




To Our Lovely Grange Families,

24th November 2023

Autumn continues to fly by and I can't believe how quickly we are hurtling towards Christmas! Every week passes in a blur of exciting new learning, happy faces and positive relationships. Recent visitors have told us how welcoming the school is, how friendly the children are and how the learning just shines through. We really are so proud of our school and the community that supports us and even when times are tough, we know we can ride out the ups and downs together.

The school is starting to buzz with a sense of Christmas; the children are busy practising their Christmas songs ready to entertain their families and staff are planning a host of festive fun and activities. Keep a look out for Christmas news and updates as there is lots going on! 

The Owls class finally got to have their trip to the Royal Armouries this week and they learnt so much about the life of Florence Nightingale and the legacy she left behind of hospital care and standards. The children's behaviour was exceptional and I would like to thank them for representing our school in such a polite and respectful manner.



The weather last week put a stop to the Year R local area walk but that's hasn't got in the way of them exploring our wonderful outside areas; we are so lucky to have so much space from our wide open field to our sheltered wooded area.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful weekend. As always, my door is open so please let me or the amazing office team know if there is anything we can do to help.

We are always here for you! Miss Myers 😊

Christmas 2023!

I thought I'd put all the Christmas info in one place!

Friday 1st December: Parent decoration afternoon - please arrive at 2pm

Thursday 7th December: Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and Christmas Pass parties after school (pickup outside classroom doors at 4.45pm)

Monday 11th December: Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas performance at St Mary's Church at 2pm

Tuesday 12th December: Year R Christmas Performances at 10am and 2pm
- please sign up and secure your place/s at the office

We want everyone to enjoy our Christmas performances and so we are limiting numbers to 2 spaces per family. Thank you for your understanding.



Weekly attendance: Cool to be In School

Each week, attendance is tracked across the school and on a Friday the class with highest attendance for that week, gets a certificate. At the end of each term, we look at who has had the best attendance overall and that class gets to choose an item for their class such as a new game.

This week the winners are: The Owls with 96.21%

Congratulations and well done for your great attendance this week.

Don't forget, the more you're in school, the more learning you can do!

As a school, we have a responsibility and a duty of care to ensure that children attend school regularly and that attendance is good. Where attendance drops, we will make contact with parents and carers and work with you to get attendance back on track.

Should your child be unwell and unable to attend that day, please contact the office to let us know and this will be recorded on our registers.

During out of office hours, you will be able to leave a message.



Attendance is a key priority for school improvement at Grange Infants. To keep attendance at the forefront of our minds (and our families!), we will be sharing with you the attendance of each class for that week in every newsletter. This is with the intention of our community understanding how important attendance is and the value we place on it in ensuring the children have the best possible start to their education.

This week's results:

Class	Percentage attendance for the week ending 24.11.23
Owls	96.21
Wagtails	95.31
Blackbirds	93.45
Chaffinches	91.67
Robins	91.2
Sparrows	91.07
Starlings	90.69

Things to look forward to!

Friday 15th December at 3.15pm: School closes for the Christmas break

Tuesday 2nd January: School opens for the Spring term 2024!

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th February: Year 1 trips to HMS Sultan

Friday 9th February: School closes for the half term break

Thursday 28th March: School closes for the Easter holidays

Monday 15th April: The summer term begins!

Friday 24th May: School closes for the half term break

Monday 22nd July: 'Monday Fun Day!' School closes for the summer holidays

INSET dates for this year- we like to give you plenty of warning so you can prepare!

Friday 9th February: Common closure day for Gosport and Fareham schools

Friday 7th July: Transition planning

Tuesday 23rd July: Behaviour and restorative practice



The Season of Coughs and Colds!

It's that time of year that the bugs and viruses love and we have seen an increase in the number of children (and staff!) with colds, sniffles and coughs. Whilst we are happy to administer Calpol on a 'one off' basis, please can we ask that any child who requires on-going Calpol whilst they are under the weather (but still in school) has their own named bottle in school. We are finding that our supplies are diminishing faster than we have ever seen!



Hand, Foot and Mouth

We have seen a recent increase in the number of cases of hand, foot and mouth. Whilst there is no specific isolation period for this virus, it can spread quickly but can be managed easily with simple pain relief and good hygiene. Children can be in school with this virus but as with any illness, if your child is feeling too poorly, they should stay at home until they are fit for school.

Click on this link to find out more:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hand-foot-mouth-disease/>



Year R Big Ask!

The children in Year R love getting out and about, exploring their environment. It always amazes me how they use their imagination to create so many wonderful adventures, worlds and games!

They love nothing better than manipulating and creating with natural materials and the Mud Kitchen is the perfect place to experiment. The team would love any donations of conkers, pine cones, pebbles and any natural materials. They are also asking for any old flowers that could be used to make potions, outdoor art or even 'mud cakes'! Quite often, supermarkets will sell off flowers that are passed their best and these are perfect for the children!

They would also love to have any old wellies that you no longer need!



Class Dojo and Staff Well-being

Class Dojo is one of the easiest and most accessible ways to get in touch with your child's class teacher. It is also a fantastic platform for learning, updates and information and we love it!

Whilst we wouldn't be without this app, we would like to ask our families to be mindful of staff well-being and the timings of messages. We want to let our families know, that you can message at any time but we will be introducing 'quiet hours' for all staff during which they may not respond.

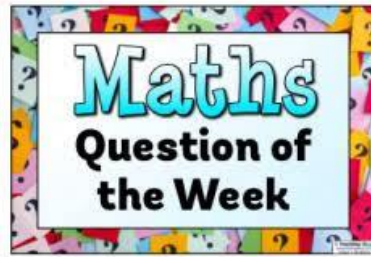
We hope you understand the need to do this to protect the well-being of our staff and to ensure that they do get the chance to switch off!

Quiet hours will run from 6pm until 8am Monday to Friday. Part time staff will only be available to message on the days that they work.

Thank you for your understanding



Mrs Poate's Regular Slot:



Thank you to all the Mums and Dads who supported their children with last week's Maths problem.

Here is another maths question. Remember, these are open ended activities that all children from Year R to Year 2 will be able to have a go at.

I will leave a box in the reception area to you to drop off your solutions to the problem.

There will be printed versions for you to pick up from there too. During celebration assembly, I will draw one of the entries out of the box and that child will win a small prize. The main reason for doing this is that you will be showing your children that maths and learning are cool and fun things to do. 😊

Have a look at the sets of four quantities below. Can you rank them in order from smallest to largest?

Can you convince me that your order is right?



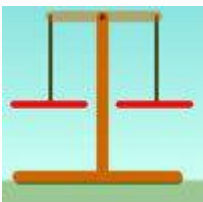
Time

- Taken to travel to school
- For mustard and cress to grow from seeds
- Taken to eat a biscuit
- Between your 6th and 7th birthdays



Distance

- You could jump up in the air
- You can kick a football
- You can run in half a minute
- Length of a bug



Mass

- Of a blown-up balloon
- Of a bar of chocolate
- Of a loaf of bread
- Of your teacher

Please put your entry in the box in reception by Thursday 7th December. The name will be drawn on Friday 8th December in celebration assembly.

Hot Chocolate Friday

Since my last newsletter, I have had the pleasure of meeting with two more groups of fantastic role models for hot chocolate and a biscuit. I loved hearing about what they had achieved and the impact they have had on their family and friends.

A huge congratulations to the children who joined me for a treat this week. I am so proud of you all for your amazing achievements and for always keeping our Grange Values!

You are amazing!



Getting out and about!

Over the last couple of weeks both year 1 and Year 2 have had the chance to go on school trips and to experience some amazing activities that have enhanced their curriculum and helped to inspire excitement and curiosity.

Owls enjoyed a day out at The Royal Armouries for their workshop on Florence Nightingale.



Wow and Proud Congratulations



Sparrows

Wow Writer goes to **Ella-Rose** for her brilliant gingerbread man note!

Proud Pot goes to **Grace** for her beautiful gingerbread man painting!



Starlings

Wow Writer goes to **Bella-Ivie** for practicing her 'a' sounds in kinetic letters!

Proud Pot goes to **Millie** for coming into school beautifully all week!



Chaffinches

Wow Writer goes to **Kharim** for writing a complete phrase!

Proud Pot goes to **Ruben** for great science work; he knew why things are made of different materials!



Robins

Wow Writer goes to **Ruben** for great productivity!

Proud Pot goes to **Reggie-Blu** for creating a lovely bus with accurate cutting and sticking!



Wagtails

Wow Writer goes to **Kyrie** for super speedy writing!

Proud Pot goes to **Finley** for learning b, p and d letters! These aren't muddled up any more! Well done.



Blackbirds

Wow Writer goes to **Archee** for beautiful diary writing - his letters were small and on the line!

Proud Pot goes to **Aiden** for moving up to purple group for super reading!



Owls

Wow Writer goes to Michael for his amazing diary writing for Florence Nightingale!

Proud Pot goes to ALL the Owls for their fantastic trip to Fort Nelson, and to **Isabel** for dressing up as Florence Nightingale!