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8th September 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

What a fantastic, sunny first week it has been for all of us. The staff have found it very difficult to give their Headteacher Awards today and I can see why! All our new children have settled so well- it's like they have always been here! The Year 6 have been brilliant buddies to our Reception children and all children have taken new routines in their stride. We are hoping for more of the same next week and beyond.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful weekend and enjoys the sunshine.

Reception places 2024

If your child will be turning 4 years old between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024, they will start Reception in September 2024.

You must apply for their school place in NOW. Applications opened on Tuesday 5th September 2023.

Children do not automatically receive a Reception school place, even if they are already attending our nursery.

The deadline for applications is Monday 15th January 2024 and you can apply at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Year 7 places 2023

You can apply for your child's secondary place now using the link <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2192/Apply-now-for-a-secondary-school-place-deadline-31-October-2023>

Please note the deadline is the 31st October 2023.

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.

Enrichment Clubs

We have a range of clubs starting next week: Choir (Y3-6), Gymnastics (Y1, 2 and 3), Sewing (Y1-2), Football (Y3-6), OPAL (Y1-6) and TTRS/Computing (Y2,3 and 4). Parents should receive a memo to let them know which clubs they have been added to. All Enrichment Clubs will begin next week.

We will be running clubs for our Reception children later in the year to give them a chance to settle in!

Earrings

Please remember that we do not permit earrings (including clear plastic earrings) as part of our uniform policy. We would ask that parents get children's ears pierced- if they wish- in the first week of the summer holidays which begins Friday 19th July 2024. This will mean that earrings can be removed for our return to school in September.

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.

Attendance for w/b 4th September 2023

	<u>Class</u>	<u>%</u>
1st Place	Nursery Reception	100%
3 rd Place	Year 4	97.9%
4 th Place	Year 6	95.8%
5 th Place	Year 2 and 3	95.7%
7 th Place	Year 5	95.3%
8 th Place	Year 1	95.2%

Well done Nursey and Reception! Our target is 96%

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 or use this link https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_fRWSDc02_Oo-YvfENh3ZQyJwiXkNEgQaJ-izrUnVUNENPTFJMRkJRMIEzRVZOOEpDN1ZNRIZCRC4u

School Holidays 2023/24

<u>Term</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Autumn 1 st half	Tuesday 4 th September 2023	Thursday 26 th October 2023 (school closed from Friday 27th October until Monday 6th November 2023)
Autumn 2 nd half	Monday 6 th November 2023	Tuesday 19 th December 2023 (school closed Friday 1st December 2023)
Spring 1 st half	Wednesday 3 rd January 2024	Thursday 15 th February 2024 (school closed Friday 16th February 2024)
Spring 2 nd half	Monday 26 th February 2024	Thursday 28 th March 2024 (school closed Friday 29th March 2024 until Monday 15th April 2024)
Summer 1 st half	Monday 15 th April 2024	Friday 24 th May 2024 (school closed Monday 6th May 2024)
Summer 2 nd half	Tuesday 4 th June 2024 (school closed Monday 3rd June 2024)	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024

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 working patterns and different school holidays of siblings but we would like to remind parents that a family holiday is not exceptional circumstances for a leave of absence to be granted.

Walk to School link- Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children

The link to give children permission to walk home can be found [here](#) if you haven't completed it already.

Outdoor work- grounds

We are continuing to have some work done in our outdoor area to improve facilities for our children so there could be times where equipment is out of place during the next month.

Conduct on school premises

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that some parents have not conducted themselves in the best manner when dropping off/collecting their children. May I remind parents that there are always children around, in the playground, therefore consider what is said between adults as we are all role models for the children of The Grove Primary School.

You are your child's first teacher. We can only build on the foundation you have laid at home. Together we can work together to ensure that your children can become role models for the future and speak respectfully to one another.