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## 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Newsletter



### Dropping off/Picking Up

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for observing the new systems for arrival and dismissal. It fills me with pride seeing so many children taking responsibility for their own belongings and walking into school by themselves. This not only develops independence but confidence and a feeling of achievement for our children even before the school day begins.

Please remember that the register is taken at 8.50am and it is important that children arrive before this. Why not develop their confidence, even further, if they are Year 3 and above and drop them off with Jim who runs our pedestrian crossing and they can walk along? This will ease the congestion in and around school gates.

I hope that all of our families have a fabulous weekend.

Bernadette

### Backpacks

Just to remind parents, we ask that all children bring a book bag to school rather than a backpack.

We are not trying to be difficult but as our school population continues to grow so does the space taken up in classrooms and storage areas. Most classes have a bookcase or box and these can only accommodate book bags as they can be stacked neatly and they do not cause a trip hazard. Backpacks do not fit onto children's pegs as they are often too large, they fall off children's pegs, and could cause a trip hazard. Children are only asked to carry their planner and reading book to and from school which can be transported in a school book bag.

P.E. bags can be left for the duration of the half term in a draw string bag (this can be hung on a child's peg). For any additional changes of clothes or shoes, these can be brought in and hung in a plastic bag/ additional draw string bag rather than trying to squeeze everything into a back pack and they will fit onto the children's pegs which are quite close together.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this matter.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Parking

A number of residents have contacted us and the Community Police Officer to complain about parking on residents' drives or blocking access to their properties. We would ask that you consider where you park when you are dropping off/collecting your children from school.

**We would ask that parents do not park on kerbs as this restricts safe travelling for all children and parents who have double pushchairs as well as those in the community with disabilities.**

### **Afterschool Clubs**

Please remember that all afterschool clubs begin from 3-4pm from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Jan and Tina will continue to run our Afterschool Service from 3-5pm @£3 per hour.

### **Aldi Stickers**

We know that Aldi Consett is closed until September 26<sup>th</sup> but we are collecting the stickers for the school's competition. We are aiming to collect 600 before November. Please help us reach our target as soon as possible so that we can be in with a chance of winning £20000!

### **Mobile Phones**

We strive to ensure that our children remain safe at all times and we would ask you as parents to ensure that children do not bring their phone to school. We cannot have phones in school in the event that they are dropped, damaged or taken. Thank you.

### **Volunteers**

We would be keen to recruit some volunteers to help us with toast on a Tuesday morning and to listen to readers in various classes. If you think that you could spare even an hour, please contact the school office.

### **NSPCC Assemblies**

The NSPCC's Speak Out. Stay Safe. programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who'll be delivering their Speak Out. Stay Safe. programme this term. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting an assembly to the children in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5 and 6.

"NSPCC has helped me to build the confidence to tell people about my worries and problems." Child's feedback.

#### **What is the Speak out. Stay safe. programme?**

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language.

We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered - knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe. programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website [nspcc.org.uk/schools](http://nspcc.org.uk/schools) or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

#### **Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children**

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe - and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse - without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at [nspcc.org.uk/pants](http://nspcc.org.uk/pants)

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website; [nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/](http://nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/)

### **School Email**

Please make a note of our new school email address; [enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk)

We will also be launching an e-newsletter platform very soon to help keep you better informed.

