

### Dear Parents and Carers,

How are you? I have been thinking of you and your families. I am personally finding this lockdown a little harder to manage than the last especially because of the shorter days and cold, frosty, wet weather which makes it more difficult to get outdoors. Even so, I am positive and keep reminding myself that things are getting better. There is light at the end of tunnel.

Be kind to yourself and take a moment to pause to listen to this poem.  
<https://youtu.be/jc0ON-Slow4>

*Mrs Sonia Taylor*



## REMINDERS & NOTICES

### Children's Mental Health Week 1 – 7 February 2021

We understand that education is not just about academic progress but it is also about the holistic development of the students.

To acknowledge children's mental health week on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> we will hold a 'Press Pause Day', where we will be encouraging all students to have a screen free day.

Watch out - next week we will send out a list of activities to enhance student's holistic development away from their screens.



### Supporting you whilst your child studies at home

We know that working from home and wanting to do the best for your child's education can be stressful. Please don't think that you're on your own with this: you may have seen a recent article on the BBC confirming that you certainly are not on your own.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55707322>

Guide Education are offering free video course resources to 'give you the tools to make home learning seriously fun'. You can find the resources here and as you can see from the testimonial; they are high quality and you can access them whenever is convenient for you.

<https://www.guideeducation.co.uk/parentsupporttopics>

### Support for SEND Students

Supporting our SEND students remains a key priority at The Grove School. It is very important to us, that there are high levels of support for SEND students in school and for remote learning.

If there is any support that we could offer linked to remote learning (that we aren't already), then please contact Mrs Nutting, Director of SEND and Inclusions [Gwen.Nutting@groveschool.net](mailto:Gwen.Nutting@groveschool.net) or Mrs Allison Stevenson, Deputy SENCo [Allison.Stevenson@groveschool.net](mailto:Allison.Stevenson@groveschool.net)

### School Mascot

Before Christmas, we asked the students to come up with ideas of what mascot we should have to represent the school and our community.

Some ideas that were generated, included a yogurt pot (for our local company Muller), a damson (for the history of Damson harvesting), a gingerbread person (for the local famous gingerbread) and even a seagull (they certainly appear as a mascot at lunchtime).

Last week we put out a simple vote to the staff and students to choose one of ideas, plus others to be our mascot.

The wait is over, the votes are in and the have been counted and verified, and our new mascot will be... the gingerbread person!

It will be now set to the student body to design our mascot to incorporate our vision and values at The Grove School and how we can use the mascot to represent us.

### Reading Apps for audio/talking books. PART 1

Reading is good for our mental health; it can help to take us to places we might never see and ignite our imagination. We love a relaxing audio book by the pool! Remember those days!

The SEND and Inclusions Team have pulled together a small list of apps and websites that are currently advertising audio/talking books and we will share a few more next week.

[Oxford Owl](#) - All our eBooks are tablet-friendly. Just register or log in above to start reading.

[BBC Sounds](#) – audio books download the app for audio books

[RNIB Talking Books](#) - Our Talking Books service is free. Giving you access to over 32,000 fiction and non fiction books for adults and children.

Audio books on iTunes

[Hoopla](#) - Hoopla is a ground-breaking digital media service offered by your local public library that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone.



### February Inset Day

**22 February 2021** is **NO LONGER** an INSET day. Students are expected to continue with their remote learning unless the school is fully reopened by then

## FOCUS



### #WakeUpWednesday

This is produced by National Online Safety each week to keep parents and carers informed about all the different apps, games, devices and online risks to be aware of. Have you signed up yet? Follow the link below to sign up for free or download the app.

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/the-grove-school-college>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view our upcoming events. Events at a glance:

- **Options Evening**, 2 February.
- **Sixth Form Interviews**, 2 February.
- **Local Governing Body Meeting** 2 February
- **Half Term**, 15 – 19 February

Click [here](#) to view our term dates.



## NEWS

Click [here](#) to view our latest news articles.

Why not also follow us on Facebook [@GroveSchoolShropshire](#) for a wealth of content, from student, staff and school celebrations, to competitions. We encourage you to get interactive with our posts!

To hear about news from across the Trust, why not also follow [@MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

