



*Where Children Come First*

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Good afternoon all,

We are at the end of our second week already. Our PGL Year 6 gang are due back later today – it is always strange when they are away but they have had the best week possible down in Dorset and have made lifelong memories with their pals. I'm sure our staff team is exhausted, and I want to thank you all for going above and beyond this week.

**Enterprise:** This week the Year 5 and some 6 children took part in the first ever Grange Enterprise week. They were given the brief to sell a snack suitable for children at break time. The children then worked in teams to conduct market and product research. They calculated the profit they would make from different products and then advertised their chosen product across the school in the form of posters. We were lucky enough to have lovely weather during our walk to Sainsbury's to purchase our products. The snacks proved popular and we completely sold out on the day! The children have had an amazing week and shown great entrepreneurial skills. Watch out Lord Sugar!

Our new foundation students have made a cracking start to their learning journey at The Grange, settling in so well – and seeing them at play, learning their sounds, and eating their lunch is most satisfying; they are a great bunch; full of beans and resilient. Their seven-year Grange journey is well and truly afoot. Well done loves.

Goodbye, and good luck to Siena and her family. We wish you well at your new school darling.

**Home School Agreement: "Our vision is to create a school community where every child participates, excels, and takes pride in their achievements"**

Working alongside our families is intrinsic to the success and happiness of our children. We always rely on your support and help when working with your/our children – that's an integral part of our work and indicative of our community. This is what our mams and dads are so strong at and dedicated towards - that is why our children thrive and do so well.

Please complete the Home-School agreement as soon as you can so that we can continue to work in partnership – many thanks.

<https://forms.office.com/e/wC3bUGit1h>

**We care for everyone and everything:** I am really proud that our school community is diverse because diversity is everything that makes people different from each other: from our race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, ability, age, religious belief, or political conviction. The Grange family must be at the heart of supporting diversity particularly in these testing and hard times. When living, working and learning alongside people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, we can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the wider world. At this time, many people feel isolated because of the things I have listed above and because of the restrictions on us – not forgetting that a lot of us are living a long way from our families. It is incumbent upon us all to make all people feel valued; just 'smiling and saying 'Hello' (believe it or not) can seriously change the course of someone's day for the better. I implore you all to try hard to support other parents and families in our community – a smile and 'Hello' goes a long way.



**Harvest-time Collections:** In a couple of weeks, we will be thinking about Harvest and appreciating its importance. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, we will have a special whole school Harvest assembly – it'll be Foundation Stage's first singing to the school opportunity!

People can't afford to put food on the table. This isn't the cost-of-living crisis – it's the cost of surviving. With soaring energy prices and sky-high inflation, families are struggling to afford both their bills and meals. Please help by making a gift of food, toiletries, nappies and household items– whatever you give will allow our school food bank to help families do more than just survive. Our donations through last year were superb; please keep the tradition going.

- Breakfast cereals
- Soup
- Pasta or Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned beans
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned pudding
- Tea or coffee
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- UHT Milk
- Juice
- Snacks
- Toiletries
- Nappies
- Washing liquids/powders etc

**Uniform:** We have a rail of washed and ironed -in good condition- school uniform items in school ready to go to a good home. If you need any items, please contact the office.

**Reading:** Please ensure that reading is a massive part of the home routine. Reading Journals must be in school every day and reading should be recorded regularly. We are working hard to challenge our children with a vast range of genres and demanding and inspiring texts, so every little bit of help will make a difference.

**PTFA:** Our PTFA has generously donated 3k for Maths Textbooks, maths resources, and play equipment – thank you all for your support and donations; our school events such as GrangeFest are integral to our survival.

**Annual Conker Competition:** I hope you are all preparing your conkers; more information to follow - the Final will be on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

### Caught Being Good...

Congratulations to:

**40 CBGS:** Oskar D

**70 CBGS:** Maisie W

**Platinum Badge:** Elliot K-L

**140 CBGS:** Issy H, Jemima G

### Showing the Grange Way outside the school



Well done to the following children who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge: Leah W, Dalya D, Lirael O, Ollie G, Casey M, Mikayla H, George T, Adam D, Willow C, Gabriel D, Genevieve D, Grace-Willow K, Oliver H

Maggie W has been awarded the Southam Triathlon Event (Autumn Event 3.9.23) trophy. Immense.

Talented Lara P has been awarded a Blue Peter Music Badge for her singing and playing the guitar.

It has been such a pleasure to be working with many students so far this term – close to the coalface; just where I like to be. All of our teachers have nothing but praise for our children; a superb start to the school year everyone.

**Attendance** is at 97.63% with Reception classes being on top at 99.48% - incredible! No holidays will be authorised during term time. I have already had requests submitted – thank you for informing us up front of the absence but leave will not be authorised and OCC will authorise fines. Of course, there are times of exceptional circumstances. I am responsible for deciding what counts as an exceptional circumstance when it comes to a child missing school and I will look at each application individually, considering the specific facts and background context. If a leave of absence is granted, I will decide how long the pupil can be away from school.

If a child has one day off school, this is roughly equivalent to missing 0.5% of the school year. This is not a lot of time at all. However, if a child has a week off school, this could equate to 3.68% of his/her attendance lost. If a child misses one whole month overall, this is approximately equivalent to 15% of your attendance and that is a lot of lost learning.

Holidays are very rarely an acceptable reason for a school absence and are unlikely to be treated as an exceptional circumstance. Thank you to my staff team for such a smooth and effective start to the school year – it could not have gone better.

Have a great weekend all – Friday 5, please! Read, Read, Read, Read, Read; Tell someone close to you that you love them; Keep Active; Stay Safe; Show The Grange Way.

Take Care all

Ms Boswell x

