



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. As we move into a second English Lockdown, we are delighted that school can remain open and we know that you will all endeavour to keep us all in school as safe as possible by following the government guidelines. Please note some key guidelines that affect you and us both:

- the guidelines do stress that only ONE other household can be used for child care purposes (indoors or out) so you may have to streamline your child care arrangements for drop off and pick up.
- Separated parents can both access their children.
- There should be no playdates during lockdowns.
- Here are the full guidelines for your attention:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

Christmas plans

Obviously this is the half term when we start to think about Christmas and planning for our seasonal events. We can't do some of the things we usually do in the same way but we are determined to make Christmas extra special this year. We will make sure that there are class Christmas parties, school performances will be online recordings, we will be learning some Christmas Carols, we will be making Christmas cards and the PTA are doing their usual Christmas card printing services for you. We will also have a last week of the half term as a special Christmas themed week – if you have any other ideas of how to make Christmas extra special this year whilst within guidelines we'd love to hear your ideas.

Art Competition

In our whole school zoom assembly yesterday we launched an art competition for the children. We are asking children to produce a piece of Art – 2 or 3D that represents the positives from lockdown this year – things like more time with immediate family, FaceTime family meetings, all the love and kindness and respect for others we can see in our community etc. etc. The best pieces from each class will get a prize and will be displayed around school for us all to enjoy. We will also post them on the website. The deadline is the end of November. Entries can be passed on to the class teachers. We would also welcome any grown up entries also if you feel the urge!

Mental Health

I did also speak to the children about caring for their own mental health and for others. I am pretty certain the whole of our nation is feeling pretty wobbly going into lockdown and we all need to remember to talk to others about how we are feeling. I reminded them to try to keep their buckets of happiness topped up by doing lots of loving caring and kind things and to look out for other people's buckets which might need an extra caring thought currently. I'm sure as parents you can relate with the swan analogy of being all calm and together on the surface for the children but underneath we are flapping our feet just to keep our heads above the water! Please be kind and patient with the staff at school – we are very practised at being swans but we need our mental health to be

cared for too. Please think twice about sending off a cross email, or speaking negatively, and remember we are trying to do our very best for everyone in our school community. Here is an old saying worth keeping in mind – one that has helped me throughout my life – *Positivity breeds contentment*.

Parent Evening Monday 9th and Monday 16th November

On Monday we will be having our first virtual/online parent consultations. This Friday the person who booked the appointment will receive the zoom invitation from the class teacher ready for Monday. There will be a zoom waiting room system. Fingers crossed this will all work smoothly but if there are some hiccups please be patient and kind with us as we have never done this before!! 😊

Children's University Graduation Ceremonies

If you've accumulated 100 hours in your passport, you are eligible for a graduation ceremony. Normally this would have happened at Plymouth University but obviously not at the minute! However, Plymouth are offering online graduation ceremonies. This would be done through Zoom during school time. Your child would take part in the ceremony and you could watch it live through Zoom at the same time. If you have 100 hours and would like your child to take part in an online graduation ceremony, please let Adrian Gude know (adriang@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk).

PTA Design your own Christmas Cards

We are giving you the opportunity to get creative and design your own Christmas Cards to send to all your family and friends. We have reduced the cost of the cards this year with the hope we can get more families involved and raise a little bit of money for our PTA. You will have received an e-Schools email earlier providing all the information you will need to get going. Please make sure all Christmas Card Designs are back in school by Thursday 19th November so that we can quarantine them before handling. There will be collection points at both the main entrance and field, for your convenience. Just a few reminders:

- Use A4 or A5 paper, Landscape.
- Do not use shiny bits or sequins as they do not scan well.
- Include payment, design and order form together. They can be stapled or popped into a plastic pocket.

If you need any additional information, please email; pta@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk We are really looking forward to seeing all your wonderful designs!

PTA

Many thanks for the support for the last mufti day, it was lovely to see the children enjoying the opportunity to dress up and we really appreciate your generosity with donations.

PTA School Lottery

I'm really excited to launch the Grove School Lottery! This is part of the Gatherwell Ltd Lottery group and for every £1 ticket sold the school will get a 40p donation. But, the great bit is – every Saturday there is a draw and a guaranteed entry from the Grove School will get 30% of the donations we have raised for that week. For every ticket purchased you will get 6 numbers (0-9) and if you match all of them you win the top prize of £25,000! There is also an additional prize running until December to win a Nintendo Switch Bundle. Please follow the links below to purchase your tickets. I would also really appreciate it if any of you could promote this further afield, perhaps to grandparents or on social media, it's a great opportunity for us to raise money for the school during these trickier times.

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

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

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