



### Weekly Newsletter

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**Headteacher: Hilary Priest**  
**Newsletter No: Autumn 3**

**Telephone 01803 862018**  
**23rd September 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

#### **Leadership and management focus areas**

Now that we have the children back at school and it feels as safe as it can be in the current pandemic, the school leadership team have been focusing on the impact of lockdown on learning on each individual child and a generalised picture across the school. The picture here at our school seems to reflect both the whole picture across Devon and your parental observations, which we gratefully received.

We are taking a focus lead across the school to engage the children in 'the love of writing' whilst reintroducing the structures within grammar and spelling and punctuation in a gentle way. Maths will initially be number based and reading focusing on phonics and comprehension. Healthy minds and healthy bodies are also a strong part of our initial and long term plans.

We can also see that where in lockdown we used 'worksheets' these had very little impact on learning so should we have to lockdown a bubble or school again we will try to make video input from the teachers really purposeful and meaningful.

Our very main focus is making sure that your children are happy to be in school, that we teach with a playful and play-based approach to make learning fun and enjoyable and motivating. We will be concentrating on this above all other things and of course offering a full and balanced curriculum over the school year.

#### **School reading books**

We seem to have a number of school reading books that didn't make it back to us before lockdown – could you have a good look at home and see if you have any as we need these in school. We will arrange a collection place at both entrances so the books can go into quarantine before they go back into the classes for use. Please place them in a bag labelled with the class they came from.

#### **Parent and Carer Code of Conduct**

We introduced a parent and carer code of conduct last year, please see this link to remind yourselves of the main points.

[http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/parent\\_and\\_carer\\_code\\_of\\_conduct\\_policy/481687](http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/parent_and_carer_code_of_conduct_policy/481687)

#### **Individual Photos – Tempest Photography**

Heather from Tempest photography will be at school on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October in the Studio to take children's photos. Unfortunately due to the pandemic she cannot offer to take sibling group photos as this involves physical contact. Hopefully in the New Year she will come back to school for sibling group photos when current restrictions change.

#### **News from the Governors**

The Governors met for the first time this school year, on Tuesday. This marked the end of Mike Waterson's second term as Chair, and at the start of the meeting Ian Stewart was voted in as new Chair. I would like to express the thanks of all Governors, staff, parents and carers to Mike for his service to the school as Chair during the last four years. Mike will continue as a Governor, which will both smooth the transition and ensure we continue to benefit from his experience and commitment.

The first meeting of a new year sets plans and objectives for the year ahead, and while this year was no different in agenda items, there was an understandable focus on the wellbeing of children and staff. We heard how the children have been amazing and are settling in very well, especially the new Acorns. The Governing Board's objectives for the year is to support the staff to provide a rich and varied curriculum though the school, ensure that our learning values are placed at top priority (learning creatively, independently and collaboratively), and that above all our children are safe and happy in school and continue to achieve their best through these changeable times.

Understandably, phonics is a tricky subject to teach at home and we discussed ways in which this can be supported should it be needed in future, and to support in-school activities this term. Writing and healthy lifestyle choices will also continue to have a strong focus across the whole curriculum, recognising that progress has been impacted by the challenging last six months. Your continued support as parents and carers is, as always, greatly appreciated to reinforce these key skills at home, which set the children up for a wonderful future.

Ian Stewart  
Chair of Governors

### **Free School Meals and Pupil premium funding**

If your circumstances have changed during Lockdown and you think that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals and therefore funding to the school to support your child called 'Pupil Premium' then please follow this link to find out more and to make an application:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>

### **PTA AGM and General Meeting:**

A reminder that the PTA AGM and general meeting is this evening (Wednesday 23rd) on zoom at 19.30. This is a great opportunity for old and new to find out a little bit more about us and be a part of the PTA and fundraising efforts for the school. These are the login details:

Topic: PTA Fundraising ideas and updates

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3855664118?pwd=eWxxMElTThtL3lZRYtzUnhQYkNSZz09>

Meeting ID: 385 566 4118

Passcode: 8Cs2OC

Please can I ask people to mute their mics (but keep videos on if possible!) when we start. I will run a quick AGM to confirm committee members and give an overall report and then we can discuss fundraising ideas and suggestions. Even if you don't want to actually be the person that leads on the proposal itself please just throw any ideas in. I will then pull all of those ideas together and discuss with the school the best way for us to move forward with the proposals.

### **Bags2School: - Tomorrow**

A reminder that the collection for this is tomorrow. Please drop off your bags **AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL on THE GROVE Side (Glass double doors)** on Thursday morning ONLY. Unfortunately no bags can be taken/accepted into the school and stored in the corridors in advance.

The Bags2School collection bags will be available at both entrances over the next few days, for you to put all of your unwanted textiles, bags, jewellery, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels etc in. However, you can use any bin bag you have.

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

Adverts – please note that the school is neither recommending nor supporting the adverts below. If you wish to advertise in our newsletter then please contact the school for details.

**SOURDOUGH PIZZA!**  
FRESHLY MADE • HAND-STRETCHED • AUTHENTIC



**PIZZA PIRATES**

EVERY SATURDAY 12.00 – 20.00  
THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020

@ COFFEE COUTURE GARDEN, TOTNES TQ9 5DF  
MEAT, VEG, VEGAN & GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS. PLUS BEER & COCKTAILS @ THE BAR

We are an independent band of pizza lovers with a passion for sourdough and social justice.  
We believe in good food and strong communities, so we're rigging up the rule book and are committed to using our loaves to help the most vulnerable people in our society.

📷 [pizza\\_pirates\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/pizza_pirates_uk) ✉ [pizzapirates@resilientlives.org.uk](mailto:pizzapirates@resilientlives.org.uk)

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