



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Parent feedback from lockdown

Thank you for all the emails I have received about how your children are getting on in their home learning and during Lockdown. This information is invaluable so if you haven't done this yet can you please find the time to send me this information:

Email: head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

If you could let me know these things below and I will ensure all the information is passed onto the correct new class team (including secondary school transfers for year 6):

- child's name and current class name or teacher and year group
- are there areas about your child's education that you are concerned about?
- are there areas of your child's education that you are encouraged by?
- do you have any concerns about your child's mental health caused by lockdown or other recent factors?
- Is there anything COVID related that has effected your family that you would like the school to know.
- is there anything you would like us to know that would help resettle your child into school

September

We are still awaiting guidelines from the government about what September may look like. All we have been told so far is that we should be expecting all children to return in September. If you don't feel that you will be able to comply with this directive could you email me on head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk so that I can see the whole picture. I really don't want DCC to start fining parents for absences (as the government have announced they will from September) so I would appreciate understanding your circumstances and concerns so I can support your needs.

News from Governors

The Governors held another Zoom meeting last week. We are continuing to have more regular full governor meetings, rather than sub-committees at the moment.

We heard that there are now approximately 100 children in school in safe "Bubbles." We heard about arrangements for next year's intake and the end of school memories for Year 6.

The governors discussed and agreed the school's proposal to close two days early this term. We felt, that although it would not be ideal for some families, it was important that all staff could meet together safely (as some have been shielding over this time) to plan to be fully open in September. A lot of rearrangement of classrooms will be needed to go from our current "bubbles" to a fully open school, whilst ensuring everything is safe. This will involve more work than usual. The governors thought it was important for the whole school that arrangements can be made so the school can be effective from the first day of the autumn term.

The planning assumption is that all schools will be open in September, but schools still have not been given any guidance about what will be allowed. We hope to be able to discuss this in more detail in our next meeting. We obviously hope that the easing of the lockdown will not cause a second wave of virus infections. We also had discussions on SEN, safeguarding and the school budget. Hope everyone is keeping safe.
Mike Waterson
Chair of Governors

News from the PTA

I hope you are all well and managing the juggling act of everything. We had lots of exciting plans for fundraising but understandably and sadly these have all had to be shelved. However, the time at home has encouraged me to organise and clear out wardrobes and cupboards and it would seem that other parents have also started to accumulate similar bags of 'stuff'. So I have arranged for a 'Bags2school' collection on Thursday 24th September. This company collect and sell your unwanted textiles to importers and wholesalers. This is a great opportunity for us to raise some money. So if you have bags of clothes, shoes, curtains, textiles etc please keep them and nearer the time we'll issue out the bags so you can deposit them at the school for collection on September 24th. They do not accept school uniform, however, we are really aware that there are a number of us who would welcome the opportunity to purchase preloved uniforms. So please drop these off at the front desk with Rebecca and we can arrange a preloved sale of uniform.
With best wishes, Emily Rowley

Children's Letters/Reports

Rebecca will email out the following classes on the days stated below:-
Monday – Acorns (Robins and Treecreepers) and Lime
Tuesday – Willow and Beech
Wednesday – Chestnut and Ginkgo
Thursday – Flame and Trumpet
Friday – Mountain Ash and Grey Birch

If you need an extra copy for a second parent then please let us know.

Devon County Council - Advice on dealing with anxiety when returning to school

Posted on 24 June 2020 in News and updates

The charity Nip in the Bud has produced a short film and a fact sheet to help parents and teachers deal with any potential feelings of apprehension and anxiety that children may experience on returning to school.

In the film, Dr. Jess Richardson, Principal Clinical Psychologist, National & Specialist CAMHS and Maudsley give important and straightforward advice about potential issues and coping strategies that can help to combat those worries.

This blog post from Raft Psychology also has a some good advice and guidance to help children and parents with the return to school.

Please put this on the address bar <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/archives/9910>

Keep safe and keep well.

Hilary Priest