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12th February 2021 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe that another half term has passed us by and what a busy one it has been as well. It has been another lockdown but not like the previous one as you have managed to get to grips with Tapestry and home learning. You have shared the role as teachers with your child's class teacher and you have all done an amazing job. Some of you have children of various ages and I know that it has not been easy getting to grips with Tapestry for all of your family. **We will continue with our remote learning offer from Tuesday 23rd February as Monday 22nd is a Professional Development (PD) day for staff. School will be closed on this day. Staff will set screen free activities on this day for our families.**

Staff have also adjusted to another new way of teaching and as they always do continue to go above and beyond for our families. We are missing all of our families and staff have enjoyed speaking to parents and families over the phone and keeping in touch via Tapestry too.

We remain responsible for accounting for every child's learning, attendance and welfare, even while we are in lockdown. Therefore, we have developed ways to communicate, teach and monitor every child and support them through this period. We have had some difficulty contacting families and would ask that you answer/respond to phone calls made from our school number as soon as possible please.

Tapestry Update- Parents not accessing Tapestry

This lockdown is very different from last time and there is an expectation that families participate in remote learning. **This time, however, schools were given specific instruction on the expectations for 'remote attendance' and 'remote learning':**

Schools must continue to complete the attendance register for pupils who are receiving remote education... Schools should keep a record of, and monitor pupils' and students' engagement with remote education, but this does not need to be tracked in the attendance register."

Department for Education

Our offer for home learning (remote learning) is through Tapestry where your child will access their daily activities and upload evidence of their work too (please see <http://www.thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/69/2021/01/Remote-Learning-Guidelines.pdf> for Remote Learning guidance). Your child/ren must access the activities set by staff as this will create a 'learning journal' for your child and an evidence base of what they have accessed during lockdown. As yet, your child has very little or no documents in their journal and we may be asked to submit those family names/journals of those not accessing home (remote) learning. This would be the same way if during normal circumstances that a child is not attending school.

We can offer laptops to support children accessing work and we can also provide modems for those with limited/no internet access at home. We can even talk you through the process of accessing and uploading work to your child's journal. **Please get in touch if we can support in any way at all.**

Half Term Project- Full Tums and Busy Bodies

Thank you to the families who signed up for our half term cookery activity 'Busy Bodies and Full Tums'. We are extremely grateful to the Area Action Partnership for providing the funding which has allowed us to offer an interactive activity while also tackling holiday hunger.

We hope to be in a position to do this during future holiday's also, so if you did not sign up this time, there will be another chance in the future. We can't wait to see your children cooking up a storm on Tapestry! Thank you!

If you are taking part in the half term cooking project could you please title your photo's 'Half term cooking project' so we don't miss any pictures on Tapestry!!

Free School Meal Vouchers

All families entitled to Free School Meals should now have received their vouchers for over half term. After the holidays we will continue to provide hampers/additional food items to those families entitled to Free School Meals as we have this half term.

Contact during half term holidays

Please use the school email address to contact us which is enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk This will be checked between 9 and 10am on a daily basis. Please also use this address to report any positive test results until Sunday 14th February by emailing them to the school email address. Thank you

It is half term for all next week and I hope that all of those belonging to The Grove Primary School community enjoy a well-deserved rest. The last year has not been easy for any of us but the community spirit shown by all in our community continues to go from strength to strength. I also hope that all of our families continue to look after each other, take care and stay safe too.

Mental Health Resources

Nicola, our PSHE Co Ordinator, has been busy putting together resources to support all of our families. These can be found in the PSHE section of our website by going to <http://www.thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk/parents/our-curriculum/pshe/> We hope that you find them useful.

Parent Governor

We have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a Parent Governor

School Governors make a positive contribution to children's education by offering supportive challenge to help raise standards and monitor resources effectively. School Governors work as a team and come from a wide variety of backgrounds to add value to school life by offering their skills, expertise and time.

We are looking for dedicated individuals who can offer their knowledge and expertise in one or more of these areas: finance, human resources, health and safety, communications or managing premises.

If you have a passion for improving the life chances of children and can offer supportive challenge to the leadership of our school to help us to fulfil our vision, please complete and return an application form.

A discussion with the Head teacher and/or Chair of Governors would be offered to any interested parent.

Closing date for nominations is 3pm on Friday 26th February 2021.