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5th January 2024 Newsletter



Happy New Year!

We hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break, it was wonderful to welcome everyone back to 2024 on Wednesday. Thank you for sharing your Christmas experiences, with us, on Tapestry and if you haven't done so yet please do so!

Although the first week back has been a short one; it has been a busy one and I am sure that everyone will be glad of the weekend rest again.

We are finalising dates and events for this term. We hope to share these with parents next week so that you can add them to your diaries.

Dates so far:

School closed for PD day- Friday 16th February (followed by half term holiday)

School reopens- Monday 26th February (after half term)

School closes for Easter- Thursday 28th March

Entitled to Free School Meals?

If you think your child might be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact the school office and Rachel will be able to check for you.

This also applies to those children in Nursery although children do not stay for a school meal we could receive additional funding to support your child.

This also applies to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. All children are entitled to a free school lunch but a check could mean we receive additional funding for your child to support them at school.

After school clubs

You will have received a Tapestry notification regarding enrichment school clubs that will run in the Spring term from 3.15-4pm.

There are still some spaces for Year 5/6 Forest School Club and Year 4 TTRS club. If you would like to take a space, please contact us via Tapestry or the school office.

If you would like to access our After School Club (run by Debbie and Tina), the sessions are either 3-4pm, 3-4.30pm or if your child is staying for a club then you can book a session from 4-4.30pm. If you need the link to book an After School session, please contact the school office on 01207 502938 or enquiries@thegroveprimaryschool.co.uk

ParentPay

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 for last term (from September to December)

We do encourage that children are at school as often as possible and with this in mind have a target of 96%. Remember if child/ren are not in school they cannot access lessons and interventions. You also could be at risk of receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice if your child is persistently absent.

<u>Gold (100%)</u>	<u>Silver (98-99%)</u>	<u>Bronze (96-97%)</u>		
Connor B	Juliet I	Ruby W	Daisy A	Daisy S
Sophia C	Oscar O	John-Thomas W	Aurora C	Phoebe G
Kyra C	Ava A	Heidi B	Oliver J	Emily P-H
Ella S	Devon C	Lucas H	Harper L	Tyler B
Leo A	Grace L	Zach B	Skye B	Courtney-Ann F
Amelia C	Annabelle I	Logan D	Sophie C	Willow C
Jennifer N	Lucas K	Marnie H	Jack M	Jack S
Billy R	Joshua H	Milo L-N	Ella O'N	Phoebe T
Poppy D	Jack P	Mason S	Tyler- Joe S	Elsie B
Arlo W	Annia T	James T	Matthew T	Keira W
Lilly A	Jaxon T	Theodore L	Oliver H	Abel W
Phoebe A	Sophie R	Carson G	Leia N	Kaden C
Rosie D	Ben I	Olivia M	Toby B	Layton L
Kacper L	Leo R	Arabella W	Ella D	Josh S
Amelia O	Amiee W	Hannah C	Vinnie A	Belle W
Zak A	Ewan A	Heidi L	Lily-May D	Nevaeh W
Charlie D	Ted I	Lucas A	Millie R	Gabriella H-T
Harrietta L-N		Bobbi B	Kieron E	
Freddy R		Sienna C		

All of those who were above our target have received a certificate in today's Celebration assembly. These certificates were suggested and designed by School Council. Well done to all of those receiving their gold, silver and bronze certificates today!

Attendance for the week beginning 18th December and 3rd January (combined)

	<u>Class</u>	<u>%</u>
1 st Place	Year 3	94.65%
2 nd Place	Reception and Year 1	94.25%
4 th Place	Year 6	93.3%
5 th Place	Year 5	92.1%
6 th Place	Year 4	90.85%
7 th Place	Year 2	89.1%
8 th Place	Nursery	84.9%

Well done to Year 3!

Our target for each class is 96%

Attendance

Remember that it is important that your child attends school as often as possible. If your child is not in school, they are missing out on vital learning.

If your child is sick/unwell or has an appointment, you must contact the school office.

There has been an increasing number of parents requesting holidays during term time. Remember that Leave of Absences are only granted in exceptional circumstances (usually a once off occasion that is seen as exceptional).

Reception places

Just a reminder that 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 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. Individual schools have no part in this process and you must apply through Durham County Council.

The deadline for applications is Monday 15th January 2024. If you miss the deadline your child may not receive a place at your preferred school.