

31.3.21

Grange First Weekly News



Dear families

I hope you have all enjoyed your telephone parent evening appointments this week. The staff have valued the time to talk with you about your child's progress and attainment. You should be very proud of how quickly your children have settled back into school life and how hard they are all working. Next term, we will focus on teaching the key mathematical and literacy skills and concepts that are required before they move on to their next year group. However, we will also ensure our curriculum offer is broad and balanced; children will still be taught art, science, history, geography, music, Spanish, design technology, R.E., games, gymnastics, dance and PSHE on a regular basis. More information will be sent home at the start of next term about the work that is being covered in school. During the Easter holidays, there won't be any homework for your child to complete but please encourage them to keep reading every day.

PTFA

Last night, 27 parents and teachers met virtually to elect new committee members. I have never known so many parents to attend a PTFA meeting before; it is another demonstration of the wonderful supportive families we have at Grange. The following parents were elected:

Chair: Sarah Brown (Joey Yr 1)

Vice Chair: Sue Adams (Zac Yr 2)

Treasurer: Alison Hunter (Ruby Yr 1 Finley Yr 3)

Assistant Treasurer: Rachel Gore (Jude Rec, Fletcher Yr 3)

Secretaries: Sharon Robson (Abigail Yr 3), Katy Warren (Alice Yr 2), Helen Clothier (Annie Yr 2)

If you couldn't attend the meeting last night but would like to get involved, the next meeting will be held via Teams on Tuesday 20th April at 6pm; everyone is very welcome. Please drop me an email so I can add you to the invite list. At the next meeting, the main agenda item will be to think of fundraising ideas for the summer term. We will also be asking the children if they have any ideas for fundraising during Covid restrictions.

Positive Cases During the Holidays

Please contact me immediately if your child develops Covid symptoms (high temperature, loss of sense of taste or smell, a new continuous cough) within 48hrs of being at Grange (ie: on Good Friday or Saturday). You will also need to book your child in for a PCR test and then inform me of the result so I can tell any close contacts to self-isolate. Please email me at clare.clougher@grange.newcastle.sch.uk –I will check my emails regularly on Friday and Saturday.

The following link has some useful information about when your child should self-isolate and there is also a link to a Test and Trace Support Payment that you may be entitled to.

[School and childcare updates: Coronavirus | Newcastle City Council](#)

If symptoms develop after 48hrs of being in school, you do not need to inform me but will need to phone 119.

Water



It is very important that our children drink plenty of water throughout the school day especially as the weather gets warmer. If our children aren't properly hydrated this can make them feel tired, struggle to concentrate in lessons and get headaches. All children should bring a water bottle (preferably with a sports top) to school every day. If they drink all their water, it can be refilled at the sink in the classroom. Please do not send your child with flavoured water, squash or fresh fruit juices; these drinks often contain sugar and cause a sticky mess if they are spilt. Some children do complain about drinking plain water at home

but will happily drink water at school. You could add a slice of cucumber or fruit to add some natural flavouring to the water. If you have any questions about this, please contact me.

Transition to Middle Schools

The vast majority of our Year 4 children will move to Gosforth Central Middle School in September. I have a meeting with GCMS and the other feeder schools on 26th April to discuss transition arrangements. As soon as I have any information, I will update you. I have also phoned Gosforth Junior High and the Great Park Academy about their transition arrangements and am waiting for a reply.

Year 4 Adventure Day and Overnight Camp

The children all seem to be very excited about their adventure day in June! After the Easter holidays, I will send a letter home with more details and with a request for £20 deposit. There will then be 3 further instalments of £10 which will need to be paid by Friday 28th May.

Easter Parade



Every child in school has been busy making Easter headbands or bonnets for our virtual Easter parade. This is something not to be missed! We hope to upload it to Seesaw and Tapestry tomorrow and it will also be on the homepage of our school website for you to watch.

Swimming

Great news for Year 4! We have arranged for you to go swimming in the summer term at Gosforth Pool. You will have an hour lesson every afternoon on the week beginning 4th May and 5th July. I will send home more details nearer the time.



School Business Manager



We are looking forward to welcoming a new member of staff to Grange during the Easter holidays. Joanne Taylor will be joining our admin team as the school business manager. She has several years of experience as a business manager in a Newcastle primary school and will be a tremendous asset to our school.

Vouchers

If you are entitled to receive meal vouchers, these have been ordered and will arrive in the next couple of days. Each child will receive a voucher for £30 for the two week holiday period. Please remember to spend these vouchers as school and the local authority cannot claim back the cost of any vouchers that are not used.

Easter Eggs

We have supported Daft as a Brush for several years. They have been donated lots of Easter eggs by a local business and will be giving some to Grange as a thank you.

Happy Easter!

Finally, I would just like to wish all of our Grange families, staff and governors a very happy Easter. The last few months have been very difficult but hopefully this is the start of a brighter future. Restrictions are easing so we can all enjoy some time with our friends and family members outside over the holiday. Please stick to the rules and help to keep our school and the wider community safe. We need to keep the rates of transmission under control so that we can all return to school safely for the summer term. **Monday 19th April is a training day so we will see you all on Tuesday 20th April.**

And to the Grange boys and girls- I hope Easter Bunny brings you all lots of chocolate eggs!

Mrs Clougher