



Welcome to the Autumn term 2023

4th September 2023

Dear Families at Grange,

I hope you have all had an amazing Summer break despite the unpredictable weather we have had. All staff are busy in school today getting everything ready for Tuesday 5th September when we open our doors to all our children again. We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

Reminders about our routines this Autumn 2023.

School times

The school day runs from **8.45am until 3.15pm**. Every year group and class start and finish at this time.

NB Grange Nursery continues to run from 9am until 3pm.

Morning routines

Our school gates will open at 8.30am where our families can make their way to their child's drop off points.

Our FS2 drop off and collection point is at the FS2 classroom doors.

Our new Year 1 classrooms are ready and our Year 1 families can access their drop off and pick up point in the Key Stage 1 playground from either the front Station road gates, going through the trim trail gate and around to your playground, or alternatively, you can also use the back pedestrian gate on Grange Drive if this is easier, going around the school building down the side past Alphabet House and the bike shed. Year 2 are also in this same area.

As our Year 3 classrooms are now in the main part of the building near the hall, I just wanted to remind our Year 3 parents that the wooden gates at the back of school on our junior playground are your new drop off and pick up point. You can access this by coming into the school site from Grange Drive through the pedestrian gate, or alternatively, you can come in to school via the main gates on Station Road and walk through the school grounds down the side of school building via the trim trail gate, passing through the Year 2 playground, by the cycle shed and round the back of the school building where Alphabet House and the staff car park is.

We will have staff on duty to help guide everyone to the right place if you are in any doubt about where to go so, please do not worry about this.

The wooden gates at the back of school are also the Year 4, 5 and 6 drop off and collection point.

Don't forget, for safety and security on site, we are still running our parent free zones which means parents will not be able to cut through the middle of the school grounds from the Reception playground to the junior playground. We are happy for our Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils to make their own way through our school grounds to their classroom if you feel comfortable with this and trust your child to manage this routine. You will be able to wave your child off from the edge of the Reception playground in front of the main building and can also arrange to meet them there at the end of the school day if this is easier for you.

May I remind all parents that Grange Drive is a car free zone for safety reasons. No parking here at all, thank you.

Our staff will be on duty from 8.35am to meet and greet children as they arrive at school into their respective playgrounds. Children will be welcomed into school at this point, giving them time to get settled before the register is taken at 8.45am and learning begins.

At 8.45am our classroom doors will close and teachers will complete the register. Anyone arriving after 8.45am will need to check in at the school office and your child will be marked as late.

All school entry points will be closed and locked by 9am, followed shortly by the Nursery gates at 9.05am. If you do arrive at school after this point for any reason, please buzz in at the main school gates on Station Road. Thank you.

Going home routines

All school entry points will be re-opened ready for the end of the school day at 3.05pm, giving parents a 10 minute window to get to their child's playground parent waiting area, for 3.15pm where our staff will be dismissing their classes. For those parents who have more than one child at Grange, please do not worry about being in two places at once at going home time. We will always keep any children safe with their teacher until you arrive to pick up. In the past, we have trusted our Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils to be dismissed from their teacher and make their way independently, through our school grounds, to a meeting point previously agreed by parents. Please let us know in September if you **do not** want your Year 4,5 or 6 child to be dismissed in this independent way. All other children from FS2 to Year 3 are dismissed as we see their parents at the pick up points.

Our school gates will then be closed for the day by 3.30pm.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

Please find below a message that the Department for Education have asked us to share with our families regarding the Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). We have personalised this for our school and want to reassure you that we do not feel this is an issue at Grange Primary School.

"You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, and we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

*As Grange Primary School was built in 1939, **we do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas.** However, we want to take care and to be sure, and are currently working with the DfE and Derbyshire County Council who are the landlords of our school building, to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any refurbishments of our buildings in the past. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away, and we have contingencies in place. However, we do not anticipate this will be the case, especially after a spokesperson for Derbyshire County Council has issued the following statement to the Derbyshire Times on Fri 1st September: "To the best of our knowledge, there is no RAAC in local authority-maintained schools in Derbyshire."*

I hope this reassures all our families that Grange Primary School is a safe place to be, and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 5th September. I will be sending out our first school newsletter later this week which will have all important dates for the diary up until Christmas.

Kind Regards

Mrs Buxton