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## 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

Just a few pieces of information to share this week with you all. We would ask you to encourage other parents to read the newsletter that is usually sent on a weekly basis.

### Book Bags

Moving forward from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, children will be able to bring and take home their red books bags daily. We hope this will promote independence of children bringing the things they need to school and also help to promote reading as children will have their books with them every day at school and then at home on the evening.

Children will be able to also use their books bags to bring home any information, letters, jumpers daily. We would ask that parents/carers continue to only send the essentials into school which currently is: Reading Records and reading books.

The reading for pleasure books children can keep at home and then return them when they need to change them.

Staff listen to children read so it is important to remember their books bags every day.

I have added the link for the uniform if your child has misplaced their book bag below:

<https://totstoteams.com/schools/the-grove-primary-school/book-bag-41>

### Swap Shop

Our Swap Shop has many nearly new items and we would hope as the year progresses that families would request nearly new items of uniform. If you would like to make a request. Please contact Rachel C.

### Non-school Uniform Day

We will continue to hold our non- uniform days on the last Friday of the month (we will have our first one tomorrow). We would ask that parents pay £1 as we are hoping to raise funds for some new OPAL equipment.

### Behaviour Policy

We have had some parents contact us as children have lost privileges, money from their chart, time at play in line with our Behaviour Policy. Parents can read this policy [here](#) and your children should be able to tell you all about the ladder and their money chart too.

We have high expectations for behaviour and we would encourage children to make the right choices. We also encourage children to ask an adult to help them solve a problem there and then as it is sometimes difficult for children to resolve a situation themselves.

### Photographer

The School Photographer will visit school to take individual photos on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021**. This year, we are unable to accept any brothers/sisters who do not attend school due to restrictions in place due to COVID-19. Afternoon Nursery children can have their picture taken between 9.15 and 9.30am. Parents can bring their child to the hall doors and the child will be greeted by a member of staff.

### Nursery Places

Did you know that you can apply for a Nursery place when your child turns two? They will then start on the term after their third birthday. Please see <https://www.thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk/our-classes/nursery/> for admission forms and any additional information.

### School Holidays 2021/22- A slight change

In a letter sent previously this year, we include this academic year's holidays for 2021/22. I understand that some of the dates were wrong. The mistake has been rectified and you can see the new dates for holidays this year below.

Term	Start	End
Autumn 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021 (school closed from Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October until 1 <sup>st</sup> November)
Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 (school closed Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2021)
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 (school closed Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022)	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> half	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 (school closed Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April and Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022)
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> half	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 (school closed Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

The same guidelines apply for parents requesting a holiday during term time and a Leave of Absence form would need to be completed and returned to the school office. We have families request a holiday due to covid but we would like to remind parents that a family holiday is not exceptional circumstances for a leave of absence to be granted.

The Local Authority have asked us to add an additional holiday where the school will be closed to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The day that we have added is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This will mean that school closes for the summer holidays on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

### Phone Contacts

If parents/carers change their phone number or address, you must inform the school office as soon as possible. We must have contact details in the event of an accident or illness.

### 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.