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13th October 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again, we have lots of news to share about next week's events in the lead up to half-term.

Year 6 visit- Monday 16th October

Year 6 will visit Hamsterley Forest on Monday 16th October. Children will need to be prepared to learn outside for the day so may need wear a few layers and sturdy, comfortable, waterproof shoes. Children may want to take a pair of gloves and a hat in their backpack along with their packed lunch (children who have ordered a school packed lunch will receive this on Monday morning).

Harvest Festival- Monday 16th October 2023

Our Harvest Festival will take place on Monday 16th October at 10am (parents can enter through the pupil entrance from 9.50am). Each class will perform an Autumn themed song. Our Year 6 children are on a visit to Hamsterley Forest but we have been promised a recorded version so they will not miss out. We are asking for donations of tinned and packet food and we will accept donations to support families in our local community (please see information on the next page).

Year 2 History Walk- Wednesday 18th October

As part of our history work, Year 2 are looking at special places. On Wednesday 18th October Year 2 are going to do a short history walk up the railway track to the telescopes and back. They would love if their families could join them if you are available. The walk will start at school at 1pm and we will walk up to the telescopes, stop for a snack and then head back down to school.

You are welcome to come along, bringing younger siblings, prams, COFFEE! etc... They will be doing a scavenger style hunt on our walk so children will have some pictures to spot on the way and of course a prize for the children who spot everything! The walk itself is just less than two miles.

If the weather is very poor on the day, this event would be re-arranged. They aim to be back to school for 2:30/ 2:45pm.

Could you complete the attached form for your child to attend and if or someone in your family is able to come also. https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_fRWSDc02_Oo-YvfENh0o0ybH8wGpFpA1TuO-zYAFUNE82UFo3UFJBSjFGM1JEQ0hZOTg0TFIBRS4u Children will attend even if family can't come as it is part of the normal school day.

Thank you!

Parents' Evening- Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th October

Parents who requested an appointment should have received their appointment in their child's bookbag. We were inundated with requests for 3.15-3.45pm so some parents may have been given an earlier/later time. We have a small number of slots left for those parents who missed the deadline. Please contact the school office on 01207 502938 or enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk if you would like to make an appointment.

Rockstars and Robots Day- Thursday 26th October 2023

During the last week, before half-term we will be promoting TTRS and Numbots in school and would like to end the week with having a Rockstars and Robots Day (non- uniform). Children can dress as a robot or rockstar for the day as part of TTRS/Numbots week.

Attendance Week Beginning 9th October 2023

	<u>Class</u>	<u>%</u>
1 st Place	Year 3	98.8%
2 nd Place	Year 5	96.7%
3 rd Place	Year 1	96.2%
4 th Place	Year 4	95.6%
5 th Place	Year 2	94.6%
6 th Place	Year 6	92.1%
7 th Place	Reception	92.8%
8 th Place	Nursery	84.4%

Well done Year 3!

Attendance

Our attendance target is 96% for each child. We are keen to identify families who need any support with attending as often as possible. Staff continue to monitor attendance and we remind parents/carers of children attending school as much as possible.

Please remember that our register closes for Nursery at 8.45am and if your child is in Reception to Year 6 at 8.50am.

Start to the day- Entering school

We are going to trial all children from Year 1- Year 6 entering from 8.35am through the current Year 1 and Year 2 entrance from Monday 16th October. This is to free staff up to support children with reading and maths activities/interventions before the register closes.

Rewards in school and other events

Our School Council have had a busy few weeks discussing rewards in school and how to improve these. We are hoping to share these with classes and parents next week and hope to have the new rewards in place after October half term.

The School Council are also organising key events over the year and the first event will be an Autumn School Disco on Monday 13th November so save the date! It will be an after-school event and we will share additional information in next week's newsletter.

Hallowe'en Colouring Competition

Any entries for the Hallowe'en Colouring Competition can be given to class teachers. Please ensure that your child's first name and surname initial and their year group is on the back. Thank you!

OASES

We have the opportunity to work with OASES to look at how energy efficient our school is and try and improve this even further. We will have a whole school assembly on Tuesday 17th October and hope to set up an Eco group from children across the school to help us make the improvements which is very exciting!

Support for families

We try to support families as much as we can during the economic crisis. We know that we are approaching a particularly tough time of year with the weather getting colder (rising fuel bills) and Christmas. We are looking to re-establish our 'in house foodbank' to be able to help families quickly and efficiently. There is, of course, the main Foodbank up in Consett but we understand it can be a challenge for some families to get up there and back with heavy bags.

We are asking families, if possible, to donate any food items that they may have that we can redistribute to other families as and when needed. For our harvest festival this year we are asking for donations of non-perishables (tins, pasta, cereal etc.) which will be split between the Foodbank in Consett and our own in house Foodbank. Any queries please speak to Rachel C in school. Many thanks for your continued support.