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20th December 2019 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe that it is the Christmas holidays already! It's been a fantastic first term for us all. Thank you for all your well wishes and your generosity too. I know that many have asked why we did not have our Christmas Carol Concert this year which was a great shame. It was down a few factors but ultimately; we thought about the cost of the journey for families travelling to and from Consett as well as the additional cost to school. It has given us time to reflect, think about and make plans for next Christmas.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy 2020!

Bernadette

This week...

It really has been Christmas at The Grove Primary School this week!

We have been treated to...

A wonderful Y1/2 Production of Prickly Hay which really got us into the Christmas Spirit!

All children took part in their Christmas Parties and I think the staff were more competitive than the children when it came to the dancing and games!

We had a delicious Christmas lunch provided by Lynn and Trish. It was a real Grove celebration and the children were joined by staff, volunteers and some of our governors. Thank you to Lynn and Trish for providing the delicious dinner and tasty treats as well as all of the other staff for making the event go so smoothly. We also sadly said goodbye to Craig as he moved to his new job at Derwentside College. But in true Grove style and thanks to Carly and her secret helpers Craig had a marvellous assembly which was enjoyed by all.

This morning, we have been treated to a Grove Singalong with songs from Early Years, Y1/2 and our very talented choir. We finished off with a whole school Twelve Days of Christmas; I think we are all more than ready for Christmas now!

Attendance

Each child has been given an attendance report for this term. It shows the days of absence as well as reasons for absence. It is important that you do contact school to report an absence so that it can be recorded correctly. Where a N is recorded there has been no reason given. If your child's attendance report contains an N; you must inform us so that can be changed.

I do understand there has been a lot of absence due to the many sickness bugs that have been going around but there does seem to be a few individual families who have a day of absence once every couple of weeks. We have been advised, if this is the case, to seek medical evidence to prove these absences otherwise they will be recorded as unauthorised.

We would also ask that if your child has a medical appointment that the letter/card is brought to the school office and they can be coded properly.

Taxis

A number of our families sometimes travel by taxi. **We have been advised that if any child(ren) travels by taxi to or from school that they must be accompanied by an adult.**

Early Years

Just to confirm the timings for the doors in Early Years. Just to keep everything the same for the whole school; Early Years (Nursery and Reception) will open their doors at 8.40am.

I will remain on the gate, next term, from 8.00 until 8.15am and 8.40am until 9am. **Please remember that registers close promptly at 8.50am**

Clubs

Our Afterschool Club, run by Jan and Tina, will run from Monday 6th January at a cost of £2 per hour.

Our Enrichment Clubs will begin the second week back. A letter will be sent out so that children can choose their Enrichment Clubs. This must be sent back to school by Wednesday 8th to give us a chance to inform parents by Friday 10th as to what clubs children will be attending. A text will be sent, to parents, confirming club places.

Swimming

Year 4 will begin their swimming lessons on Monday 6th January (the day that we come back).

Moving forward...

We are well aware of how expensive and stressful Christmas and the months after can be for parents and carers. We try to help out where we can to ensure both you and your children are well supported, not just at Christmas but all of the year.

Please remember that Rachel C can access different sources of support and funding to help lighten the load at this time of year for families in need. All support offered is done in a completely confidential manner and without judgement!

Thank you.

Please remember that we run a Bounce Breakfast Club that runs from 8am. Children can come to Bounce Breakfast via the pupil entrance. New families are always welcome and no booking is required. We can accommodate children from Nursery up to Year 6. There is a cost of £1 to children not in receipt of Free School Meals. If you are unsure if your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please contact the school office.

We provide Enrichment Clubs which run from 3-4pm. These range from: Hygge, Drama, Code Club, Craft Club and many more (a letter will be sent out to families to request places on the first day back). Children attending Enrichment Clubs can be picked up from the school yard. There is a cost of £2 per session for Movie and Refreshment Club and Craft Club but all of our other clubs are free.

Our Afterschool Club Service, run by Jan and Tina, operates between 3-5pm. You can book as well as pay for your child's place via ParentPay. This service is £2 per hour. If you are having difficulty booking your child's place, you must contact the school office. Please remember that you can collect your child at 4pm via the school playground and if it is after 4pm, you must collect via the school office.

We hope to continue to provide child care for the minimum cost to you as we are aware of how expensive the school day can be. I would ask that families continue to use our Afterschool Club Service in order to continue to keep costs down (this service used to be priced at £3 per hour).

Our Swap Shop is more accessible as it has moved downstairs. We have uniform, coats, shoes and more so if you need to access it please speak to Rachel C.

Thank you for your continued support and please remember that we are here to support you too!