



Thursday 22nd October 2020

The Grove Valer

Half-Term

Happy half term!

I simply cannot thank you enough for your continued support over a very challenging first half term. As a school community we have embraced the 'new normal' very well, children and staff have been exceptional at following our new procedures and have strictly kept within their bubble groups. The vast majority of parents have adhered to our new systems for drop off and collection which has helped greatly, thank you. Our attendance in school is 97% for both pupils and staff which I am sure you will agree is brilliant considering the local and national picture.

I must add however that if a child, parent or sibling has developed symptoms, you as parents have been incredibly pro-active and have kept your child/ren off school until a negative test result has come back and have been very supportive if your child has been sent home with symptoms. These supportive and pro-active measures have had a positive impact in school, thank you. Combined with planned, strict and monitored safety procedures in school and staff/pupil compliance, I am pleased that we have not sent home any bubbles so far.

Yesterday we had a **Health and Safety Executive Covid-19 spot check inspection**, we are very proud to report that the inspectors applauded the school for our stringent, detailed and thorough safety measures and we were told that we are doing a great job in safeguarding our staff, children and community under very challenging circumstances. The information provided and the walk around the site successfully demonstrated how we are doing this.

We face another tough half term from Monday 2nd November and at some point it is likely we will need to send bubbles home for isolation irrespective of the solid safety procedures we have in place. Please be assured that our remote learning plan is active (please see the website) to ensure your child has an opportunity to learn from home.

Finally, thank you for all the positive feedback during parents evening. 93% of parents had a phone call from the class teacher to discuss their child's progress since September. Everyone has adjusted well to a new way of communicating.

I must extend a special thanks to all of the staff for being so hardworking, committed and diligent, this is especially important in the current climate. Teaching longer sessions limited to bubbles with less breaks and more dinner duties and in some cases covering absence is very difficult. I appreciate and value each and every member of staff both individually and collectively,
thank you.

I hope you all have restful half term, we look forward to Autumn 2.

Mrs Connop

Children In Need

On Friday 13th November it is BBC Children In Need. At Grove Vale School we take pride in supporting this worthwhile fund-raising event. On this day the children can come into school in non-school uniform and we will be asking the children to wear as many spotty items as possible. We will also be asking for a donation of £1 from the children who choose to wear their own clothes. We hope you will all support this day and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Year 3 Timezone

The Timezone visit for year 3 has been postponed until Monday 2nd November. Thank you to all the parents who have contributed payments towards the visit. If you haven't already contributed, can you do so before the visit please. Thank you.



Arrival Times

All Junior children's arrival time will return to normal and will be **8.35am-8.45am**
Infant arrival time will remain the same at 8.40am-8.50am.

Collection Times

Pick up time for **Year 1 will be 3.20pm** instead of 3.10pm, **Year 2 will be 3.25pm** instead of 3.20pm and **Reception will remain at 3.30pm**

Year 3 will be collected at 3.30pm instead of 3.15pm and will be dismissed with Year 6.

Year 4 will remain at 3.20pm and Year 5 will remain at 3.25pm. Our aim is for Year 4 and 5 to be dismissed at the same time however we are going to observe how it works with Year 3 and 6 in the first instance.

Swimming

We aim to start swimming lessons again with Year 5 and 6 only after half term. Year 5 will swim on a Wednesday and Year 6 will swim on a Friday. We will closely monitor the situation and make a firm decision on Monday 2nd November. Our risk assessment will be available on the website once swimming lessons have been confirmed.

Reception Diwali Day

Reception will be celebrating Diwali by having a Diwali Day on the 13th November. Children will be taking part in a Diwali dance session with a professional choreographer via zoom. They will also take part in cooking and some craft activities. Children can come in their party clothes and bring a small snack for our Diwali party.

Training Day

Tomorrow Friday 23rd October is a training day. Children will not be in school that day.



Application for Secondary Schools

The deadline for applying for a secondary school place is Saturday 31st October. Please follow the link to apply:

[https://
www.sandwell.gov.uk/
info/200303/
school_admissions/349/
apply_for_a_school_place](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200303/school_admissions/349/apply_for_a_school_place)

Deadline for Christmas Cards

The deadline for returning Christmas card orders to school is 4th November.

Catch-Up Sessions

Catch up sessions have been organised for targeted pupils after a period of assessment, these will begin after half term after school. There will be more opportunities for catch up as the year progresses.

Christmas

It is with great sadness that we will be unable to invite you into school to watch a Christmas performance this year. We will however ensure that the children still have a memorable and wonderful time.

23rd October	Training Day
26th-30th October	Half term
5th November	Flu Nasal Spray
13th November	Children In Need
13th November	Reception Diwali Day
23rd-30th November	Book Fair
18th December	Break up for Christmas holidays
4th January	Return to school

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2020:

Training Day: Fri 23rd Oct

Half Term: Mon 26th Oct-Fri 30th Oct.

Term Ends: Fri 18th Dec

Spring Term 2021

School Starts: Mon 4th Jan

Training Day: Fri 12th Feb

Half Term: Mon 15th Feb—Fri 19th Feb

Term Ends: Wed 31st March

Training Day: Thur 1st April

Summer Term 2021

School Starts: Mon 19th April

Bank Holiday: Mon 3rd May

Half Term: 31st May-4th June

Training Day: Mon 28th June

Term Ends: Wed 21st July

