



### Weekly Newsletter

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**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Autumn 1**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**9th September 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so very proud of your children and their amazing attitude at returning to school – we have lots of very happy bunnies here!

### **COVID 19 update**

The government have brought in stricter rules from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September so that no more than 6 people can meet, so with this in mind can we emphasise these points – we appreciate your support and additional care in keeping us all safe and healthy in school.

- Only 1 parent to drop or collect a child off.
- From Monday, please try to only collect children from the bubble in which your child/children are in to avoid cross contaminations. Preferably, only collect your own children.
- Please avoid play dates with children from other bubbles and ensure no parties or gathering that would add up to more than 6 people in total – including your own household members. Please be aware this also applies to Leechwell gardens and other open spaces as well as indoors.
- Please ensure you maintain a 2m social distance from other parents, and feel free to wear a mask.
- Please ensure you clear the entrance and exit routes quickly so others can pass safely.
- At the back, please ensure you wait on the field not the path to collect to leave a clear exit route.
- At the front of the school, please ensure you wait on the left facing the school to leave the right clear for exit.
- Please do not bring any dogs to school – please leave them at home as they are causing congestion.
- Children may now bring small bags which can fit in their locker but these should only contain the essentials of food and drink, coat and jumper. Items beyond this should not be moving between home and school. Please keep these bags clean.
- Because we will be needing to keep the classrooms well ventilated and get outdoors as much as possible please ensure your child has a jumper and a coat in school.

### **NEW - No longer Nut Free - we are an All Allergy Aware School**

We have a number of children in school with many different allergies so we have reconsidered our nut-free status. Each class bubble will be aware of any allergies to be aware of, so that the children can learn how to keep each other safe, and this will be carefully managed in school. It is a worthwhile educational strategy to teach children how to manage allergies for them and those around them.

### **Nits**

Now we are all back in school we have had some reports from parents about nits (how did nits survive through lockdown??). This is a good time to start regularly conditioning hair and then nit combing once or twice a week every week. We do have a more detailed method of nit combing if you would like a copy please see the website.

## **Nasal Flu Vaccinations – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

All children in school from Reception to Year 6 are eligible for the Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination.

Virgin Care will be in on Tuesday 17th November to administer and adhere to up to date Infection Control, PPE and social distancing guidance at the time.

Flu vaccination is one of the most effective interventions we have to reduce pressure on the health and social care system which is going to be more important than ever this year. For this reason, it is essential we deliver the vaccine to as many children as possible to prevent the spread of infection to those most at risk in society.

In light of the above we are expecting demand to be high and therefore we urge you to follow the below link to consent to your child's vaccination now. Even if you do not want your child to receive this vaccination, please complete the consent form stating "no" consent. You will also find answers to your FAQ's on this link.

<https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>

If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA). Tel: 0300 247 0082 Email: [vcl.immunisations@nhs.net](mailto:vcl.immunisations@nhs.net)

## **Medications in school**

Please could we remind all parents with children that have or need medications on site i.e. inhalers, epipens, antihistamines that these are all checked that they are still in date. Please also inform us about any updates to the health care plans.

## **Mini and Juke Duke**

To encourage independence and self-motivation, this year, The Grove School is, once again, running the Award Scheme called the Junior Duke (KS2) and Mini Duke (KS1). This is aimed to be like a precursor to The Duke of Edinburgh challenge that your child may wish to take on in Secondary School.

There are four levels: in KS2; (Year 3) Bronze, (Year 4) Silver, (Year 5) Gold and (Year 6) Platinum. There are two levels in KS1; (Year 1) Silver and (Year 2) Gold. Each of these levels has ten challenges and, in order to complete a level, the children need to finish seven of these successfully. These include skills such as First Aid, ICT, Languages, Art, Drama, Music, Sport and other life skills such as cookery and puncture repair. The children will be given many of the necessary skills in school, but most of the challenges will require some time and effort out with school.

On completion of a level, a certificate and a badge will be awarded at assembly. All children who complete the Platinum level will receive his or her badge at assembly as soon as they have completed his or her Award, but their certificates will be awarded at a special ceremony near the end of the academic year.

There is a £12.50 charge each year to cover the cost of the booklet, certificate, badges and postage.

Your child will receive a letter with a form to fill in if they wish to take part. The form and money will need to be returned to Rebecca by Friday 18th September. Please look out for the letter. It would be amazing to have as many Grove children take part as possible; the benefits to your child will be huge.

## **PTA Update**

Now more than ever we are keen to support the school and provide any help we can so I and the PTA team would really appreciate any assistance in achieving our fundraising goals.

I am planning a PTA Zoom meeting for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 19.30, if you would like to join us to just have an idea of the work that we do or contribute any suggestions please put this date into your diaries – zoom meeting details to follow.

There is a Bags2School collection scheduled for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September. This organisation collects and sells unwanted textiles to importers and wholesalers to benefit the Circular Economy. They collect textiles/clothes, paired shoes, bags, jewellery, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels, and bedding. They do not accept blankets, school uniform and textile off cuts. If you have had a clear out over lock-down please consider bagging this up and dropping off on the morning of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> in the designated area in the staff carpark. I will put the Bags2School bags at the front and back gates in the days leading up to the 24<sup>th</sup> but it really does not matter what bag you put your textiles in. The heavier the better as the bags are weighed and we then get a cheque based on this!

I would also like to introduce a fabulous fundraising effort by a dad at the school. I personally think he is nuts and set himself a big challenge, but Ian Stewart has challenged himself to cycle 1,000km before the kids break up for half term on the 23rd October! This works out at a half marathon distance on the bike every day until then. He started on the first day of term and so far, has aced a fabulous 175km. We are planning to set up a JustGiving page and would really appreciate any support for this great effort. If you want to follow Ian, he is linking all of his rides to Strava. Ordinarily we would be doing our cake bakes, school disco and planning for a fabulous Christmas bazaar so I really hope you consider supporting us in other ways.

With best wishes to you all, Emily Rowley (pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

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