



Healthy Schools

Volume 4 Issue 5

January 2007

Grange Farm Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

As we start a new year may I take this opportunity to wish you all well for 2007.

This Spring Term is a short one and as such there is a great deal of work to be done within a short period of time!

Open Evening

On Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th February, parents will be invited into school for a meeting with their children's class teacher.

This is possibly the most useful meeting, between parents and teaching staff, that takes place during the year.

Parents and teachers together can review children's progress to date and can set targets for future development and progress.

Letters arranging appointments should come out from school on Tuesday 23rd January and will need to be returned to school by Monday 29th January so that individual appointments can be arranged.

Healthy Schools Standard

Parents may be interested to know that the school has recently been awarded the National Healthy Schools Standard. This accredited award recognises that as a school we promote the health and well being of our pupils through a well-planned, taught curriculum in a physical and emotional environment that promotes learning and healthy life style choices.

School Council News

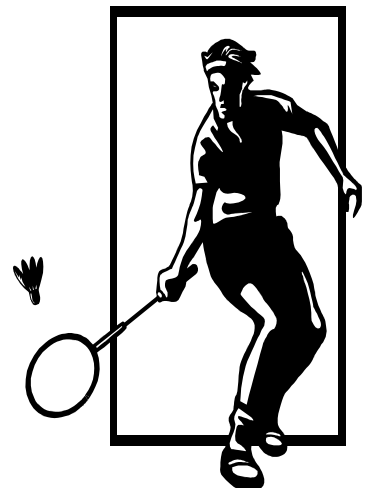
Recently we have asked each class to make a wish list for playground toys. We are going to use some of the School Council Fund to pay for things together with a £50 award won in a school dinners competition.

We are also thinking about sponsoring a child less fortunate than us in another country. We are also going to be supporting Red Nose Day 2007, details will follow.

Priya Dhesi

Spring 2007 Extra Curricular Timetable

	Lunchtime	Evening
Monday	Beginner Guitars Beginner Recorders Middle Recorders Advanced Recorders French Club KS2 Library	Rugby (Y4,5,6) (From 5 March Y2-3) Tennis (Y1-2)
Tuesday	Girls Football (Y4-6) KS2 Library	Mixed Football (Y5-6) Tennis (Y3-4)
Wednesday	School Choir KS2 Library	Basketball (Y3-6)
Thursday	Improver Guitars KS2 Library	Fitness Zone (Y3-Y6)
Friday	Fun Music Group	Badminton (Y3-Y6) (Finham)



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Child Safety

Whilst there are no known issues of concern in relation to our school and surrounding area following conversations with parents on the playground I include below a reminder of some simple child safety guidelines. Much of it is good common sense but I hope it may prove of use to some parents.

Explain what a stranger is. Emphasize that strangers don't look like monsters or aliens, but that they look like ordinary people.

Teach children "No, Go, Yell, Tell." Teach children to say no, run away, yell as loud as they can, and tell a trusted adult if they think they are in a dangerous situation. Practise this through role-playing.

Possible dangerous situations: an adult asks a child for directions, an adult asks a child to keep a "special secret," or an adult approaches a child in a car.

Know where your children are at all times. Make a rule that your children must ask permission or check with you before going anywhere. Give your children your work and mobile phone numbers so they can reach you at all times.

Point out safe places in the local area. Walk through the local area with children and show them safe places to play, safe roads and paths to take, and safe places to go if there's trouble.

Teach children to trust their instincts. Explain that if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable they should get away from the situation and tell an adult. Reassure children that you will help them when they need it.

Diary Dates

2007

Feb 2	School Disco for Pupils
Feb 6 & Feb 7	Parental Consultations
Feb 10—Feb 18	February Half Term
March 11—15	Y6 Residential / Dol-y-Moch
March TBC	Easter Music Concert
March 31 – April 15	Easter Break
May 3	Polling Day/Teacher Training Day
May 7	May Day
May 24	Class Photographs
May 26—June 3	Half Term
June 4	Teacher Training Day
July 13	Sports Day (July 18 if wet)
July 20	Teacher Training Day
July 21	Summer Break

Important Date Change

Please note in your diaries an important date change to the school calendar.

Sports Day originally scheduled for 17 July (Wednesday 18 July if wet) has now been rescheduled for Friday 13 July (Wednesday 18 July if wet).

For parents new to the school I should explain that sports day is a whole day event involving all our pupils. Parents are invited to spend part or indeed all of the day with their children supporting them and sharing lunch with them.

School Start Times

Teaching staff continue to express real concern that some children are regularly coming in to school late. This can be very disruptive, as it impacts heavily on the start of lessons for all children.

I would be grateful therefore if parents would make every effort to ensure that children are on the school playground at 8.50 am for an 8.55 am start to the school day.

School Disco

A disco for pupils is scheduled for the evening of Friday 2nd February, entrance £1 on the door. Further information to follow.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support.

Ben Whelan

January 2007