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## 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

We would just like to share with you our new systems for behaviour, which you will find in our new Behaviour Policy, that children have been getting to grips with since they returned to school in September.

Our new policy uses the Restorative Approach and ensures that incidents are dealt with swiftly and consequences are given immediately so that children can move on from the wrong choice they have made.

In school, each adult will use the 5-point behaviour ladder. This is designed to create a consistent approach to behaviour across the school for all adults and children. Staff will display the behaviour ladder in the classroom with names or photos of children. Children will only need to be placed on the ladder if they reach step 2-5. It is expected that at all times children will be at step 1 as this is expected behaviour. Children and staff have worked together to identify the 'Behaviours seen' and the 'Consequences' column. It will hopefully mean fewer conversations, with parents, as children make better choices for their own behaviour.

Children will be placed on the ladder to visually remind them that they have not followed a high expectation within school. Children can 'earn' their way back to green on the ladder by correcting their behaviour or taking a consequence.

Children are rewarded for good choices made by receiving money on their reward chart. They can then buy various rewards such as: first in the line, dip in the prize box, extra reading time or they can work together to buy a class prize such as: non-uniform day, games afternoon or a P.E. morning. I am sure your child(ren) have told you all about it!

They have been telling us what they like about our new systems...

Willow in Year 2 - "I like the ladder because it stops people from being naughty in our school."

Ciera from Year 4- I like the money chart because you can choose fun things to buy!"

Alex in Year 4- "It is better than using the traffic lights as you know exactly what wrong choices are and with the traffic lights you had less chances."

Autumn in Year 4- "Even if you make a wrong choice, you can make your way back up the ladder."

Taylor from Year 2- "It's good because when you are good you can earn pennies on your chart."

You can find our new Behaviour Policy <http://www.thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2020/10/Behaviour-Policy-2020-.pdf>

## Children/Families in Isolation

### When should I get my child a COVID-19 test?

A child who has the following symptoms should get a test:

- A new continuous cough
- A loss of smell or taste
- A temperature of 38° or more

If a child needs to take a test we must have a copy of the test results sent to [enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk) or the school mobile for our records.

### When should I keep my child off school?

You only need to keep them off school if they have:

- A temperature of 38° or more
- A new cough or worsening of an underlying chest condition such as asthma
- Difficulty breathing
- Change or loss of taste or smell

Those families that have been advised to isolate will have access to activities similar to those provided in lockdown. If you have trouble accessing the activities please inform the school office and we can provide a work pack for you.

There are also additional, in depth, lessons if families choose to access these. These will take a lot more time just like a lesson would in school. You can find them:

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/> (maths lessons)

<https://www.thenational.academy/> (general lessons)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary> (general lessons)

### Phone Contacts

If parents/carers change their phone number or address, you must inform the school office as soon as possible. We must have contact details in the event of an accident or illness.

### Free School Meals

Have your circumstances changed? Do you think that your child/ren qualify for Free School Meals after checking <https://www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals> Please contact the school office and we can check for you.

### Contacting Staff

We appreciate that we do not always get things right so if you as parents/carers have an issue, query or complaint please make an appointment (via the school office) to speak to a member of staff (due to current restrictions this will be a telephone appointment). We would also remind parents that it is not appropriate as part of our Acceptable Use Policy to contact members of staff personally about school matters eg via Facebook Messenger.

As I am sure that you can appreciate staff work extremely hard to ensure that all things are in place, for children, during the school day so we would ask you to make an appointment to discuss a query or complaint outside of the school day.

We do see the importance of home and school working together to ensure that each and every child is happy, safe and well cared for. Thank you