



department for
education and skills

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September 2006

Grange Farm Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome back at the beginning of a new academic year.

Our children have settled nicely, the atmosphere within school returning to its usual sense of calm and industry.

Our new Reception children have started coming into school this week and an especially warm welcome goes to them and their parents, particularly those new to our school community.

Attendance

Recent figures on attendance at Grange Farm school indicate a very slight trend downwards.

This is a cause for concern especially when recent DfES analysis demonstrates a strong correlation between the amount of absence in a school and the qualifications that pupils achieve. Recent audits of both Primary and Secondary school results demonstrate that every lesson in school matters and that children who have time off often find it difficult to catch up and do well at school particularly when the average amount of absence taken by a child increases.

Bearing this in mind, wherever possible, parents should try to take holidays during school holidays. You should always avoid taking your child on holiday at critical times during their education, e.g. at the beginning of the academic year, or when your child should be taking exams or tests.

Further information on the above issues will be available at the parents evening on 5 October.

Friends of
Grange Farm 

The Friends of Grange Farm will meet at 7pm on Tuesday 19 September at the school with Mr Whelan.

Every parent/guardian is welcome to attend and we would like to emphasize that anybody who wishes to have a say in the activities we organise should attend these meetings.

If there is anything you would like to discuss specifically, please let Mrs Fanny Anderson know (02476692727) and she will add it to the agenda:

Agenda:

- brief review of the last events
- our budget
- the next event : school disco

Our e-mail address is:

Friendsofgrangefarm@gmail.com

Parents Evenings

On Thursday 5 October, parents will be invited to school for a meeting with their child's class teacher. We are holding this meeting early in the term so as to provide an opportunity for those of you, who haven't already done so, to meet and discuss your child with their new teacher.

As with last year, parents will be allocated an individual appointment time to facilitate a private consultation with their child's class teacher.

Letters further detailing arrangements should come out to parents on 26 September.

Newsletter

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Drinking Water

The refurbishment, last term, of our Key Stage 1 toilets saw the removal of drinking fountains from the toilet areas on the grounds of Health and Safety.

As a replacement the school has now installed filter taps into all Key Stage 1 classrooms and Key Stage 2 Resource Areas. The taps have a carbon filter and are designed to allow easy filling of water bottles.

It would be great to see all our children bringing water bottles into school. As well as the obvious health benefits research shows us that good hydration improves mental alertness.

Staffing

Parents will be aware that we have a number of new members of staff working in Grange Farm this year.

Mrs Claire Matthews has taken over as our Year 6 class teacher, Miss Emma Pennington has taken over as our Year 4 class teacher and Miss Emma McGee has taken on the role of additional class teacher in Year 1.

I am sure parents will join me in welcoming them to our school. I have no doubt that all three will make a significant and positive contribution to our school community.



School Photographs

Tuesday 10 October

Individual and family photographs. More details and information to follow.

School Year Diary Dates

2006/2007

Oct 5		Parents Evening
Oct 10		Individual and Family Photographs
Oct 21-29		October Half Term
Nov 21		School Book Fair
Dec TBC		Christmas Family Disco
Dec 12	2:30pm KS1 6:30pm KS2	Christmas Concerts Afternoon and evening performances
Dec 13	2:30pm KS2 6:30pm KS1	Christmas Concerts Afternoon and evening performances
Dec 19		Christmas Parties
Dec 21—Jan 2		Christmas Break
Jan 3		Teacher Training Day
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 TBC		Class Photographs
May 26—June 3		Half Term
June 4		Teacher Training Day
July 17		Sports Day (July 18 if wet)
July 20		Teacher Training Day
July 21		Summer Break

Friday Assembly

There will be a slight change to the format of our Friday Achievement Assembly this year. On occasions during the year we hope to involve children more in the presentation of the assembly. This is largely in an effort to ensure all children at the school have the opportunity to speak or perform in front of a public audience at least once during the year.

If your child is playing a role in our Friday Assembly you will of course receive an invitation to attend should you wish to.

Once again on behalf of all staff may I thank you for your support in the past. I know you will continue to support us during this coming year.

Ben Whelan
September 2006