



Dear Families at Grange,

I hope everyone had a lovely half term and managed to enjoy some family time. I wanted to thank all our families for the support you have given your children during the first autumn term. Whether this has been through reading at home, practicing spellings or special homework projects. It has been wonderful to see all the children making progress and enjoying their experiences.

What a very busy first term it was! The last week was especially busy with so many end of topic celebrations. Year 2 pupils showcased their medieval castles, what amazing design and technology creations! Year 3 proudly shared their garden-in-a box creations. There were so many different designs – such diverse creativity with everyone being proud of their finished results! Year 4 pupils went back in time to experience a day in the life of a Roman and our Year 5 pupils visited the Rio carnival vibe. Amazing costumes were spotted all round. Earlier in the term, our Year 1 pupils made a great entrance through the office area as they went on their Elmer parade celebrating difference and diversity with their individually designed and created colourful t-shirts. It has been lovely to see children giving each other compliments about their work and achievements, a life skill which we have been promoting this half term. Many of these activities naturally occur at the end of a topic, and I am aware that, for families who have more than one child at this school, it was a tough few weeks of organisation and prep, to ensure each child joined in with their end of topic activities. Once again, thank you for all of your support.

### Reminder of important dates for the diary

#### The Book Fair

The Book Fair will be open on the following dates:

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 3:15pm – 3:45pm

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6:00pm – 8:00pm (during the Christmas Fair)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 3:15pm – 3:45pm

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 3:15pm – 3:45pm



#### Dates for Christmas festivities

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> November 6pm until 8pm – Frogs Christmas Fayre. Santa will be visiting, there will be plenty of fun games and activities, the book fair will be open, and there will be lots to eat!

Mon 4th Dec at 2pm – FS2 Nativity performance in the hall.

Tues 5th Dec at 2pm – FS2 Nativity performance in the hall.

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – Nursery trip to Bluebells Dairy.

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Dinner Day.

Thurs 7th Dec at 2pm – Year 1 and 2 Christmas concert in the hall.

Fri 8th Dec at 2pm – Year 1 and 2 Christmas concert in the hall.

Tues 12th Dec – Year 6 carol concert. 3pm until 4pm.

Wed 13th Dec at 10.30am and 2pm – Nursery Nativity performance in our community room.

Wed 13th Dec – Year 2 and 3 visit to the pantomime at the theatre.

Wed 13th Dec at 2pm – Year 4 and 5 Christmas production in the hall.

Thurs 14th Dec at 2pm – Year 4 and 5 Christmas production in the hall.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Year 3 carol Concert. 2pm until 3pm.

Tues 19th Dec – Year 1 and 2, and Year 3 and 4 will be having their Christmas parties.

Wed 20th Dec – FS2 and Year 5 and 6 will be having their Christmas parties.

Thurs 21st 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 22nd Dec – INSET day. School will be closed to all pupils.

School will re-open on Mon 8th January for the Spring term.

### **Council updates**

Every class from Year 2 upwards has voted in a representative to join the school council, with four senior councillors being voted in for Year 6. Our senior councillors hold the responsibility of sharing information with the youngest children in the school as well as presenting myself with their minutes and any valuable points they want to put forward on behalf of the school's pupil voice. The school council has already had their first meeting in school, and this was very productive. Our Grange School Council have also been engaged in another exciting external project with the local council and have been advising them on fresh and creative designs for West Park's possible renovations to the playground area there. Our children have met with a local councillor and he has been very impressed with the way Grange children present their ideas and engage in professional meetings. The school council have been asked to continue in supporting any developments throughout this coming year. Well done and a huge thank you to Mrs Trembirth who trains and leads the Grange Council so well. Our council will be utilising any skills that they develop through this external project as they help to shape future development plans for our Key Stage 2 playground, an area that we would like to upgrade this year.

### **Health and safety reminders**

It is our policy that any children who wear stud earrings take these out for PE. Could we politely remind parents to check that your child is coming to school on their PE day with their earrings taken out. This also applies for any workshops or activities that involve sports. An exception will be made to this principle only if a child's ears have been recently pierced. In this circumstance a child will be allowed to leave their earrings in place but must bring plasters or micropore tape to cover each earring at the start of the PE/games session. Parents/carers will also need to complete and sign a disclaimer form, which can be found in the folders at the entrance to the school office. The disclaimer ensures that parents/carers accept responsibility for the risk of injury to their child posed by the wearing of earrings during these types of activities. This arrangement will be for a short period after which your child will be expected to either remove their earrings independently or else refrain from wearing them to school on days when they do PE/games. Many thanks for your support in this area.

### **100% attendance certificates**

This week, Mrs Way has had the pleasure of presenting 170 pupils with our termly 100% attendance and punctuality certificates from last term. Congratulations to those children. Due to the exceptional circumstances that many of our families found themselves in after the terrible localised flooding, we did not include the last week of term in this count. As we present these certificates, we always talk to each class about the fact that we cannot help it when we are poorly, and that we always reset after a half term so that all pupils have another chance to win one of these certificates next time. This approach to celebrating attendance is a strategy we have researched and is a recognised method of encouraging pupils, particularly our older pupils, to take pride in their attendance and particularly their punctuality.

Something new we have introduced this term are our attendance trophies, awarded to the two classes who have had the best attendance and punctuality over the first term. The two classes proudly receiving the trophy with an attendance (including punctuality) of over 97% were.....drum roll please..... Mrs Angeloni's class and Mrs Hyde's class. Congratulations to those classes and as well as the trophy, they will also be getting a class treat!

We also provide many other strategies to support families where attendance is affecting their child's well-being and progress. Please do contact Mrs Way, our Deputy Head teacher who is our attendance liaison for families, if you would like to seek support regarding your child's attendance.

### **Sports Coach**

I would like to welcome Mr Rostron and Miss Jones from Premier Education Group who are our new coaches until Christmas. They will be delivering our P.E. lessons now that Mr Hancock has taken up his new role. They are both looking forward to getting to know all of the children. Mr Rostron will be teaching PE with Year 1 to Year 6 and Miss Jones will be teaching our FS2 classes on a Thursday afternoon. Mr Rostron will also be running the after school Dodgeball clubs on Mon, Tues and Wed.

### **Your valued feedback**

If you haven't yet completed our online parental questionnaire, there is still time! We have extended the deadline and therefore the questionnaire is available until 3.30pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Below is a link to a questionnaire that we would love all our parents to fill in. This questionnaire will provide us with valuable feedback on what is working well for your children in school, and what we could do better.

Whilst this form can be filled in anonymously, we do encourage parents to provide us with enough information to help us review specific areas of the school, or to be able to identify where good practice takes place so that we can build on this consistently across our whole school.

<https://forms.office.com/e/A4vKe6Xzs1>

Thank you very much in advance for taking the time to complete this.

We are looking forward to what promises to be a very exciting Christmas term.

Kind Regards

Mrs Buxton and Mrs Way