



*Where Children Come First*

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Hello everyone – Happy Friday!

It has been a most satisfying and successful start to the 24-25 Academic Year. The children have returned with a renewed zeal and vigour – smiles and having grown so much and looking smart in their uniforms.

A special well done and congratulations to our new Reception cohort – I have been in and out of the base for the past three days – just having had a lovely time with many of them. They are such curious and active children and get on so well together – we are very impressed. It's fair to say that they are tired Hectors today but seeing them sharing books with adults already, exploring inside and out, and treating each other with kindness and care melts one's heart – they are showing The Grange Way in spades.

Over the next few weeks, our children will be preparing to canvas support and run for election to our many student leader roles such as House Captaincy, Sports Reps, Student Council, Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Eco Council, etc. The dates will follow but it is safe to say that by the end of the month, we will have everyone in 'office' – watch this space.

On Monday, our Year 6s will be heading off to Dorset for their much-anticipated week-long residential trip at PGL, a massive rite of passage, and a special start to their last year at The Grange.

The next few weeks will see us baseline assess every child from Reception to Year 6 so that we can fine-tune our curriculum and provision. Once we know that information, we will contact you to let you know how your child is doing and what their specific targets are going forward. Please try to attend all parent/carer information sessions and consultations so that you are informed of your child's progress and attainment.

### **Showing the Grange Way outside the school**

#### **Well done to:**

Casey M who has achieved Level 1 in swimming

Max P and Oliver H who have achieved Level 2 in swimming

Casey M, Grace-Willow K, Alexis B, Kimberley M, Mikayla H, Oliver H and Ruby B who have completed The Summer Reading Challenge.

George T who has received Most Improved Player from Rosie Clark Tennis Coaching.

Fern B-T Who has been awarded a medal from Race for Life Cancer Research.

Oliver H who has been awarded two badges from Muddy Feet Forest School.

Alexis B who in rugby was awarded player of the day, for which she received a trophy which is awarded every week to players who give 100% and perform well in all aspects of rugby.

**School Improvement Plan:** In the next newsletter, I will share the priorities for this coming year – safe to say, we are in a strong position as a school and must keep working hard to maintain our high standards.

**Attendance** is at 98.47% with Year 1 being on top at 100% - incredible; you were on top this time last year in Reception too! Bodicote 2, Cropredy, Hanwell and Kings Sutton are on 100% - brilliant start.



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.

### **FFTA Halloween Disco: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Reception Disco will take part during the school afternoon, and they will leave school at the usual time.

Years 1 – 6 Disco @ 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm

**Staffing:** Ms Keyte is leaving us this term, unfortunately. She has fostered great relationships with our children and she will be missed.

Mr Will Larner joins the Reception team on Monday – he has already met our children and is looking forward to starting his Grange journey.

**Governance:** We welcome Mr Oliver Badger to our Governing Body this year.

**Uniform:** We already have a haul of unnamed items of uniform after three days. Please, Please, Please label all items. Can you also ensure that outdoor coats, shoes, and wellies are sent in.

Thank you to my staff team for such a smooth and effective start to the school year – it could not have gone better.

It has been reassuring and pleasing to hear that the new Year 7s are settling well at their new secondary schools – gone but never forgotten.

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

Take Care all

Ms Boswell x

