



Where Children Come First

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Hello all

Tomorrow, we start the academic year 2022-2023 - welcome back to school gang! For all our new families and students, I want to offer a special welcome to The Grange family; it must be a bit overwhelming and daunting for you right now; be rest assured, everything will be fine.

I hope that you have enjoyed a wonderful summer break and hope you are ready and raring to go tomorrow. We have had three INSET days here with loads of training and preparation to ensure an epic year at The Grange. The old girl looks in great shape – she's been painting on the outside and the FS toilets have been refurbished. Mr Taylor has been hard at it to get us ship-shape.

IMPORTANT HOUSEKEEPING UPDATES:

- Morning drop-off - The school gates will open a tad earlier at **0825** and will shut at **0840**. **Doors open at 0830 and shut at 0840**. As usual, you are required to use the car park walkway to enter the school site unless you have a mobility issue or are registered 'Disabled' - access onto the school site will be at the drop off point if this is the case. Children accessing the school site independently will come through their usual entrance on the left as you enter school. A member of staff will be on the gate if you need anything and to see students into site. The route around the school site will remain the same with KS2 parents able to 'about turn' when they have dropped off. KS1 and Foundation parents will go around the school building and leave the site past Chasewell Community Centre. We need drop off to be prompt. **Registers will close at 0845 and the first teaching session or assembly will begin at 0850**.
- **15.15: At pick up**, gates will open at 1510 and all students will be released at **1515**. You will be required to queue in the pedestrian walkway. You can come onto site a tad earlier to wait to pick up at the classroom door if you so wish. If you have given permission for your children to wait at the Drop Off point, they will be escorted there, and staff members will ensure safe handover. KS2 students who have received permission - via the 'School Office' to walk home, will be released from the relevant doors/areas.

It feels good to not have COVID restrictions to consider this academic year. We will continue to sanitise hands and monitor poorly students - and act appropriately if a student/staff member shows symptoms. We must avoid swathes of students and staff coming down with it for obvious reasons.

This year, **Attendance** is a massive priority - to be blunt, both the Local Authority, DfE and Ofsted will be breathing down my back big-time, to ensure and sustain whole school attendance of 95% and above. Attendance was obviously negatively impacted by COVID – as a result, going forward, sustained and successful school recovery and your child's progress and attainment depends on outstanding attendance. One must not overlook the importance of regular attendance on your child's well-being and friendships also. I am looking for a steady 96% or above throughout the year. If your child's attendance falls below 95%, you will receive an alert from school, and I will also discuss your child's absence with you when the below 95% flag alerts me. No authorisation will be given for holiday time during term time. Special Leave requests will of course be considered as per policy.

This year is going to be tough on many families in our community. Financial pressures are afoot, and things are looking bleak for many. People are having to work long hours, fight hard for commission and cope on low income. Household budgets are going to take a pummelling and the school budget is under immense pressure. With that in mind, it is important that we all move forward in a positive and supportive way - I think it's going to be a case of 'one day at a time'. With fuel costs rising the way they are, we are in for a very lean and challenging time. Because of



this, we will run our own food bank and distribute as and when we need to. Please send in what you can with your child (avoid fresh goods).

Second hand school uniform is available on request from the School Office and we will make available, once a term, a rail of range of uniform that you can access outside school (if you have any uniform that is too small etc and is in good condition, please donate to school).

We have a large cohort of new staff this year. Welcome all – you already have had an impact; fabulous start.

Teachers:

- Miss Quinn (Year 4) and Miss Eeles (Year 1/2)

Teaching Assistants:

- Foundation Stage - Miss Tustain and Ms Keyte
- KS1 – Ms Meikle
- LKS2 – Miss Melcher
- UKS2 – Ms White; Mrs Kutner Shirley; Miss Weaver
- HSCLW – Mrs Clarke

Dates coming up in September....

6th September: Year 6 PGL Residential (all week)

6th September: Footy Kids Taster Day

16th September: KS1 Library visit

19th September: School Photos; Mental Health Support Team whole school assembly, KS2 parent meet & Greet

21st September: School Photos; KS1 parent meet and greet

23rd September: The Grange House X Country Festival

27th September: RWI and MMS Workshop for Foundation Stage parents/carers.

29th September: NOSSP KS2 X Country @WPA

READ, READ, READ, READ, READ: Reading continues to be one of the most important aspects of your child's learning. Now, more than ever, we need to focus our attention on supporting our children with their reading at home and in school. We will also be working on improving vocabulary and spelling this year. Please ensure that your child reads at home everyday and your child's Reading Record is completed. Reading Records will be needed in school every day. **Thank you to our PTFA yet again** for purchasing more new titles for our students across school. The ORT Level 18 and above extended reading books are going to be very popular.

Councillors and Ambassadors: The week of 19th September will see elections and appointments – exciting!

The Grange Way is at the heart of our school, it is the glue, and it is the moral compass. Therefore, is incumbent upon us all to show it and mean it – I cannot wait to see it in action tomorrow. On Fridays, I will continue to remind our students of the Friday Five:

- Read, read, read, read, read;
- Be active;
- Tell someone close to you that you love them and mean it;
- Stay Safe;
- Show The Grange Way.

That's all for now. Early bed tonight please, and we'll see you in the morning.

Kind Regards,

Ms Boswell
Headteacher

