



*Where Children Come First*

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Hello all,

It's been a successful first week of term that has had a real sense of school life as we knew it (pre-March 2020) returning with alacrity. Staff have the bit between their teeth to ensure that we broaden the cultural capital experiences for our children and to promote fully, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural skills, knowledge and understanding – paramount after Covid life and during these uncertain times.

**Year 3 / 4** proved themselves as warriors on their tramp to Crouch Hill earlier this week – staff were thrilled with their energy levels and enthusiasm; well done kids.

**As for yesterday's World Book Day;** fabulous! Well done to you all for such creative costumes. Seeing the hall filled with moles, foxes, horses, boys and cakes was uplifting. Most impressive though, were the children's responses to the book, their understanding of its themes and the recognition of how they could apply their learning to their own lives and The Grange Way – I was brought to tears several times by their responses – clever kids indeed. It was lovely to hear how popular the book is at home with parents too and I enjoyed hearing the children talk about reading it with you at home. Thank you. Our Reading Ambassadors judged George, Patryck, Bethany and Holly as phase fancy dress champions with Nathan, taking overall prize. Congratulations!

**Outstanding Attendance** is crucial going forward as the pace of learning is rigorous and missing days through absence hinders and impedes progress. Obviously, Covid is still omnipresent and absence from school will be needed if your child tests positive. We have many absences making today's attendance very low at 87%; this is unprecedentedly dreadful. The overall week's attendance is 95% - which I'm happy about; thank you.

**Treacherous driving and too much parking in Avocet Way** has caused two car collisions this week – one was a hit and run for poor Ms Hill. Park away from Avocet Way to allow for a clear access and exit to school. Our poor neighbours are at their wit's end too.

**Staffing:** Teresa Rowe is no longer employed at The Grange. We are on the lookout for another Higher-Level Teaching Assistant to replace her. Mrs Cropper has officially become Wrap Around Leader in the evenings.

**Read, Read, Read, Read, Read** – the Reading Journals that I have seen this week are a mixed bag; many are impressive, showing so much reading and collaboration between school and home. Others are looking rather neglected and skimpy. I want us all to have a whole-school concerted push to promote quality reading experiences and book talk.

**Bookings for school meals and wrap around care** must be made by Wednesday evening for the following week. It has been agreed by governors that late Wrap Around Bookings for mornings/evenings will have a late-booking surcharge of **£1.00 per child as of next term**. The terms of this are for any bookings made after midnight the Wednesday before. The reason for this surcharge is to help cover staffing costs because when we have late bookings staff/pupil ratios are affected and we have to allocate extra staff. You can book both lunches and WAC a term or more in advance. **You can still make changes to both bookings (e.g.,**



**cancellations) across the term up until the Wednesday night.** Please speak to the office if you need clarification.

As the poet WB Yeats wrote: **“It’s not the filling of the bucket, it’s the lighting of the fire.”** This coming term is jam-packed with staff training and school trips. We have a full offer of clubs going on, sporting events, Science Week, whole school Think Tank trip, Make Me Smile Day, information evenings/workshops, Shakespeare Day and Assessment Week to squeeze in before Easter. I am sure that our PTFA will have some Easter egg-action planned for too. As well as that, the clocks will spring forward! Look out for the dates on Parent Hub. This term’s curriculum maps based on our whole school theme **‘Universe’** will be sent to you and available on the website today.

**Bookfair:** Don’t forget that the Bookfair is here until Monday after school.

**Congratulations** and many thanks to our ‘creative and entrepreneurial’ Issy, who has raised an amazing £100 towards for the Ashfield Trust. Issy spent her half term holiday processing orders, making bracelets and selling them to her friends and family. She set up her own order book to keep track of the bespoke designs and was supported by her mum who took care of the marketing. Issy spent her pocket money on buying the beads and was amazed by their popularity. Mrs Barratt and Mark would like to say an extra special ‘thank you’ to Issy and her family.

Grange Way through and through!



Do have a fabulous weekend all; enjoy some quality down-time whilst remembering the Friday 5: Read, Read, Read, Read, Read; keep active, show The Grange Way; stay safe and tell someone close to you that you love them.

Thank you again for a brilliant World Book Day.

Kind Regards

Ms Boswell

