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9th April 2020 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very different start to the Easter holidays and one that I certainly was not expecting. I hope that all of our families have enjoyed the last few days of sunshine and spending time together. It is hard to believe that the partial school closures have been happening for almost 3 weeks and just to say well done to you all for the fantastic job that you are doing.

It has been wonderful to see all of the photos, activities and comments about what children have been achieving at home. I know that it isn't easy at times but these are unprecedented times and hopefully, if everyone plays their part, we will all be back to a different, better normal than where we were before.

Staff have worked hard to acclimatise it is a different way of working and one that, we as educators, are not used to. I have to praise staff for stepping up: providing childcare, providing resources and support, keeping in touch with parents and each other and as always going above and beyond for our children.

I hope that all of our families continue to stay safe and take care of one another over the Easter break.

Bernadette

Free School Meal Eligibility

Some of our families have been receiving vouchers to replace packed lunches and school meals during the partial closure on a weekly basis.

Those families who have children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who would receive Universal Infant Free School Meals do not automatically qualify to receive a voucher while schools are partially closed unless these families are eligible for Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed or you think that you may be entitled, please see the information on the Local Authority's website for further information

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

You must notify us if your circumstances change either by contacting us by phone/email.

Lakes Visit Refunds

As you will have been made aware, The Lakes visit was cancelled earlier this week. We are working with ParentPay to try and refund any money paid for this visit as quickly as we can. ParentPay are refunding this in instalments in the order that parents paid so it may take some time to recover the full amount that each parent paid. Thank you for your patience with this matter.

School Places

During these unprecedented times, we are unsure of when schools will be back to full capacity and until we are given further guidance then we have to try and follow admission procedures as we normally would.

Nursery Places

We currently have 5 morning and 4 afternoon places for children to access 15 hours of Nursery provision from September.

We have 5 spaces for those children who would be entitled to 30 hours of Nursery provision from September. Please see

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to find out if your child would be eligible for 30 hours of free Nursery provision.

If you haven't applied for a Nursery place or know someone who needs to apply for their child, please contact school on 01207 502938 or email school enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk

Reception places

We would hope that parents would receive their offer of a place on Thursday 16th April. Parents would still need to accept their place by Thursday 30th April. Please see

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2188/School-places-important-dates>