



Weekly Newsletter

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Newsletter No: Spring 6

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is the last day of the half term tomorrow (Thursday) and we are back on Monday 22nd February. There will be no online learning during the holidays. Thank you all so much for helping us get through the term so well. We have had so many positive messages about how much improved the online learning is this time. We have recently done a review and a summary of the remote learning we provide. Please see this link to our website to read more. Also a hearty congratulations to all of you parents who have struggled through this half term – we know it has been tough on everyone.

http://www.the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk/web/our_remote_learning_plan/537023

Menu change

As tomorrow is the last day of term the menu from The Children's Kitchen will be:-
Fish Fingers or Cheese and Tomato Wheel with chips and peas

Covid update

We will be watching the Government briefing too on 22nd February to see what will happen in schools next half term. We will keep you informed once we know more.

In the meantime – if a child who has attended school should show symptoms in half term, please isolate as a family and get tested – please let me know as soon as possible by email titled POSITIVE COVID RESULT to head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk so that we can track and trace all contacts.

Parent Evening bookings via Zoom – 1st week of March

We have opted to make parent consultations as accessible as possible this term so that we can prepare with you to have your children back at school – hopefully soon! The teachers have looked at how to make themselves more available and have decided that the times below will work well. We know that they might not suit all of you but if you can message the class teacher we can try to find a perfect match! We would also appreciate you sending a summary of how your child has managed in this lockdown, we are anticipating that we will need to out even more emotional support in this time, so if your child/family has struggled more then please do let us know – please email head@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Please book your appointments using the website from 2pm tomorrow using the same procedure as last time, if you cannot login then please email admin@the-grove-primary.devon.sch.uk

Acorn:

Treecreepers – Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd March appointments between 9am and 4pm

Robins – Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th March appointments between 9am and 4pm

Lime-

Monday 1st March, appointments between 10am – 12pm: 1pm – 5pm

Beech- Monday 1st March, appointments between 9am -12pm and then 1pm – 4pm

Dove – Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd March, appointments between 9am-12pm

Chestnut – Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd March, appointments between 9am-3pm

Mountain Ash – Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd March, appointments between 1pm-4pm

Golden Cedar – Tuesday 2nd March and Friday 5th March, appointments between 9am and 12pm.

Flame – Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March, appointments between 9am and 12pm

Ginkgo – Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd March, appointments between 1pm and 4pm

Trumpet - Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th March, appointments between 9am and 12pm

Message from the Chair of Governors

Update from the governors

Well, what a first half term this has been. The Board of Governors met yesterday to have our first procedural meeting of the year – with the budget being an area of focus at this time of year. All is well in that area, with no concerns. It has been managed incredibly well through an unforecastable year, so well done to everyone, especially Sandie.

As you will expect, the majority of our current meetings and my catch-ups with Mrs Priest and Mrs Wilkinson concentrate on the wellbeing and support for the children, parents and staff. We discuss the decisions being faced by school, offering support, challenge and advice, and yesterday was no different. As Mrs Priest has said in this newsletter, the latest iteration of the remote learning provision is now running. As a board we are very pleased to see how this has taken shape over the year, taking input from parents and children. We will continue to provide our input and support as a Board.

This has been a very tough start to the year for us all, and one which has put many things into conflict as we try to juggle the expectations on us as employers, employees, parents and family members. Unfortunately this has been one of those times where there is no clear and obvious way to keep everything afloat, but please be assured that all decisions are scrutinised and do have to factor things which are not always clear and obvious.

One thing I must say is thank you. Thank you for the support you have given to your children, and thank you to the staff in school. Also thank you to those who have reached out to me to discuss issues – not everything is easy or without problems, but it does help to discuss them and feed them back into the discussions we have on things like attendance, remote learning, etc.

One final point is that I have taken the feedback from our meetings, from parents and my own personal thoughts as a Governor and parent, and have written to our MP for Totnes to highlight the many issues facing schools and children/parents during this lockdown. The letter is attached to this newsletter, and I have since had a productive phone call with Mr Mangnall and will have another in the coming weeks after he has met with ministerial colleagues for School Standards, etc, and raised the points there. These things are not quick at affecting change, but I hope you agree it is important to feed them back so that mistakes are not repeated.

Please see this letter on our website using the same link as above.

I hope you all have a good half term,
Ian Stewart,
Chair of Governors

Kind regards

Hilary Priest

<https://envisionvirginracing.com/drawwithrob/>