



21<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Welcome to the summer term Grange Families,

I hope you all had a restful Easter break, relaxed with your families and ate lots of chocolate! It has been lovely as always, to see the children's happy, smiling faces and to hear all about the exciting things they have been up to. The playground has such a positive buzz every morning and I always love that time before the doors open for the new day, when I can walk around, have a chat with the children and watch them having fun with their friends.

The children have been 'hooked' into their learning this week with Key Stage 1 visiting the local garden centre and having a walk and explore of Alver Valley, whilst Year R have loved being outside, discovering the first signs of spring and the new equipment. The summer term is always a busy one but the welcome sunshine and warmer weather means that we can spend much more time in the great outdoors, whether on our huge field or in the shade of the woods.

This Monday, we will be celebrating St George's Day and thinking about what it means to be British, how we can all show strength and resilience just like George did when he faced the 'dragon' and embracing our rich and diverse culture. This weekend, Eid al-Fitr, will be celebrated all over the world and the children have heard all about this special celebration and the importance of charity, will-power and reflection. We will soon be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and look forward to welcoming our families to help us celebrate. *Read on to find out more!*

The school had a local authority visit this week and we were so pleased with the positive feedback we received! The children and the staff continue to work so hard to make Grange Infants the warm and welcoming place it is and this was recognised during the walk around. I was so proud of how polite and engaging the children were, showing focus and effort in their learning and facing challenges with confidence. Thank you to everyone for making this visit so positive! What an amazing team!

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.

Miss Myers ☺

### PE days for the Summer 1

Please check which day your child will need to come to school in their PE kit as these have changed for the new term. Please can we ask that PE kit consists of plain trackies in black or blue (or dark coloured shorts in warmer weather), a white t-shirt and either the school jumper or a dark coloured sweatshirt.

Earrings and jewellery must be removed before the start of the day.

Owls: **Wednesday**

Wagtails and Blackbirds: **Thursday**

Robins and Chaffinches: **Monday**

Starlings, Sparrows and Woodpeckers: **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: Wagtails with 96.96%**

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!

**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 21.04.23
Wagtails	96.96%
Starlings	94.78%
Blackbirds	92.69%
Woodpeckers	92.4%
Sparrows	91.2%
Owls	89.57%
Robins	87.41%
Chaffinches	78%

## Working Together to Improve Attendance

Every child in our school deserves their 'flying start' during their time with us and to ensure the very best outcomes, we value the close partnership we have with parents, recognising the huge impact families have on children's development. Every day that the children are in school, offers exciting learning opportunities and a world of discovery, preparing them for the future ahead.

**In this way, attendance must be a priority for us to ensure that children have the best chance to blossom and grow.**

Where attendance isn't quite on track, we have a duty to inform parents and to offer support in making improvements. The letters we send out are designed to give information and to then promote the need to work together. These letters are not intended to cause stress or upset but we do understand that it can be a worry to receive one. We are always here to listen and to offer advice and the best way to do this is through a calm and respectful approach in which the conversation can lead to positive outcomes for everyone.

**Please remember, we are all human and that kindness goes a long way.**



Grange Infant School prides itself on being at the heart of a caring and compassionate community. We work hard with our families to maintain positive relationships and to take an open and honest approach when dealing with any concerns or upset.

We have been made aware this week that there has been some fall out between parents that unfortunately is being brought on to the school site. Whilst we can't expect everyone to be friends, we can ask for respectful conduct and behaviour whilst on our school site, especially in front of children who may find this upsetting.

Both the infant and the junior school has a Code of Conduct for parents that not only addresses behaviour towards school staff, but also that towards other families and parents. Please see the website for a copy of this.

Please can we ask that disputes between parents are managed in a respectful manner and most importantly, away from school and children.

be  
kind

## The King's Coronation



**Come and celebrate with us!**

We are so excited about the upcoming celebrations for the King's Coronation and want to share with you what our plans are!

On **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May**, we are inviting the children to come into school in party clothes or red, white and blue ready to celebrate. The children will have a Coronation-themed packed lunch complete with bunting and flags in a street-party style.

We are then inviting parents in for a craft afternoon followed by treats on the field, **starting at 1.30pm**. During this craft session, you will be able to join your child/ren in their classroom to make a Coronation-themed piece of art or craft which they can take home. If you have children in different year groups, you will be able to visit their classrooms too.

At **2.30pm** we will then have a little Coronation tea party on the field (weather dependent!) to which you are invited. Please bring along treats for you and your child/ren and drinks too. All of the children will have a special Coronation biscuit and squash from the school and can then enjoy some time with family and friends before we finish the afternoon with a performance of our Coronation songs.

Looking forward to seeing you all for this event!



### Things to look forward to!

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May:** School closed for the May Day Bank Holiday

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May:** Whole school celebration for King Charles III Coronation

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed for the Coronation of King Charles III

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May:** School closes at 3.15 for the half term break

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June:** School re-opens at 8.45 for Summer 2

**Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> June:** Key stage 1 beach trips; more information to follow!

**Week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June:** Songs, Stories and Smiles sessions for new entrants begin

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July:** School closed for INSET- Transition planning



### A Big Thank you!

A huge thank you must go to Mr Smith and his company Smith Brickworks, who very kindly repaired the Year R sandpit which was looking very sorry for itself and had become unusable.

Mr Smith is a parent in Year R and had noticed it was in need of repair, so he offered his skills, time and resources to fixing it ready for the summer term.

Thank you Mr Smith- you're star!



### And another one!

We are currently developing a Forest Schools area in our grounds and have been on the lookout for natural resources and old building materials to create this.

**Woodpecker Tree Surgery** has very kindly donated a number of tree stumps which are perfect for seating for the children who used them for the first time yesterday!





With the hope of warmer days ahead, please can we remind you all about sun safety and well-being.

Every child should have their water bottle in school every day. All classes have access to water dispensers so that bottles can be topped up during the day as we are encouraging them to drink more to keep hydrated.

On warmer, sunny days, please can we ask for your child to come to school with an application of sun cream already on. Under health and safety guidance, we cannot apply sun cream to any child but can guide and support them in doing it themselves should they need an additional application.

Sun hats are great for shading little faces and eyes. It's always a good idea to put a name on clearly!

### Warmer Days on the Field

We are so lucky to have a large amount of open space here that the children can access in warmer weather. The field also has a range of climbing and gym equipment that the children love to use.

As many of you will be aware, we share the school site with a couple of families of foxes and whilst we love the relationship we have with nature, there are always things we need to be aware of...

Foxes and other British wildlife, carry ticks and these can be transferred onto long grass as they walk through.

We remind children not to venture into longer grass and we do have the grass cut regularly but there is still the risk that ticks can be picked up. Please look out for these little critters and use the link below for advice should you find one:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/injuries/skin-injuries/tick-bites>

### A Year R Request

Year R has an amazing outdoor area with some brilliant resources for the children to develop their key skills and to practise their learning. One of the areas they love is the Mud Kitchen in which they can explore, experiment and of course, get a bit muddy! The team would love to add some natural resources to the area that can be used in a variety of ways to develop skills such as counting, pattern and measures.

They are looking for items such as pine cones, conkers, pebbles, flint/ slate, shells or cork.

If you do have any items that would work well, please hand them in to reception or to one of the Year R team.

Thank you!



# Wow and Proud

## Congratulations



### Blackbirds

Wow Writer goes to **Ronni**  
for super productivity!

Proud Pot goes to **Amille & Tommie**  
and ALL the Blackbirds for  
great behaviour and learning!



### Owls

Wow Writer goes to **Willow**  
because she didn't do crossing out!

Proud Pot goes to **Henry** for  
super Maths! He did jottings and fluently!



### Sparrows

Wow Writer goes to **Kharim** for  
brilliant jottings for numbers! 1 is a Snail!

Proud Pot goes to **Noah** for  
fantastic Maths from the  
'1 is a Snail, 10 is a Crab' book!



### Wagtails

Wow Writer goes to **Scarlett** for  
fantastic use of drop-in clauses!

Proud Pot goes to **Esmal** for great  
growth mindset and independent writing!



### Chaffinches

Wow Writer goes to **Aaliyah** for lovely neat  
independent writing about Jack & the Beanstalk!

Proud Pot goes to **Ava** for  
being such a superstar on the trip,  
and all the Chaffinches for being so good!



### Robins

Wow Writer goes to **Ivy** for  
excellent new vocabulary and conjunctions!

Proud Pot goes to **Jack D** for  
reading lots of 'alien' words!



### Starlings

Wow Writer goes to **Carter** for  
super representing the characters from  
the '1 is a Snail, 10 is a Crab' book!

Proud Pot goes to **Kyrie** for  
fantastic reading CVC words in morning jobs!



### Woodpeckers

Wow Writer goes to **Chase** for  
using his sounds brilliantly!

Proud Pot goes to **Ava-Rose** for  
beautiful '1 is a Snail, 10 is a Crab' drawings!

Love of Learning



# Mathletics

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Erin- Starlings

Kyrie- Starlings

Charlotte- Chaffinches

Jeron- Blackbirds

Jackson- Owls

Violet. B- Wagtails

For **aiming high!** And achieving a Mathletics certificate this week, well done for all your hard work.



Aiming High





## Key Stage 1 Trip to Alver Valley and the Garden Centre

Key Stage 1 ventured out this week and spent a lovely morning exploring the great outdoors and then practising their purchasing skills in the garden centre nearby.

It was so lovely to hear what fun they had and I can't wait to see how our gardens at school develop with the plants that the children chose on the day. I was also proud to hear how amazing well the children behaved and that many members of the public made comments to staff, passing on how impressed they were with the children!



