

16.07.21

# Grange First Weekly News



Dear families

## Parent Survey

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1FHki3M0o02ISREa1fQVaz1xpf3TbytDv8d1e47NnbRUNIM0UFcxR1MxNUw2UIVCQig3NUPaUEVJVy4u>

Thank you to everyone who has already completed our parent survey. We currently have 115 responses which is great but I would really appreciate it if more of you could take a few minutes to complete the online survey. I am keen to find out what you think we are doing well and what we could do moving forward to make Grange even better. In September, I will publish the results of the survey and tell you how we intend to respond to any issues raised.

## Covid – changes from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July

This has been another very challenging week in school. I have had to send both reception classes home to self isolate and a significant number of pupils in Sycamore Class. There are also several members of staff self isolating (myself included) because we have been identified as close contacts to positive cases in school. The picture is similar in every other school I speak to but it is not the way we wanted to end this academic year at Grange. If your child is at home self isolating, work is set daily on Tapestry or Seesaw and staff respond to any work uploaded at the end of the teaching day. We have Chrome books in school if anyone needs a device to help with home learning.

Up until Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, I am required to identify close contacts of positive cases and ask them to self isolate for 10 days even though this will go past the 19<sup>th</sup>. This is the advice of Public Health England. From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> however, I will no longer need to identify close contacts. I will send symptomatic pupils home, but Test and Trace will pick up the close contact tracing. For more details about this, please read the email I sent last night from Newcastle Public Health Team.

We will continue with our current measures in school regarding hand washing, class bubbles, seating plans etc. next week. The rates in Newcastle are very high and nobody wants to be unwell or isolating in the first week of their holidays. I would encourage all parents to continue wearing a mask on the school yard at drop off and pick up times. Our yard is very busy and it is impossible to maintain social distancing at all times.

## Physical Week

Our children have all had tremendous fun taking part in Grange Physical Week. I was so sorry to miss this due to self isolating as I was looking forward to joining in with many of the events with the children. A huge thank you to Miss Graham for organising the week and to all the staff for their enthusiasm and hard work over the week. Even Mrs Taylor, our school business manager, had to leave her desk to help with the cross country event on Wednesday. I think she enjoyed the break from spreadsheets and invoices! We have some fabulous runners at Grange and Miss Graham has



asked me to publish our fastest winners from each year group. I can't wait until we can start a Running Club at Grange; hopefully we will be able to do this in September.

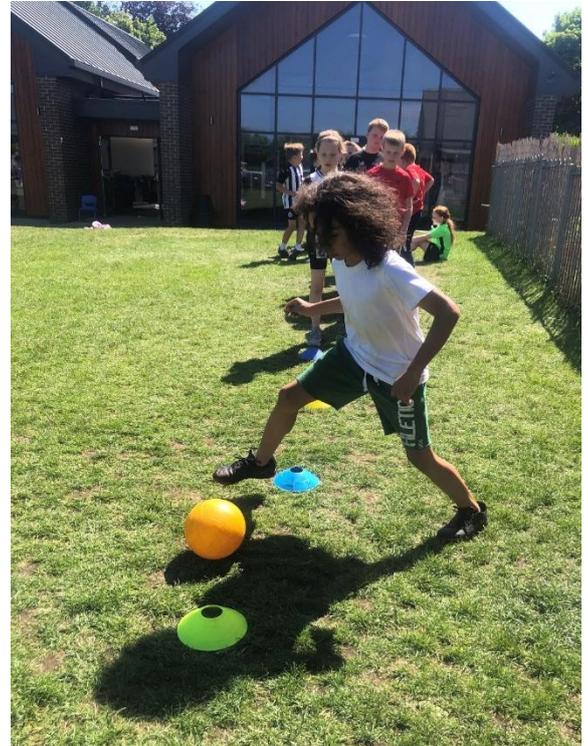
Year 1 - Leon C

Year 2 - Daniel H

Year 3 - Finley

Year 4 - James W

Well done to our fastest runners and to everyone who has taken part with so much enthusiasm this week. I loved the skipping workshop on Monday. I'm going to do some



skipping each day while I have to self isolate at home. Here are a couple of photographs from the week but there will be a full report and plenty more photos going on the school website next week for you to enjoy looking at.

### **Dates for 2021-22**

I have attached a copy of holiday and term dates for next academic year. Additional dates for your diary are:

Training days: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

There will also be an additional days holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### **PTFA Sponsored Bounce**

Every child that returns their sponsor form to school will be added into a raffle with a chance to win a free family portrait sitting at Michelle Fowler Photography Ltd & receive an 8-inch presentation print.

The raffle will be drawn on the afternoon of 22<sup>nd</sup> July. If your child would like to be in with a chance of winning, please can you return all sponsor forms & sponsor money to school by the morning of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Thank you and good luck!

### **Transition to new classes**

Transition was planned to take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July. However, due to the large number of staff and pupils who will still be self isolating on this day, I have rescheduled this to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Pupils will spend half an hour with their new teacher outside sharing a book and talking about what things will be like when they move up a year. Children often have lots of questions to fire at their new teacher! This is not what we had planned originally but given the high number of cases it is the safe way to manage the event. Mr MacDermott will be in school on Thursday to meet his new Year 4 class and will also be in school on Friday.

Nursery are having their transition on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July when their part time children are in school and reception classes will visit their new Year 1 teachers when they return to school on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will try our very best to include any child who is self isolating and therefore misses the transition event. We are all used to meeting virtually now.

### **Safeguarding**

I received an email from the Detective Sergeant on the Northumbria Police Prevent Team who has asked me to send you the following information:

*Attached is a digital leaflet designed specifically for parents, guardians, family and friends. We're using it to encourage the public to access information about Prevent via various pathways including ACT EARLY <https://actearly.uk/>.*

*ACT EARLY is a website designed for the public, to inform and encourage them to make Prevent referrals if they have worries about their children, family or friends.*

*We're seeing a rise in Prevent referrals, particularly from schools, which is a positive thing as it means more professionals are recognising this crucial safeguarding concern and therefore more young vulnerable people are being diverted into positive pathways.*

*We're really keen to encourage parents, guardians etc. to learn about Prevent and to feel empowered to make referrals themselves.*

### **And finally.....**

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend enjoying the glorious sunshine that is forecast. I'm looking forward to a BBQ in my back yard!

I will be checking my email account regularly over the weekend so please remember to contact me immediately if you have any questions or concerns around Covid.

Take care and stay safe

Mrs Clougher