



Facebook: facebook.com/thegroveps



Telephone: 01207 502938



13th January 2021 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

What a start to 2021 and not a start that we expected at The Grove Primary School. Just to begin by saying a huge thank you to our school staff who have very quickly got to grips with remote learning after the announcement last Monday.

The children who are attending school have settled back in very well and seem to be enjoying getting to know the routines. We have received many more requests for school places this time round and perhaps understandably received a large number of additional requests compared to March.

We currently have about 25% of our school population in school each day. I realise that this is an extremely difficult situation for everyone and that this is far from an ideal situation for parents and children alike, but schools have been 'closed' to try to reduce the amount of social contact between people, which in turn will reduce the spread of the virus - which is currently at an alarming level. **The guidance still states that 'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can'** and we ask that you do this if at all possible. I have a legal duty to protect employees and others from harm and the more children and adults we have in school; the more challenging it is to do this. If there is anyone who has requested a school place who can manage without it, please contact the school office on 01207 502938 or enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk

The staff in school and the staff working from home have worked together to try to ensure that the children in school and at home receive the same learning. Thank you for your patience this week as we have tried to get to grips with the technology both in school and when the teachers have been working from home - this is still a bit of a learning curve for us all but something that we can do together. I understand some parents have been frustrated but please be assured that staff have been frustrated too (please see additional resources to support home learning on the next page).

We are aware that there are some limitations to Tapestry (see Tapestry FAQs [here](#)) and we are currently exploring different ideas so that remote learning is easy to access and effective. We know that many of our parents are working from home while they try to support their child's learning. The Government have shared expectations regarding the amount of time the children should be spending on their learning but we realise that all family situations are different and this is just a guideline - please encourage your child/children to do what they are able to, but please do not let this become a stress for you or for them.

We are monitoring what the children are doing and will be in touch if they have any concerns or think you may need further support. Please continue to upload the learning whenever this is convenient, however if the learning is uploaded after 4pm the staff may not be able to look at it until the following day. Please see our Remote Guidance for more information [here](#)

Thank you for your continued patience as we continue to work together during these difficult times.

Please contact us if your family need additional technical support (additional devices or data).

Additional resources to support with home learning

In the event of technical issues with Tapestry, please use the websites listed below. Our website does not support upload of daily lessons nor does it allow us to interact with families the way that Tapestry does. I am sure that you can appreciate that staff are working tirelessly to ensure that face to face learning and remote learning can take place. I would remind you to look at the dos/don'ts when commenting on Tapestry in our Remote Guidance and we would ask parents to only comment about children's learning. Please direct any questions, queries or concerns to enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk and they will be passed to the relevant member of staff.

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

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

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

<http://www.thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk/community/supporting-families-information/> (additional websites and resources)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zks4kmn> (for those in Early Years)

<https://bam.files.bbci.co.uk/bam/live/content/zjbstrd/pdf> (Bitesize lessons on CBBC for Primary)

Staying Connected Challenge- 2021 edition!

You know I love a Facebook challenge during lockdown 😄 This one might help show your children how hard remote learning is!!

1. Take a photo of your child home schooling their pet/ cuddly toy/ action figure/ younger sibling doing some home learning that has been set by teachers from the week!
2. Upload it as an observation on Tapestry calling it "Facebook challenge"
3. Send them to me by Friday 15th 12:00pm and I'll share them all on Facebook/ Tapestry.

Carly

Phone Contacts

If parents/carers change their phone number or address, you must inform the school office as soon as possible (even during lockdown). We must have contact details in the event of an accident or illness or even to check in with families

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.

Support for Families

This lockdown is a very different lockdown to last time and we understand that families may need further support. We can support all of our families with:

- Additional food items
- Toiletries, personal hygiene and sanitary products
- Additional devices to support families with remote education
- Resources to support your child at home (paper, pens and other stationery items)
- Support to buy winter coats and shoes
- Find out whether your family is entitled to Free School Meals

If you require any support, please contact enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk or speak to Rachel C via the school mobile.