

26.3.21

# Grange First Weekly News



## Year 4 Residential

We were all devastated to hear that Hawkhurst had been cancelled but we were determined to organise something else for our Year 4 children. Here is the news you've all been waiting for!

Year 4,

You are all invited to attend a full day, evening and night of adventure with your classmates!

**Time:** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Place:** Grange First School and a woodland area a short walk away from school

**Activities:** orienteering, soft archery, fire lighting, backwards cooking, assault course, campfire songs, a water battle...

**Food:** pizza and chips for tea, hot chocolate around the campfire at night, a cooked breakfast and cereal for breakfast and plenty of snacks to keep us going throughout the day.

**Overnight accommodation:** We will set up camp on the school field! We will provide you with a 2 man tent to sleep in so all you need is your sleeping bag and either a blanket or camping mat to sleep on.

**Cost:** £50 per child



I will send home more details next week but wanted you all to know that we have something booked and in the diary as soon as possible.

## Street Schools

You may have read something about Grange First School being part of a project called Street Schools in the media. I haven't read the article but understand that it is very misleading. Firstly, they have called us Grange Park not Grange First! I had a meeting a few weeks ago to discuss concerns already raised with the council by Mr Ward about traffic pollution, congestion and safety outside the school gates at drop off and pick up times. I expressed an interest in making our entrance to school a safer place for our pupils at these key times. I have not agreed to have the street closed to traffic or anything else. This was an initial meeting and there will be a period of consultation with parents and residents before any decisions are made or any agreement is signed. Apologies if this article has alarmed anyone; I am not impressed by the way it has been reported.

## Lateral Flow Tests

Like staff in school, some of you are now self-testing for COVID-19 at home using LFDs because you are key workers or cannot work from home. Adults are also eligible to LFD tests if they are parents or carers of school aged children. I know several of you have accessed these from the test centre at Newcastle Great Park.

While LFDs are very useful in identifying cases in people who are asymptomatic (do not have any COVID symptoms), they are not as accurate as a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. PCR tests are those which are available at a test centre or through the post but are analysed in a lab and the results sent to you about 24 hours later. Regular use of LFDs in asymptomatic people will, in most cases, identify people who are unknowingly infected and so can help stop transmission. However, LFD tests will not pick up every positive case and so a negative result cannot be relied upon to rule out COVID-19 infection. Therefore, **if you or anyone in your household has any symptoms of COVID-19, you will need to book a PCR test through a test centre and then wait for the result to be sent to you.** This is the same for the staff at work; we are all self-testing with LFDs twice a week, but if we have symptoms, we must book a PCR test and wait for the result, regardless of what the LFD test tells us. We are also maintaining all of the other measures which are in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 as these continue to be crucial in keeping everyone safe.

## PTFA

There is a PTFA Zoom meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm. Please send me an email if you would like to attend this meeting. I will send out Zoom invites on Monday. We are looking forward to being imaginative and thinking of ways we can still raise money, despite the Covid restrictions.

## Red Nose Day

We had great fun celebrating Red Nose Day in school. We raised a fabulous £248.80 on Thank you so much for your generous donations and we know many of you chose to online. Breaking news: Super Tato eventually tracked down and captured Evil Pea. He in the boiler room! He has been banished from Grange First School so we are safe once



the day. donate was hiding again!

## Sing Up!

This term, some of our children in school have been learning sign language and songs as part of Music Partnership North's Big Sign and Sing for Sign Language Week. Last week, Year 2 took part in a zoom session where they got to enjoy performances from other schools.

## Certificate Winners

Oak: Tae, Laila

Beech: Paramveer, Lily W

Silver Birch: Thomas, Chester

Hawthorn: Lana, Scarlett

Hazel: Ollie, Ava

Juniper: Paige, James S

Sycamore: Joe, Elsa

Willow: Lucy, Phoebe

Elm: Tyler, Isa

Maple: Amy, Lilly

## School Photographs



The photographer came in to school this week and photographed everyone from the cook, to our office staff, to Mr Mitchell and of course our children! He will send these back to us straight after the Easter holidays so that you can place your orders.

We have also talked to him about producing a class photo of our Year 4 children before they leave us at the end of the summer term.

## Easter Holidays

Next week is the last week of the spring term. We break up at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> April and return to school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Chill Out is running holidays if you need child care.



day on Thursday throughout the