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15th December 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

Last week, Tesco shoppers were treated to our Choir's beautiful singing. This was followed by a fantastic performance from our youngest children in Early Years on Friday- The King's Breakfast.

On Tuesday, it was the turn of Year 1 and 2 who performed The Bossy King and a perfect performance it was!

Our Christmas Lunch was served on Wednesday thanks to Lynn and Trish. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their food and everyone dressed in their Christmas Jumpers made it even more special!

Yesterday, Nicola and School Council hosted children and parents in our School Fayre. A phenomenal £510.85 was raised for School Fund.

We are so proud of all our children and we know that you will be too.

It has been a busy half term so far and lots more to come next week. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you, as parents, for supporting us throughout the year and I hope that you all have a very happy Christmas break.

Thank you to all staff and governors for their hard work, effort and dedication. It has been a short but busier, than usual, half-term and I hope that they all have a very well-deserved break.

Please continue to share your Christmas experiences, with us, via Tapestry.

Swap Shop

Our Swap Shop will be open to parents on Monday 18th (after school) and Tuesday 19th (after the Christmas Assembly) or alternatively you can make a request via enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk We have many winter coats and hope that they might be useful to some of our families.

Nursery Afternoon Session

Children who currently attend the afternoon session (15 hours) and any new January starters will have their session- in the morning- after the Christmas holidays. Parents will also receive a letter to inform them of this change. All children entitled to 30 hours will remain the same. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Events next week and some dates for 2024

I cannot believe that we are considering dates for 2024 already!

Next week

All children will have their Christmas Party on Monday 18th December. Each class will have an allocated party slot in the hall. We ask that children wear no jewellery and only flat shoes.

We hope that you can join us for the last event before Christmas which is our Christmas Assembly on Tuesday 19th December at 2.15pm. This

2024

School reopens after the Christmas holidays on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

School will be closed for a Professional Development Day on Friday 16th February 2024.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – Spring 1 2024

Staff have confirmed what after school clubs will be taking place after the holidays.

If there are any clubs that your child would like to join, please complete the Microsoft Form (link will be shared on Monday 18th via Tapestry).

Clubs will begin week beginning Monday 8th January and will run until Thursday 15th February.

Day	Club	Staff	Year Group
Tuesday	Cool Club	Nicola/Charlotte	Year 3 (first half term) Year 2 (second half)
Tuesday	Puzzle/Problems Club	Bernadette	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6
Wednesday	Sign Language	Ashleigh	Year 3,4,5 and 6 (16 places)
Wednesday	Games	Josh (Grassroots)	Year 1 and Year 2 (20 places)
Wednesday	Forest School	Lauren and Hazel	Year 5 and 6 (10 places)
Thursday	Timestables/TTRS and games	Hayley	Year 4 (no limit)

Cashless School

We are a cashless school for payments such as school dinners, school fund (non-uniform days), school photos and After School Club. **We must ask that all parents set up a ParentPay account to pay any bills as we can no longer accept cash for the items listed above.**

If you are having difficulty setting up an account, please contact the school office and we can support.

Attendance w/b 11th December 2023

	Class	%
1 st Place	Year 6	96.5%
2 nd Place	Year 3	96%
3 rd Place	Year 4	94.8%
4 th Place	Reception	93.3%
5 th Place	Year 1 and 2	92.7%
7 th Place	Nursery	88.8%
8 th Place	Year 5	86.5%

Top Table VIPs are Year 6 after the holidays!

Attendance Certificates

Our School Council have designed this term's attendance certificates.

The totals will be finalised on Tuesday and the certificates will be given out in the first week back.

Our target for each child is 96% in line with DfE expectations.

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 have finished their lessons this week (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.

PLEASE NOTE THEIR WILL BE NO WEEKLY NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK