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## 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

Just a few reminders and updates for our school community this week. Whether you are a family attending school or a family working remotely, please remember that we are here to support in whatever way we can.

### School Places- Update

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](mailto:enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk). We have had an influx of families applying for keyworker places in the past week. We must ask that both parents qualify as keyworkers. Currently, we are at full capacity in line with risk assessments but we will review the situation in the week leading up to February half term. We may have to prioritise future keyworker places if and when spaces become available.

### Remote Learning-Update

Each school is very unique in the way that they set up their vision, values, curriculum, routines etc. The offer of remote learning is also unique to the particular school too. Please see our Remote Guidance for more information [here](#) which details what we are offering at The Grove Primary School. 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 tasks. Learning tasks include: reading, writing, spelling, grammar, maths and topic work too and would usually be based on work completed during a typical school day.

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. Our offer also ensures that parents can log into Tapestry and work through the activities in the preferred order and upload these at a time convenient to you rather than log in for specific activities at specific times especially if there is more than one child in the family working remotely.

Staff are monitoring what the children are completing 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. We are also 'checking in with families' to see how things are. Please ensure you answer/return our call.

## Tapestry

We will be sending out a questionnaire (this week) to find out your thoughts about Tapestry. We have had many positive comments, so far, from our families and we thank you for your comments, queries and support too. This is new to us all and it is important, if you need further support to please get in touch.

### Mental Health Week- Staying Connected Challenge

This week from 1-7 February 2021 we will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Express Yourself.

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and doing activities that make you feel good.

It's important to remember that being able to express yourself is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2021 we will be encouraging the children (and adults) at school and at home to explore the different ways we can express ourselves so:

This week we want you to take some time to do something that you love and that makes you happy.

If you would like more information visit:

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

So here is the new Facebook challenge for this week.

1. Take a photo of your child expressing themselves or doing something that they love. A few ideas could be drawing/painting a picture, signing a song or dancing to their favourite song, writing a poem or creating some art work but you can be as creative as you want.

Or 'Dress to express'- this idea is to wear an outfit that expresses who you are. It could be wearing your favourite outfit, dressing up in fancy clothes, wearing your favourite colour, wearing a fancy dress costume, wearing a wacky outfit with crazy hair, wearing odd socks or painting your face. Please DO NOT buy anything for this just use what you already have at home.

2. Upload your photo as an observation on Tapestry calling it "Facebook challenge-Express yourself"

3. Send them to me by Friday 5th February 12:00pm and I'll share them all on Facebook/ Tapestry.

Nicola 😊

## 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.

## Half Term Project- Full Tums and Busy Bodies

You will have received a text, earlier this week, regarding a project during half term which involves cooking with your child. The idea is that we would provide a cook book/recipe cards and some of the ingredients required to cook a meal. We thought it would be a positive activity for during the holiday for parents to do with their child.

As part of the funding, we ask families to be willing to photograph their child doing this and upload it to Tapestry. We will also include some additional food items that can be used during the week.

If there isn't a meal you want to make in the pack - you can choose to make whatever you like - as long as you share with us what you have been doing.

As it will take a bit of organising and ordering, we cannot accept any further requests after the closing date of 12pm today.

Any questions or queries, please contact Rachel C. Thank you!