



Dear Families at Grange,

It has been lovely to see how well our Grange children have settled back into school after the summer break. After visiting all the children in their classrooms this week, it has been very reassuring to see lots of enthusiasm and excitement all around.

I would also like to welcome our new families who have joined the Grange community. Our new FS2 children have all now experienced a full day in school settling into their new routines and, albeit very tired, are enjoying life at Grange.

### Living, Learning, Laughing

September sees the launch of our first 'I wonder' topics of the year. We like to approach all our learning with a curiosity-based approach that encourages our pupils to explore new knowledge and skills whilst asking and finding the answers to lots of questions.

Here are just a few of our I wonder themes this term:

I wonder..... 'Why have Romeo and Juliet stood the test of time?', 'What have the Romans ever done for us?' 'What makes me sparkle and shine?' and 'Banquets, balls and battles – What would your kingdom be like?'

Look out for information about your child's first 'I wonder' topic this year on their year group newsletter. You will also receive lots of information about their core curriculum learning within Maths and English too. Your support in helping your child to develop their fundamental skills within these core areas is so valuable. Teachers will regularly liaise with you about any home learning set that compliments the content of lessons within school, and we thank you in advance for supporting your child's development in this way.

### Important dates for the diary

During the summer break, many of our classrooms were freshly decorated and we can't wait for you to see the new look of the school during our first set of parents evenings which are planned in for later this half term.

Here are the main dates for our diary this Autumn term, including Christmas activities. We know our families always appreciate plenty of notice for special events.



**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept**- Grange University workshops begin. Your child will be able to choose a themed workshop that they would like to attend every Friday for a series of eight weeks. Our workshops focus on enriching your child's experiences within the arts, sports, outdoor activities, and languages. We will let you know if they need specific clothing or equipment in plenty of time for their first workshop. One year 4 class will be attending swimming on Friday afternoons. However, they will get the chance to choose workshops after Christmas when we run our next springtime choices.

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Photograph Day. Every child will have their individual school photo taken.

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Our Harvest celebration day. We will be collecting tins and dried food to donate to the Canaan Trust during that week. We will also have our special Harvest themed school dinner this day too.

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Parents evening. 3.30pm until 6.30pm.

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Parents evening. 3.30pm until 6.30pm.

During parents evening appointments, you will get chance to hear about your child's progress so far, how well they have settled into the new school year and you will also have the opportunity to look through your child's work. For many parents this will also be a chance to see where your child learns every day. We are really looking forward to seeing as many parents as possible. Look out for more information about these evenings and how to book in the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> October. We will be offering both on-site or phone call appointments for our families again this year after positive feedback from parents who appreciated having the choice.

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Last school day of the half term where we break up for October half term.

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Nov** – INSET day. School closed for all pupils.

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Nov:** School re-opens for everyone.

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Children in Need Day. (Fancy dress/non-uniform).

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Nov** – School Christmas Fayre. 6pm until 8pm. The FroGS parent group (Friends of Grange School) will be running our annual festive fundraising event supported by the Grange staff. Santa will be visiting and there will be plenty of fun games and activities, the book fair will be open, and there will be lots to eat!

#### Dates for Christmas productions and parties

***Please check these dates carefully to see which ones involve your child as we are doing things a little differently this year. Year 3 will be finalising their event and date within the next week and will communicate this directly with our Year 3 families.***

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm** – FS2 Nativity performance in the hall.

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm** – FS2 Nativity performance in the hall.

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm** – Year 1 and 2 Christmas concert in the hall.

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm** – Year 1 and 2 Christmas concert in the hall.

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 6 carol concert. 3pm until 4pm.

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10.30am and 2pm** – Nursery Nativity performance in our community room.

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 2 and 3 visit to the pantomime at the theatre.

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm** – Year 4 and 5 Christmas production in the hall.

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm** – Year 4 and 5 Christmas production.

**Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 1 and 2, and Year 3 and 4 will be having their Christmas parties.

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec** – FS2 and Year 5 and 6 will be having their Christmas parties.

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec** – Christmas Jumper Day. This is also the last day of term.

For all Christmas events we will send you more detailed information closer to the time.

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec** – INSET day. School will be closed to all pupils.

School will re-open on Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January for the Spring term.

#### Nut free school reminder

As we have a growing number of children who have quite severe nut allergies, Grange made the decision to be a nut free school. Our kitchen is already nut free and we now ask that all families help us by ensuring your child only brings nut free items in their lunchboxes or in their snack boxes. This will help to guarantee our children with severe allergies stay safe and well each day. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

#### Sports provision at Grange

Our afterschool sports clubs are starting up on Mon 18<sup>th</sup> September. This term our focus is Dodgeball. These are always hugely popular so don't forget to sign your child up as soon as possible if they are interested. You will have been sent a letter on WEDUC from Mr Hancock explaining how to do this.

Here is a reminder of our clubs each week:

Monday: Dodgeball Year 3 and 4

Tuesday: Dodgeball Year 1 and 2.

Wednesday: Dodgeball Year 5 and 6.

Don't forget, if your child is attending a sports club, they are able to come to school in their PE kit that day.

Grange always loves to get involved with and attend as many sporting competitions within the local area as possible as this gives many of our pupils the chance to shine out with their sporting skills, particularly if they have a special talent that they want to develop. It also allows our pupils to experience being part of a competitive team, and to experience winning or losing (although I have to say Grange have been getting very good at winning). This term, we will be entering a Grange Boys Football Team into the Erewash competition for Year 3 to 6, and a Grange Girls Football Team for Years 5 and 6. For those children that are interested, Mr Hancock will be running trials for the school teams on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September during the school day. If your child would like to take part in these trials, they will need to wear their school PE kit that day. The children will be given more information about this early next week.

### Staff news

Congratulations to Mrs Beardmore who has had a beautiful baby boy over the summer break. Mummy and baby are doing fine, and Mrs Beardmore looks forward to visiting soon. I will let her know that many of you have asked after her at the gates.



Some more super news to share – Congratulations to Miss Swann and Mr Hancock who are expecting their first baby together. Miss Swann shared this wonderful news with her class earlier this week – I think most parents would have already guessed! Miss Swann will be due to start her maternity leave just after Christmas and we will ensure that the teacher who takes over the class will have plenty of opportunity to spend time with the children before Miss Swann finishes. We feel it is so important to have a smooth transition for the children in our year two class.

Once again, many thanks for all your support in helping your child with a smooth transition into their new year group. Thank you for supporting the new drop off and collection routines especially our year 1 and 3 families as we appreciate there has been lots of change. Could we just remind parents that children should not be using the trim trail or any other playground equipment before or after school as a member of staff should always be supervising the use of these. Thanks in advance for your co-operation with this.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey this year, and we hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Buxton and Mrs Way  
Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher