



Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The children are a complete credit to you all – they have returned brilliantly – although for some reason they seem to want to run everywhere and they are quite noisy!!! It is so lovely to have them back and we are seeing lots of happy children. However, we are also starting to spot some children struggling, completely understandably. I don't expect any of us with come out of this pandemic without some emotional scarring. If we do spot your child struggling, we will get in touch with you and discuss different ways to support them.

MASKS and Distance please

Top marks for those on the field for mask wearing and keeping your distance, not so good at the front of the school – parents must wear a mask and ensure others can get past them with distance – don't block the pavement please.

Children should only bring lunch bag and water bottle from home
Please ensure your child isn't bringing anything else, with thanks.

Lateral Flow testing for all families of school age children

We would like to highlight the gov.uk advice on access to rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles containing school age children. This is for asymptomatic testing and so doesn't replace the different testing if you are symptomatic, but is the same LFT operated for teachers and by some employers, designed to help the Test and Trace system and will also help the school community if there is wider testing, etc. This would be for info not advice, people will make their own decisions, but not everyone might know about it and there are benefits to school of increased testing. The official page for this is here –

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Update from the Governors

The governors met again yesterday, and it was fabulous to hear how well the children are adapting to being back at school full time – hearing the playground through the microphones was lovely! Thank you as ever to all children, parents, carers, teaching and support staff for making this transition fun, and of course for your efforts during the last two months of school closures.

We would normally have signed off the budget but there is a delay in the figures being supplied to the school, so instead we reviewed the latest budget monitor which continues to be healthy. We are committed to increasing the spend on curriculum resources at the start of this financial year, and this will continue. This healthy budget really helps to support curriculum changes Hilary mentioned in a previous newsletter, to support children's mental health, friendships and growth mindset – well done to everyone involved.

Ian Stewart
Chair of Governors

With Thanks to Bounce <https://www.bouncebrighterfutures.co.uk/>

Bounce have very generously donated some beautiful Worry Monsters. We have delivered one to every class for them to get their worries gobbled up by the Monster! This doesn't mean that the worries will be dismissed, but they can be parked by a child and looked at with staff at a good moment.

Key Stage 2 - Sunflower planting, supporting our 'How to grow a friend,' topic.

A huge thank you to the very generous kind donation from Longcombe Nursery and the Jeavons family for our seeds and pots.

All key stage 2 children are planting a sunflower, decorating a terracotta pot and showing care for 'How to Grow a friend.'

World Book Day Quiz Results

We hope you enjoyed all of our World Book Day activities last week. Whilst it felt strange without all of the children in school, the children loved the 'Masked Reader' activity and lots of fun was had!

Thank you to East Gate Bookshop for their kind donation of 2 £10 gift vouchers. The winners of the quiz were Georgia in Lime Tree class for KS1 and Oliver Nichols in Chestnut Tree class for KS2! Congratulations, your vouchers are on their way to you! There are also some book prizes for the best recommendations which will be announced shortly once I have received all of the recommendations from each class.

Mufti – Week on Friday - March 19th

We will be having a sponsored mufti, a week on Friday 19th March to raise money for beautiful flowering plants to make our school look cheerful and cared for. Your child can come dressed as a flower, a plant, wear flowery/print or bright coloured clothes and donations of a £1 per child will be gratefully received and will cover the costs for the plants. We have also now managed to plant our school orchard – although it just looks like lots of planted sticks (the children have commented!), currently we are hoping that it will start to blossom now spring is on its way.

Laptop loans

We managed to loan out a number of laptops to families over lockdown. If one was loaned to you, would you please start returning them. Of course if a bubble should have to close again then we can send them out again, in the meantime they would be useful in school.

TO ALL MINI AND JUNIOR DUKERS!!

I hope all you Mini and Junior Dukers have managed to have a go at some of your challenges during this challenging time.

Keep going and make sure you let me know how you are getting on. Send me pictures of you having fun and feeling proud. I can share these on the website and newsletter.

Remember - we will hopefully be able to hold a mini award ceremony for all those that have completed their awards. Bring your books in for your class teacher to sign when you complete a challenge.

Any questions or support you think I can give you, please let me know.

Here's my email address:

helenf@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

HAPPY DUKING!!

PTA School Lottery

Don't forget that you can join our PTA school lottery. The lottery has been set up specifically to raise money and make a difference for our children! It's a fantastic way to bring Parents, Carers, Teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children - we aim to provide extra resources for the children, improve the school environment as well as run extracurricular activities.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck!

Yours sincerely

Emily Rowley PTA Chair

Help us share our school lottery on social media Here is the link

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

Kind regards

Hilary Priest