



Facebook: facebook.com/thegroveps



Telephone: 01207 502938



18th March 2020 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

I have written our weekly newsletter earlier than usual this week as I wanted to keep you informed in relation to the current situation in the UK. Currently, following Government advice, we will remain open unless we are advised otherwise.

I do believe we may have additional information either later today or by the end of the week but I will continue to keep parents informed via Newsletters and Facebook.

Bernadette

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Current advice from Public Health England (published March 16th)

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19> for the latest guidance

- staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- If children are unwell with sickness and diarrhoea, we would remind parents that they must stay off for a period of 48 hours from the last episode.

Partial School Closure

Schools are given guidelines for ratio of adults to staff members in order to keep children and staff safe. We are managing to follow these guidelines but inevitably in the current situation and following guidance we may have to close parts of the school or close to certain classes. I will continue to inform parents and try and give parents as much notice as possible if this needs to happen.

This may also be the case for: Breakfast, Enrichment Clubs (3-4pm) and After School Club (3-5pm). I will endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible if these need to be cancelled.

We understand that for our parents this is not an ideal situation but my main focus is to keep parents and children safe at The Grove Primary School.

Thank you for your patience and for your continued support during this very difficult time.

Contact Numbers

We would ask that parents ensure that we have the most recent and up to date contact numbers. This is a matter of urgency, especially, if your child becomes unwell during the school day. Children need at least two contact numbers and if you need to update your child's please do so immediately by contacting the school office on 01207 502938.

Cancellation of Events

Unfortunately, in relation to guidance given on Social Distancing on 16th March 2020 we are going to have to cancel all events between now and Easter. This has not been a decision that has been made lightly; please see guidance by going to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

In the event of closure

It is a very difficult time for us as we are unsure of what will happen to education in England after this week. Other countries have closed schools and other establishments but here at The Grove Primary School we remain open until we receive further guidance.

Staff are working extremely hard, during these difficult times, to ensure that lessons remain the same for the children who are well and able to attend school. They are also considering the best way forward for their pupils in the event of closure which will be based on resources that allow children to practise their basic skills.

Additional resources, are being added (and will continued to be added) to class pages on our website. These might consist of short activities and website links that will support your child in the event of closure. There may also be activities that are paper based too that children can complete.

We appreciate that this is not an ideal solution and we hope that parents will support us in ensuring children complete tasks that have been set in the event of a school closure.

In the event of closure, we will continue to contact parents via: text, website and our Facebook page. We would ask parents to continue to contact us by phoning school on 01207 502938 and leaving a voicemail message. Parents can also use the school email service to contact us in the event of closure which is enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk

COVID-19 Scam emails

The Local Authority have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following:

'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'.

I would just like to confirm this is a scam email and is **not** from the local authority. We urge schools and parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond and delete it immediately.

We have been asked all parents are informed about this issue.