed further activities including shelter building, campfire songs, trap making (to catch teachers...), games of *predator* and knife handling/ tool cutting. Some were also offered the opportunity to learn about animal butchery. We were very impressed with the Year 7 who were brave enough to camp overnight in the shelters they had built: not an easy experience given the non-stop rain on Tuesday night!



Pancakes for breakfast!



Sports News

Follow Edge Grove Sport [@EdgeGroveSport](https://twitter.com/EdgeGroveSport)

**Academic Commendations,
Commendations and Golden Moments
5th September to 13th September**

**Click here for all this week's
match reports**

**Please click for details of the academic
commendations, commendations and golden
moments given out so far.**

Cricket Success!

Congratulations to Elliott W and Lewis B on being selected for the Hertfordshire County Cricket U13 Development Squad.

**Music lesson timetables will be updated on
FireFly on Friday afternoons.**

[https://firefly.edgegrove.com/communication/
music-timetable](https://firefly.edgegrove.com/communication/music-timetable)

Flourish Parent Workshop

Exploring your child's developing brain

Friday 5th October, 2018, 8.45am – 11.00am

£25 per person

Research into neuro science continues to evidence that childhood is a time of tremendous brain development and that this process continues until the age of 25. The young brain literally changes shape and size in response to everything encountered: the environment, experiences, parenting and relationships.

Familiarity with the stages of brain development, the changes they bring, the influence they have on thoughts, feelings and behaviour will, without doubt, assist the navigation of the challenges each stage presents and help in preparing for the changes ahead.

The role of a parent evolves constantly. This workshop offers the opportunity to explore topics that will assist you to support your child's development, physically and emotionally:

- Ages and stages – physical and neurological brain development
- Nature versus nurture
- Keeping up with the ever changing 'job description' for parenting
- Supporting the developing brain – building blocks for success
- Communication – are you speaking the same language?
- The power of subliminal learning

For further information and to book your place please contact Sally Sharp, Head of Wellbeing:
ssharp@edgegrove.com