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30th November 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

We have had another wonderful week in school and preparations are well underway for Christmas performances. This week's newsletter is a day early due to staff having a Professional Development Day. We hope that all our families enjoy the slightly longer weekend and look forward to seeing what you get up to via Tapestry.

Goodbye and Good Luck Tom!

Today we say goodbye to Tom who has been teaching while Sally has been on maternity leave. We wish Tom every success for the future- good luck Tom!

Swimming lessons

Swimming lessons are part of the National Curriculum and you can find the expectations here We choose to provide swimming lessons to our Year 4, 5 and 6 children and have a successful model to ensure that children reach age related expectations by the time they leave Key Stage 2. Our swimming provider will continue to be Swim Excellence through Stanley Learning Partnership.

Children are expected to attend swimming lessons even if they are not water confident as this is an aspect taught. Year 6 will finish their lessons on Wednesday 13th December (some children could continue after the holidays to help them develop their skills but we will keep parents informed).

Year 5 will swim during the Spring term (after the Christmas holidays- date to be confirmed) and Year 4 will swim during the Summer term (after the Easter holidays).

Please see <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/25939/Free-swimming-snippet> for information on Free Swimming sessions that could support your child.

Website- Class Pages

Class Pages, on our website, are in the process of being updated; please take a look. You can access your child's class page by using this link <https://www.thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk/our-classes/>

Cold/Flu season

As we are well into colds and flu season we were wondering if at all possible, families could send in any donations of tissues and or calpol/ibrufen? We are happy to administer it to children if it helps to make them more comfortable in school (with parental consent of course) but as I am sure you are aware it is not cheap - especially when you have 190 plus children! Any donation would be gratefully received.

Many thanks

OPAL Club- rest of the term

We have made the difficult decision to stop OPAL club for the rest of term due to the cold and dark evenings. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Flu Vaccinations- 5th December 2023

The immunisation team will be in school on Tuesday 5th December for those who missed out due to illness last time.

Choir- 7th December 2023

Just a reminder that the children will be singing at Tesco on THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER at 2:30pm.

If you are planning to come and support us, would you please let us know if you could help with transport from school to Tesco at 2:15pm

If you are unable to come to Tesco, could we please ask that you collect your child from Tesco at 3:30pm.

Thank you!

EYFS Nativity- 8th December 2023

As you will know it is the EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Nativity on Friday 8th December at 9:30am.

We would like to let you know that up to 4 family members can come to watch. This number is due to the space we have in the hall and so that it is not too overwhelming for the children. For anyone who can't attend we are hoping to record the dress rehearsal and share it with you on Tapestry.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Dates for the rest of term...

Date	Event
Monday 4th December	Whole School Pantomime
Thursday 7th December	Choir singing at Tesco (pm session)
Friday 8th December	last week for Autumn Enrichment Clubs
W/b Monday 11th December	last week for Autumn Enrichment Clubs
Tuesday 12th December	Y1/2 Nativity in the hall @9.30am
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 15th December	Reception Stay and Play @2pm
Monday 18th December	Christmas Party Day for all
Tuesday 19th December	Whole School Carol Concert 2.15pm (all welcome)
Tuesday 19th December (No After School Club)	School closes for Christmas holidays at 3.15pm
Wednesday 3rd January 2024	School re-opens for Spring term



Attendance w/b 27th November

	Class	%
1 st Place	Year 6	96.7%
2 nd Place	Reception	90.5%
3 rd Place	Year 3	89.5%
4 th Place	Year 4	88%
5 th Place	Year 2	87.5%
6 th Place	Year 1	82.7%
8 th Place	Nursery	81.5%

Top Table VIPs are Year 6 next week!