



Happy New Year to our lovely Grange Families,

6th January 2023

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year, enjoying quality moments with family and friends and taking time to relax and reflect upon 2022. What a year it was! Despite the pandemic still leaving its mark, we were able to welcome families back into school to help us celebrate important milestones, national events and of course, Christmas! Fast forward 12 months and here we are, welcoming everyone back into school, ready to start a new and exciting spring term. We have many exciting events ahead and lots of interesting and awe-inspiring learning opportunities!

It has been lovely to hear all the news from the children and to see how excited they have been to catch up with friends and the adults in their classes. It sounds like everyone had a great Christmas! As I've walked around school this week, I have enjoyed listening to the children embracing new learning and being motivated by new topics and units of work. The classrooms as always, look bright and welcoming and I know the staff have put in a lot of effort to set up ready for the children's return. We certainly have an exciting term ahead of us, so look out for upcoming events and always check in with Class Dojo, Facebook and our website to find out what we are up to!

The spring term often brings with it coughs, colds and other viruses and whilst we understand anxiety has been high around publicised outbreaks, we must take a fresh look at attendance which took quite a hit in the latter part of the autumn term. Attendance is the key to positive outcomes for all children and to ensure that they become the confident, successful and happy citizens of the future. We have a duty to let families know when attendance drops and we will work with you to find ways to make improvements. That's what we are here for!

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.

I wish you all a wonderful New Year and extend my wishes for a positive and happy 2023.

Miss Myers ☺

PE Days for the Spring Term 2023

There have been a couple of changes to PE days, so please check below to see which day your child/ren will need to come to school in their PE kit. Please can you make sure all jewellery is removed as part of our health and safety guidance. It is always good practice to name all items of clothing too!

We would ask that PE kits consist of black shorts or trackies when it is colder and a plain white t-shirt. School jumpers or cardigans can be worn on top so please avoid hoodies or other sweatshirts. We encourage the children to wear black plimsolls or plain black trainers.

Starlings, Sparrows and Woodpeckers: Monday

Robins and Chaffinches: Wednesday

Owls and: Wagtails: Thursday

Blackbirds: Tuesday



Staying in touch and keeping up to date at Grange Infants

We always try our very best to keep you updated about what's happening at the school including events, trips and learning themes. In the last two years, we have moved away from paper-based communication and instead communicate with our families electronically via email, Class Dojo (our learning platform), our website and Facebook. All information can be found on these, so we strongly advise all of our families to engage with these and to check them regularly for updates.

This is how we usually use these methods of communication:



We will use email to send out letters, forms and newsletters. Texts are usually sent for reminders or quick updates and attendance messages.



ClassDojo

We use Class Dojo for class messages, homework and using individual portfolios for uploading and sharing work and photographs of your child's learning. You can also message your child's class teacher using this platform



We use Facebook as a fast way of updating you on events, news and requests.



Our website is full of useful information such as policies, school structure and staffing, curriculum overviews, a calendar and useful links.

A Book Before Bedtime

For those of you taking part in this reading event, we will be collecting your bookmarks in on **Friday 20th January** ready for the celebration on **Thursday 26th January**.

This still gives you plenty of time to get reading and increase your book number!



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: Wagtails 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.



Reporting School Absence

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please can you make sure you phone this through into the school office.

A message can also be left if there is no one to answer the phone.

Whilst we love Class Dojo and all that it offers, please can we ask that parents do not use the messaging service to report absence.

Thank you!



Any unwanted gifts or left overs?!

We are always looking to support local charities and have been able to offer support to many of our families this Christmas through Connect4Communities, Jacob's Well and Acts of Kindness.

If you have any unwanted items or non-perishable food, we would much appreciate your donations and will pass these on to worthwhile causes.

Thank you!



Applying for School Places

If you have a child who is due to start in either Year R or Year 3 in September 2023, please make sure you have completed the application within the window.

This window closes 15th January 2023 and any applications made after this will be classed as 'late' and may affect the allocation of the school.

Please use this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/yearrandyear3>

Key Stage 1's Hook Day: Are we there yet?

Thank you for your support for the Year 1 and Year 2 hook day yesterday. The children had a great time exploring 'wheeled' vehicles and it was wonderful to see the sea of bikes and scooters on the playground!

I was so impressed with how confident the children were, especially those who were on roller skates!

It was a fantastic start to a topic that will inspire curiosity and develop life skills such as basic engineering and mechanics.

They certainly loved exploring some of the staff cars!

Join us as a reading, library or learning volunteer!

Do you have any spare time during the week? Would you like to help promote a love of reading and learning at our school? Then come and join us as a reading, library or learning volunteer!

We are looking for volunteers to support reading and other learning activities with individual children during the afternoons. We value the positive impact that volunteers have on the children and the progress they make. If you would like to become a volunteer or you are interested in supporting our library, please get in touch with your child's class teacher or Miss Myers.

Hello to our new staff members

A big hello and welcome back to Mrs French who has joined us this half term as part of her SCITT teaching placement.

We wish her the very best and know she will love her experience in the Robins class!



Things to look forward to!

Thursday 26th January: A Book before Bedtime Celebration at 5pm

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 focus

Monday 8th May: The Coronation of King Charles III

Friday 7th July: Transition planning



Healthy Eating at Grange Infant School

Under the Government's Universal Free School Meal programme, all children from Year R to Year 2 are entitled to a free hot meal every day. Meals at Grange Infants are provided by HC3S and we are proud of the service that they provide, ensuring all meals are healthy, nutritious and tasty. The menu works on a three week cycle, to make sure there is variety and choice. Special menus can also be provided for individual children with dietary requirements, proving again the inclusive practice at the school.

Whilst we would encourage all families to access this daily provision, we do understand that some children will prefer a home packed lunch on some days. In line with the hot meals that we are offering, we would ask that home packed lunches also provide a balanced diet. We have noticed that more and more chocolate and high sugar items are creeping in and so wanted to give you some helpful hints and tips using this NHS link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

We would ask that children do not have more than one chocolate item in their lunch and that sweets are not added. Please be mindful of added sugar in items such as yoghurts and carton drinks too.



Happy New Year!

Wow and Proud Congratulations!

Happy New Year!



Blackbirds

Wow Writer goes to **Jeron** for great vocabulary ideas!

Proud Pot goes to **Angel** for settling in really well here at her new school!



Wagtails

Wow Writer goes to **Verity** for her super letter to Santa!

Proud Pot goes to **Melissa** for moving to **Turquoise** reading level and answering all questions!



Sparrows

Wow Writer goes to **Jennifer** for using her sounds and finger spaces beautifully!

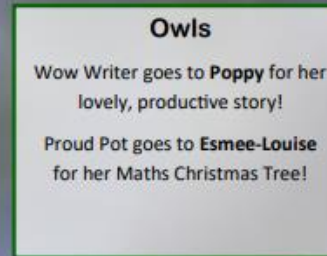
Proud Pot goes to **Kharim** for fantastic number bonds to 5!



Woodpeckers

Wow Writer goes to **Kacie-Mai** for using her sounds!

Proud Pot goes to **Heidi-May** for finding all the letters for her name to make a name rocket!



Owls

Wow Writer goes to **Poppy** for her lovely, productive story!

Proud Pot goes to **Esmee-Louise** for her Maths Christmas Tree!



Chaffinches

Wow Writer goes to **Marcus** for brilliant independent sentences!

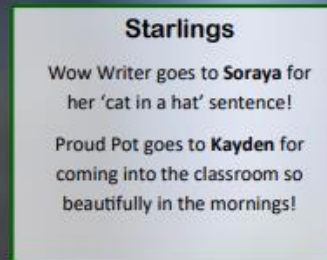
Proud Pot goes to **Imogen** for writing independently about feelings!



Robins

Wow Writer goes to **Archee** for super independent words!

Proud Pot goes to **Jack D** for moving to **Green** RWI!



Starlings

Wow Writer goes to **Soraya** for her 'cat in a hat' sentence!

Proud Pot goes to **Kayden** for coming into the classroom so beautifully in the mornings!