

12.3.21

Grange First Weekly News



Welcome back to Grange everyone!

It has been wonderful to hear classrooms and playgrounds full of children talking, laughing and learning once more. The children have all returned with smiles on their faces and have settled straight back into their daily routines. They've particularly enjoyed seeing all their friends again. The staff have all loved having full classes and I've finally met everyone. It will take me a while to know every child and parent but I will in time. I suspect children and staff will all be tired when it gets to home time tonight after a full week back at school!



Food glorious food!

We invited all children to stay for school dinners this week. This means each year group has a 20 minute slot in the dinner hall to eat their lunch. The lunch supervisors have worked hard to manage this new system and the children have all done brilliantly. They have had time to eat their lunch without feeling rushed and we have been able to make provision for individual children who are slightly slower eaters to have a bit longer in the hall. I have worked at 5 schools and I can definitely say that the lunches at Grange are by far the best school dinners I've ever seen. I can't wait until Covid restrictions are over so I can actually sit down with the children and enjoy them!

Children in Year 3 and 4 can bring a piece of fruit to eat as a mid morning snack. This will help stop their tummies from rumbling as lunch isn't until 1pm!

Learning

The focus this week has been to settle the children back in to the routine of lessons and school life and to have time to socialise with their friends. We have also begun assessing where the children are in terms of their learning particularly with maths, reading and writing. This will continue next week so we can identify where the gaps are, what support individual children need and what we need to teach next. The government have given each school a sum of money called 'Catch up Funding'. We will use this money next term to deliver interventions and to purchase learning resources. As ever, we will continue to make lessons as exciting and engaging as we can. For the next 3 weeks, topic work will focus on the following themes:

Nursery: Growing

Reception: Fairy Tales

Year 1: Subjects won't be taught through a topic but there will be lots of exciting science investigations and design technology lessons

Year 2: Fire Fire!

Year 3: Rise of the Robots

Year 4: Egyptians



Homework

You are used to a half term homework sheet where you can pick which task to complete each week. These will be used again after the Easter holiday. For the next 3 weeks, children from Reception to Year 4 will be asked to read daily (please remember to complete the home reading diary) and to complete a number and phonic/spelling task. These tasks will be set on Tapestry or Seesaw.

School uniform

All children should wear school uniform. We appreciate that many of our children have grown and no longer fit into their uniform. Uniform can still be purchased from Ciel Uniform Shop online. It can be collected free of charge from their shop on the High Street or from Fairmans Pharmacy on Benton Road. They will deliver too but there is a charge for this.

If anyone has any old uniform that their child has grown out of and is still in good condition, please could they hand it to me on the yard or drop it at the school office. We can then donate this to other families.

On P.E. days, children should come to school in their Grange PE t-shirt and school sweatshirt and dark coloured joggers/leggings and trainers.

Drop off and pick up

We have staggered the start and end times of the school day to avoid the yard becoming too busy. We are all getting used to the new times and the one way system. Thank you for all your efforts to follow these new procedures and for wearing face masks. Things seem to be settling down and it felt a lot better on the yard this morning. Please remember not to arrive early and stand around in the school yard chatting to other families as this makes it difficult for other families to socially distance. Year 1 are the first children to start at 8.45am so no one should be arriving before 8.45am in the morning. If you are a parent of a Year 3 or 4 child, please stand to one side so that the driveway isn't blocked.

If you have a sibling with an earlier start or finish time, we will let you drop off or pick up your other sibling at this time to avoid you having to wait around on the yard.

Lateral flow tests

All adults in households with school age children, and their childcare support bubbles, are now eligible for lateral flow testing. These tests can be carried out at a local test site, by collecting a home test kit from a test site (Great Park is our nearest one) or by ordering a home test kit online. You can find more information at

[Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

Red Nose Day

Next Friday (19th March) is Comic Relief and after a strange year, we're in need of a giggle!

To raise money we are having a dress as a superhero/wear something red day.

Please do not feel you need to go out and buy something. There are lots of ways to make superhero costumes from bits and bobs around the house. Sometimes the more home made the better and you can have fun while doing it! A pair of (clean!) pants over some trousers or leggings, a bed sheet/pillow case or old t-shirt cape! There are lots of ideas online!

We are suggesting an optional donation of £1, which your child can hand in on their way in to school or donate online (<https://donation.comicrelief.com/>). We understand circumstances are especially difficult this year so do not feel obliged to do so.

Throughout the day, we will be doing lots of fun activities in school!

Miss Tutt



Nursery Places

We still have a few places left in our nursery for September 2021. If you know anyone who would like a place, please remind them that the closing date for applications is March 19th