



Dear Grange Families,

20th January 2023

As we approach another weekend, it is hard to believe that this is end of the third week of the spring term! Where does time go? It has been another fortnight of exciting new learning, friendships, laughter and of course every season of weather! It is always so heart-warming to see how much the children love being in school, building resilience and taking on challenges.

We are so pleased we can offer our after-school clubs to Year 1 and Year 2 again this term and these have started this week. The spring term is always a harder one in which to offer anything outdoors due to the weather, but we are hoping to offer more for the summer term. It may not be possible to offer everyone a place on the club they really want, but we have tried hard to give all of those who have returned their form a place on one of the clubs available.

This week, you will no doubt have seen the news that the National Education Union has declared 7 days of strike action in February and March, with any individual school being affected by 4 of them. I know this will worry some of our families so I want to assure you that I will take all reasonable steps to keep the school open for all of our children. Should the strikes go ahead as planned, it is hoped that impact will be minimal but there may be some operational changes such as classes being taught by different teaching teams and some changes to timetables. If larger numbers of teachers choose to strike, I may need to limit attendance but this would very much be a last resort. We will of course keep you up to date with any changes.

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 ☺

PE Days for the Spring Term 2023

There have been a couple of changes to PE days for the new term, so please check 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



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: Chaffinches with 96.67%

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. We were so excited this week when the daily attendance figure hit 98% and want to thank our families for supporting us by ensuring the children are in school and on time. 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 20.1.23
Chaffinches	96.67
Robins	95.36
Wagtails	94.78
Starlings	94.58
Woodpeckers	93.75
Owls	93.33
Blackbirds	91.54
Sparrows	86.15

Key Stage 1 Transport Day: We need you!

Does your job or hobby mean you are often working with vehicles or transport? As part of their topic on transport, Year 1 and Year 2 would like to invite you to share your experiences with them on Monday 30th January. If you would like to be part of this event, please let your class teacher know. It can be any vehicle including boats and you would just need to talk to the children about what you do and share the day-to-day aspects of the job or your passion/ interest.



Bikes and Scooter Day!

After the success of the Key Stage 1 day on wheels, we are going to trial a bike and scooter day every half term. Our first trial day is **Friday 27th January** and we are inviting children in Year 1 and Year 2 to bring bikes or scooters into school to either cycle or scoot the daily mile. As before, bikes or scooters will be left outside the classroom in the designated space.

Please could we ask that you name your child's bike/scooter and if they have a helmet, please bring this in too. This activity has been risk assessed and should the day be another success, we will look to running these every fortnight.

As the drop off and pick up slots are so busy, we must ask that bikes and scooters are not ridden across the school playground at this time.



Water bottles

Drinking water throughout the day is an essential part of your child's healthy lifestyle. Not only is water good for the body, it can also improve a child's memory, mood and attention.

Please make sure your child has their water bottle in school every day and that it is a suitable size to be placed on the table in the classroom or the hall.

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.



IMPORTANT
dates to remember

Things to look forward to!

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

Friday 27th January: Bikes and Scooters Day for The Daily Mile!

Thursday 9th February: School closes at 3.15pm for the half term break

Monday 20th February: School re-opens for Spring 2

Thursday 11th May: Class Group Photographs

Monday 15th May: Walk to School Week!

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



Our brand new School Council and Mac our Environmental Lead, will be taking part in the RSPB Schools' Bird Watch this half term. The team is hoping to spot, identify and count the different species of birds that visit the school grounds at this time of year. This data will be sent in to the RSPB and supports their vital research and conservation work in the UK.

Watch this space for the results!



You can also join in this important event for the RSPB at home.

Use this link to find out more and to register:

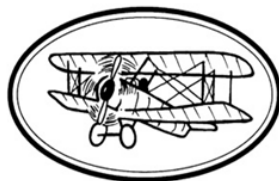
https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/?sourcecode=BWMITH0230&utm_source=google&utm_medium=ppcad&utm_content=guide_request_various&utm_campaign=birdwatch2443&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI0YeijszU AIVsfIRCh1exQ7YEAAAYASAAEgI2r D BwE&aqlsrc=aw.ds

Meet Our New School Councillors

Congratulations to our brand new school councillors who were voted in this term. The quality of applications was amazing and we wish we could give a role to everyone who applied, as so much effort was made. Thank you to every child who applied.

Our school councillors have a pivotal role to play in school improvement and ensuring that Grange Infants remains the exciting and motivating learning hub that it is. Our councillors will work closely with Mr Price and Miss Myers to discuss a range of topics including looking after the school grounds, developing play provision and highlighting the value of pupil voice.

We can't wait to work with them!



Wow and Proud

Congratulations



Blackbirds

Wow Writer goes to **Aaron** for his subordinating conjunctions!

Proud Pot goes to **Amelia & Omari** for working well together and designing a vehicle!



Wagtails

Wow Writer goes to **Melissa** for writing her story with fantastic vocabulary!

Proud Pot goes to **Violet K** for excellent focus in Maths on her number line!



Sparrows

Wow Writer goes to **Evelyn** for writing her name beautifully!

Proud Pot goes to **Jaxon** for finding the totals in his Maths challenge!



Woodpeckers

Wow Writer goes to **Blake** for fantastic independent sounds!

Proud Pot goes to **Posie** for finding the totals in her Maths challenge!

Owls

Wow Writer goes to **Scarlett** for being productive and writing neatly next to the margin!

Proud Pot goes to **Elizabeth** for her harder purple challenge in Maths!



Chaffinches

Wow Writer goes to **Imogen** for much neater writing; fantastic improvement!

Proud Pot goes to **Harley** for amazing effort with his reading!



Robins

Wow Writer goes to **Bethany** for writing lots of sentences for her story!

Proud Pot goes to **Peter** for being super productive; planning and writing his story!



Starlings

Wow Writer goes to **Kayden** for writing his name beautifully!

Proud Pot goes to **Jack** for having a really good week!



REMINDER for our Homework Project in Year 1 and Year 2: Are We There Yet?



You still have plenty of time to take part in the Year 1 and Year 2 homework project for this term all about transport. Please make sure all projects are handed in by **Wednesday 8th February**, ready for the showcase on Thursday 9th at 8.45am.

Here are some ideas about what you could do;

- Tell us all about your favourite type of transport.
- Could you write some instructions of how to catch a bus?
- Draw a map of somewhere you went on a journey or make a map of an imaginary journey.
 - Use an atlas or Google earth to plan a journey you'd like to go on.
 - Look on a Travel Agents' website. Pretend you are a travel agent and write a persuasive description of somewhere you'd like to go.
- Could you make a wheeled model which could be pushed, pulled or moved in another way e.g wind power, elastic band.
 - Could you write a story about a journey taken on a ship, a plane or a train?
 - Make a picture, a book, a video, a pamphlet about your bike or scooter.
 - What do you think transport will be like in the future?
 - What is transport like in other parts of the world?

Choose one of the things above or an idea of your own. Choose anything you like which helps you learn about transport.



Remembering the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

As part of our Jubilee celebrations last year, the Grange Infant community voted to plant an oak tree in the school grounds. After a (very!) long wait, our oak sapling finally arrived and has been planted at the front of the school next to our car park. We will be adding a plaque in time to mark the occasion.

We hope this symbol of longevity and wisdom grows for many years to come and sees the succession of many more British monarchs!



Grange Infant's Orchard

Linked to the Queen's Green Canopy, we have planted a small orchard at the back of the school field. So far, we have 3 apple trees, a pear and a plum but hope to add many more over the next few years and to create a quiet seated area.



Times are tough for everyone right now and with growing mouths to feed, it's often a struggle to provide your children all the food you want to give them at home. All infant and reception children can receive a free school lunchtime meal through central Government funding called Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). Families are not means tested so why not let your child/reception tuck in to the delicious hot meals Hc3s offer!

