



Dear Grange Families,

3rd March 2023

As always, the time is flying and here we are at the end of the second week of this half term, welcoming in March and the first signs of Spring!

We have embraced the 'love of learning' with Key Stage 1, visiting HMS Sultan to find out what life is like in the Armed Forces and to explore possible future careers and make strong community links. A huge thank you must go to the team on base for supporting this trip and to Mrs Poate for setting up the exciting couple of days. The children were definitely inspired by their visit and we look forward to cementing our community and engineering links further. Myself and Mrs Kennell also attended the HMS Sultan Affiliates Day with a focus on the future of learning, haptics and STEM. We came away full of ideas of how we can extend the support and opportunities for our Forces families, as well as signposting all of our families to events in the local area.

This week the focus has been on our love of reading and yesterday we celebrated World Book Day.

We know how much the children love dressing up and you all certainly put so much effort into the costumes and themes. All the children had the opportunity to sign up for different books, hearing favourite stories and taking part in book-themed activities from around the world. I've only captured a few of the moments experienced during the day, but I'm sure the children told you all about the fun they had!

Please remember, there is always someone here to help, to advise and to listen. No worry, query or question is ever too big or too small! Find us on the playground in the morning and at the end of the day, or pop into the office to see one of the lovely office staff.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Myers ☺

New half term- fresh start!

Drop off timings in the morning

As we said before the half term break, we want to ensure that every minute counts. This is a reminder that our drop-off window is between **8.45am** and **8.55am** to make sure that the children are in school and ready for assembly at 9am. Please make sure that your child is in school on time so that they don't miss any learning or peer interaction.

The gates on our playground will shut promptly at **8.55am** and after this time, you will need to sign your child in at the office, with this late arrival being recorded on your child's attendance certificate.



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: Blackbirds with 100%

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 3.3.23
Blackbirds	100
Owls	95.83
Wagtails	92.39
Chaffinches	91.67
Robins	92.2
Sparrows	89.9
Starlings	88.54
Woodpeckers	88.54



Attendance Letters - IMPORTANT UPDATE

Every school has a duty to report attendance to parents, and where attendance drops and is not in line with local and national targets, we must address this and work with you to improve it.

Our attendance team has been working with Local Authority to look at ways to improve our attendance. Currently, our 'persistent absence' is high and must be addressed as a priority, as this is having such a negative impact on the children's progress and development.

Persistent absence applies to any child with attendance of 90% or below.


We are concerned at how many children are missing vital learning and social interaction and so we are putting in to place an attendance strategy to address this.

As part of this, we will be contacting families to let them know their child's attendance and whether they are in the green, amber or red zone.

All families will receive an update before the end of this term.


Please watch this space for more updates and information on what we are doing as a school to address this issue.

As always, it is best practice to work alongside our families and to give the support needed in a sensitive and caring way. Please let us know how we can help you; we are always here to chat things through such as morning routines and positive journeys to school.



ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?




EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

Children are required by law to attend 190 school days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.


HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 lessons


89% and below
Drastic effect on academic achievement



95% - 90%
Cause for concern



100% - 96%
Excellent



IMPORTANT

dates to remember

Things to look forward to!

Week beginning 6th March: Parent meetings *Make sure you have signed up*

Tuesday 7th March: KS1 'Paws and Claws' topic Pet Day

Friday 17th March: Red Nose Day: Wear red or what makes you happy for **£1** donation

Friday 17th March: The farm visits Year R!

Thursday 30th March: Easter Bonnet parade for all year groups in the morning. *We will send out times for each parade soon. The children are invited to wear what they like in exchange for chocolate for our Easter raffle!*

Friday 31st March: School closes for the Easter holiday at **1.30pm**

Friday 31st March: Easter chocolate raffle will be drawn by the school council

Monday 17th April: School re-opens for the Summer term

Monday 1st May: School closed for the May Day Bank Holiday

Thursday 4th May: School closed to children due to Polling Day

Friday 5th May: Whole school celebration for King Charles III Coronation *Details to follow but we are hoping to host a family picnic on the field followed by crafting activities in the classrooms*

Monday 8th May: School closed for the Coronation of King Charles III

INSET dates for this year- we like to give you plenty of warning so you can prepare! These dates are the same as the Junior school and include the additional Bank Holiday for Coronation of King Charles III

Friday 10th February: Behaviour and well-being

Monday 8th May: The Coronation of King Charles III

Friday 7th July: Transition planning



Wow and Proud

Congratulations

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

WORLD
BOOK
DAY



Blackbirds

Wow Writer goes to **Amilie** for being such a great fact finder for wild things!

Proud Pot goes to **Jim** for super tens and units in Maths!



Wagtails

Wow Writer goes to **Josie** for her super writing about Sultan!

Proud Pot goes to **Alfie** for his beautiful Matisse style artwork!



Sparrows

Wow Writer goes to **Noah** for his excellent riddle clues!

Proud Pot goes to **Florence** for learning ALL of her Set 1 sounds!



Woodpeckers

Wow Writer goes to **Scarlett** for her brilliant riddle clues!

Proud Pot goes to **Finley** for exploring the Year R environment on World Book Day!



Owls

Wow Writer goes to **Shania** for fantastic adjectives for wild things!

Proud Pot goes to **Heidi & Willow** for top effort with their litter picking!



Chaffinches

Wow Writer goes to **Charlotte** for lovely finger spaces in her writing!

Proud Pot goes to **Arthur** for his AMAZING alien costume for World Book Day!



Robins

Wow Writer goes to **Ellia** for her lovely used prepositions!

Proud Pot goes to **Eleanor** for her beautiful Matisse style artwork!

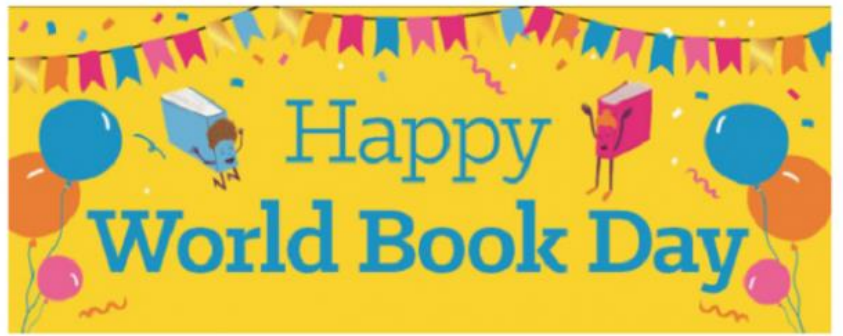
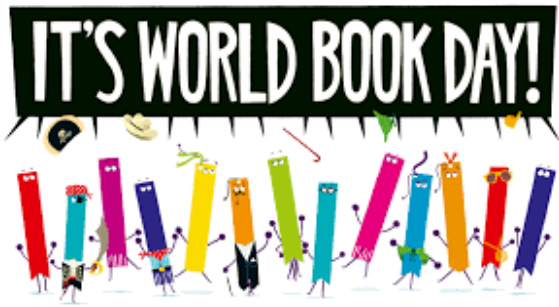


Starlings

Wow Writer goes to **Lexi** for writing brilliant clues about a pig!

Proud Pot goes to **Skyla-May** for her fantastic number work!





Yesterday, we celebrated World Book Day. It was fantastic to see the huge array of costumes and to see what thought and effort had been put into the day. Every class had the chance to hear different stories from around the world and to take part in lots of fun activities. A huge thank you to all of our families for supporting this day, to all the staff for making the day so fun and to Mrs Johnston for arranging everything!











Thank you to our wonderful school councillors and to Mr Price for the litter picking they have done over the last couple of weeks. They put in so much effort to make the school site look tidy and free from rubbish. We have agreed that this is an ongoing task sadly, and that litter in our community is a big problem but want to do all they can to look after our environment and their future.

