



The Grove Primary School  
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Our Ref: Information for Parents Autumn 2

Friday, 13 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be fully aware, the Prime Minister has announced that a national lockdown will start from 00.01am on Thursday 5 November for four weeks until Wednesday 2 December, subject to the parliamentary process.

Under the new restrictions:

- People will be told to stay at home except for specific reasons. These include work which cannot be done from home, childcare or education, exercise outdoors, medical reasons, essential shopping, providing care for vulnerable people or for volunteering, and visiting members of your 'support bubble'.
- Meeting indoors or in private gardens will not be allowed unless part of your household or 'support bubble', but individuals can meet one other person from another household outside in a public place.
- Schools and universities will remain open.
- Children will still be able to move between homes if their parents are separated.
- Overnight stays, staying in a second home, and holidays will not be allowed - including in the UK and abroad - although there are exceptions, such as work trips.
- Non-essential travel by private or public transport will not be allowed.

**(Please go to the list of additional restrictions <https://www.durham.gov.uk/nationalrestrictions> we have only included those specific to school)**

I would also like to remind parents that we only permit one adult to drop off and pick up from school. This should be a family member and not another parent. Parents are also asked not to congregate at the gates and to be mindful of social distancing recommendations. This is at the gate and on the playground when children are dismissed.

When working with children this week, staff have reported children have said that they have been 'playing/going for tea' to other children's houses. Just to remind parents that this is not permitted under the new restrictions and that children should remain at home when they come home from school.

### Picking up/Dropping off

We try to run a one-way system to ensure that the drop off and collection is as safe as possible for all of our families. We would ask that parents continue to do this even though the start and the end to the school day is staggered. Children with surnames A-M your drop off time is between 8.30 - 8.40am and collection time is 2.50-3.00pm (Reception to Year 6 children). Those children with surnames N-Z drop off time is between 8.40-8.50am and collection is at 3pm (Reception to Year 6 children).

### Tapestry

There are a number of parents who still to activate their account. Please check your texts and any issues please contact the school office.



### **Arrangements for Christmas**

Guidance has been shared with us regarding arrangements for Christmas. As I am sure that you will appreciate, guidance means that we are unable to hold Nativities, concerts and parties in the usual way. It is also difficult to say what we will be able to hold for Christmas as guidance could change but let me reassure you that we will ensure that the run up to Christmas will be special for the children and planned activities will be in line with guidance and risk assessments. I hope to send a list of dates for activities leading up to Christmas in the next couple of weeks.

### **Tapestry**

There are a number of parents who still to activate their account. Please check your texts and any issues please contact the school office.

### **Flu Programme 2020**

Children who have returned information- to school- will receive their flu vaccination (nasal spray) on Thursday 26th November.

### **Packed lunches**

We continue to ask children to bring packed lunches in a plastic box or a disposable paper/plastic bag and not a fabric/cloth bag.

Children are asked to have water and not juice in their water bottles and to bring a healthy packed lunch to school. Please see the following sites for suggestions:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/the-eatwell-guide/>

We are looking at our Packed Lunch Policy in the near future so watch this space!

### **Reporting to Parents Autumn 2020**

We usually hold a Parents' Evening during the Autumn term which is not going to be possible. We are going to share a settling in report with parents which you will receive on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020. You will also get a copy of your child's attendance certificate for this term included too. In the meantime, if you have any queries, concerns or comments please direct these to the school office on 01207 502938.

### **Conduct on school premises**

Once again, I would just like to generally remind everyone that any aggression displayed verbally or physically on school premises will be dealt with accordingly. We would also ask parents if they have a query, concern, complaint that needs to be discussed that they should arrange a telephone appointment to speak to the class teacher.

### **Breakfast/After School Club**

In line with risk assessments, our clubs for before and after school are running at full capacity. We are continuing to keep a waiting list for families who would like a place and would like to thank you for your patience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bernadette