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Telephone: 01207 502938



# 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a very different term to say the least but our children have come back and developed their resilience and faced the new normal in an extremely positive way. It has been a pleasure to be back in school and when I have asked the children how they feel about being in school most of them just say happy. When I have asked the children why they are happy the list has been endless and some of their answers have been: to see friends, play with friends, learn together, see their teachers, come to Breakfast Club, dress up, play with the blocks and have school dinners!

This has been due to the hard work of all staff in school. It has been a very different and intense term for staff too as they have got to grips with the new normal. They have done this without very little question and with a lot of suggestions when things have needed to be tweaked or changed for which myself and governors have been extremely grateful and thankful for.

We will continue to move into the Spring term with the same systems in place for the school day. Children will arrive and be dismissed at staggered times and through the same gates/doors.

I do hope that everyone in our school community has time to rest, relax and recharge over the holidays and I wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas too.

Bernadette

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## Reporting symptoms after the school closes for Christmas Holidays

Dear Parents and Carers

The Grove Primary School will close on December 18th. If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus, you must book a test.

If your child develops symptoms up to and including December 20<sup>th</sup> which result in a positive test up to 24<sup>th</sup> December, you must inform the school at [enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk) Please note this will be checked daily between 9am and 10am up until 24<sup>th</sup> December and then again from 1<sup>st</sup> January. The school mobile will be unavailable so you must contact school via email.

Please include the name of your child, their class and the date that their symptoms started, as well as your own contact details.

### From Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

If your child develops coronavirus symptoms from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December onwards, they must be tested and, if positive, follow the advice of Test and Trace. **You do not need to inform the school of any symptoms which occur after this date.**

### Attendance

Remember that it is important that your child attends school as often as possible. If your child is not in school, they are missing out on vital learning.

If your child is sick/unwell or has an appointment, you must contact the school office.

If a child has to take a coronavirus test, we would ask that these are emailed to the school email address [enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

### Entitled to Free School Meals?

If you think your child might be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact the school office and the ladies will be able to check for you. This also applies to those children in Nursery although children do not stay for a school meal we could receive additional funding to support your child.

This also applies to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. All children are entitled to a free school lunch but a check could mean we receive additional funding for your child to support them at school.

### ParentPay

Please ensure that all money owed is paid before the Christmas holidays. If you have any difficulty, please contact the school office and we will be able to support. This can be on 01207 502938 or via [enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk)

### Policies

We have a new Anti-Bullying Policy which can be found on our website. It has been developed in line with our new Behaviour Policy. It can be found [here](#) or alternatively in the policies section on our website.

### Support for Families

We have been lucky to be in a position to help lots of our families that may be finding things a bit of a struggle leading up into Christmas, especially with the current situation.

Rachel C successfully applied for a grant from the Greggs Foundation Trust which has allowed us to purchase food items (and some treats!) to provide our own food hampers to families. We hope to use this money to be able to help with food parcels in January- as well - which is always a tough month for everyone.

We also received some wonderful hampers including food, toiletries and small gifts from St. John's Church, in Castleside, which were beautifully presented and brought to school. We have been able to help over 20 families so far and 50 children have benefited - ages range from a few months up to 17 years.

We have had positive feedback from our families and are so pleased to be able to help in this way - there's no way we could do it without the help of the wider community - so thank you!

### Swap Shop

Our Swap Shop is well stocked with a variety of nearly new uniform and we have a selection of winter coats too. Parents are not able to come and browse at the minute but if you can tell us sizes then we can let you know what we have available. Thanks to Rachel C and Tina stock is well organised and readily available too. Thank you ladies; another fantastic service that our families can access!

**Please remember that the school will reopen after the school holidays on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We would like to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**