



Weekly Newsletter

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Headteacher: Hilary Priest
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Telephone 01803 862018
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for taking more care when dropping and picking up your children – it is noticeable the changes you have made to keep us all safe and we are grateful.

We are being affected on and off by staff waiting for test results for either themselves or their families. This is inevitable and thankfully we have currently had no positive test results. Just this week we have been down 7 staff and obviously this affects how we can manage and teach each class bubble.

We have asked parents in Trumpet Tree and Acorn classes that, if they are able, to keep their children at home for online learning, this would be helpful. This is for Thursday and Friday for Trumpet Tree Class and currently just Thursday for Acorn Reception Unit this week. This will help us manage our staff shortages with smaller class sizes in school. Should we need to ask other classes to do the same then you will receive an email just for the parents and carers of that class. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Warm clothing

We are trying to balance the warmth in the classroom with the ventilation and it does mean the classes are colder than usual. If your child feels the cold it might be worth putting a vest on them and giving them extra layers of clothing.

PTA School Lottery

A very big thank you to those that have already signed up to the School Lottery. We are getting close to our 50 ticket target so please do consider buying a £1 ticket for your chance of a weekly win and entry into the £25,000 jackpot prize. Please click on the link below to sign up, the more that do, the larger the prize money!

<http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/the-grove-school-totnes>

Christmas card designs – in by FRIDAY THIS WEEK

I know that we've been busy designing our Christmas cards over the weekend and hope you all have too! A reminder that the deadline is this Friday to send your designs in. Just to remind you:

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.

FUEL VOUCHER SCHEME (until 23rd November 2020)

Now extended until 23 February 2021

Citizens Advice can provide fuel vouchers (£28 or £49) to help vulnerable households with pre-payment meters struggling to afford to 'top up' and at risk of self disconnection.

Please ask your clients:

- **Do you have a pre-payment meter?**
- **Have you been affected by COVID-19?**
(this means households experiencing increased vulnerability due to the virus or its wider economic and social impacts)?
- Are at risk of self-disconnection

How to refer

If the answer is yes, please refer to CA South Hams Energy Team using the Professional Referral Form or email:

energy.advice@southhamscab.org.uk or

Tel: 01803 659733 (answering machine)

Clients will firstly be registered by a generalist adviser before being passed to one of our energy advisers, who can also provide additional support with energy costs.

Finding the Right Friend

Simon (Heyes), Kayden's (year 5) and Bridget's (year 3) dad works for the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) matching up children in care with volunteer mentors called Independent Visitors. There is a new national campaign called The Right Friend aimed at recruiting more volunteers. NYAS is also looking for Independent Visitors for children placed outside Devon. They have some children waiting including a 11 year old boy living near Frome who says he wants someone into "dinosaurs, fossils, crystals, birdwatching and wildlife" and a 15 year old severely disabled girl near Lymington who wants a female volunteer comfortable with volunteering with someone with quite severe needs. Training and expenses are provided. People can apply [here](#). Simon has set-up an Ebay account to raise funds to enable Devon children in care with an Independent Visitor to do more activities and if you have any unwanted things in reasonable condition please contact Simon on 07767 168481 or simon.heyas@nyas.net to arrange some sort of click and collect service when the lockdown finishes.

**Kind regards Simon,
Simon Heyes, Devon Independent Visitor coordinator, advocate, 07767 168481**