

## The Grove Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

We have had quite a week in school, with a significant number of children and staff absent with various different illnesses. The viral colds we have seen in previous years seem to be far more difficult to shake this year. On Monday we had 196/229 children in school and two class teachers absent. Today we have 194/229 in school and four class teachers away. To make things even more challenging, it is incredibly difficult to find any supply teachers at the moment as the demand is so high across many local schools.

We have also had an "outbreak" of Covid-19 in one of our classes. This means that we have reached the threshold of 5 cases in a class. The local authority has instructed me to create a "ring fenced" class until the end of next Friday. This means the class work as a bubble, which is the system we had in place last year. There isn't anything else we need to do as a school or a community. The advisor I spoke to was clear that we were doing everything we should be. I would like to thank you all again for being so proactive and getting PCR tests when you see any of the symptoms in your family.

On a more positive note, Y5/6 had an amazing time at Stibbington last week. I had a lovely message saying how amazing they had all been and that they had been a pleasure to work with during the day. The children's costumes were superb – thank you for supplying these.

We have 39 children out this morning taking on a cross country challenge. As it is drizzling, I suspect that the course might be even muddier than we anticipated. It is so good to see children heading out on these trips again.

With only three weeks of term left, we start to think about Christmas. We will be making decorations in our classes next Friday and then the staff will be hanging them up once all the children have gone home. Miss Owen has the Christmas play written and the casting is almost complete. Once it is filmed and edited, we will be sending out a link to you all.

We will be having two Christmas Lunch days again this year. On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have their lunch and they are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on that day. Years 3 – 6 will have their lunch on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December and may wear their Christmas jumper then. Please read the letter that was sent out on email earlier in the week about these lunch days and sign your child up via Pay360.

You may have noticed a new face on the Community Door in the mornings. Miss Horne has joined us on a placement from the University of East Anglia where is she training to be a Social Worker. As part of her training, she undertakes a placement with the school's pastoral team. Like Mrs Benson, she will be working with individuals and groups of children. If your child is to be offered pastoral support, you will be contacted as usual.

Have a good weekend,

Miss Shaw



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## **After School Clubs and Activities at The Grove**

In the past, pre-Covid, we have always been pleased to be able to offer a variety of after school / extra-curricular clubs to the children.

We know that many children are keen to participate in these again.

Covid restrictions allowing, we are excited to be able to offer clubs again starting from January. Please look out for more details nearer the time!



## **The Grove Newsletter**



Rosettes at achievement assembly were presented to:

Friday 26th November

Toucan: Ríley-Jay, Summer

Hummingbird: Amirah, Matthias

Woodpecker: Sahír, Nancy

Flamingo: Julia, Donato

Kookaburra: T'Ella, Nadía

Ostrich: Sienna, Jheneah

Wren: Aalmiah, Duru

Gosling: Haleema, Marcel