



Volume 5 Issue 1

September 2007

Healthy Schools

Grange Farm Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome back at the beginning of a new academic year.

Despite the inconveniences imposed by the remodelling and extension work, our children have settled well and the atmosphere within school maintains its usual sense of calm and industry.

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

Reporting to Parents

Many thanks to those parents who found the time to comment on the revised format we used in July to report to parents. Parental views and comments were taken into consideration when revising the format and this is clearly reflected in the 100% positive response to it. A sample of comments are shared below.

'The new format is definitely an improvement and gives a much better indication of both effort and achievement'

'The new format of the report is more informative for each child'

'We like the new format of the report – clear and easy to understand'

'We do like the new format of the report. Not only do they show the progress being made but also the effort put into the subjects'

'The new style of report is easier to read and understand and gives a clearer indication of how your child is performing'

'The new format is clear and easy to follow, we like the change'

'Congratulations on the new format and content'

'Report is much clearer now and shows the areas to work on'

'The new style report is very good'

'New format much better than last one'

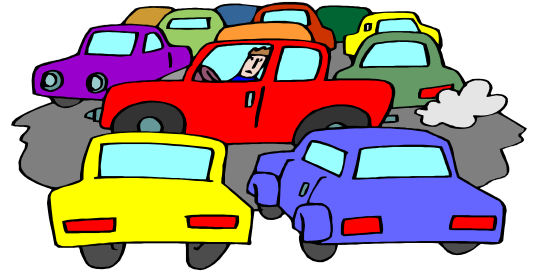
'New format of reports 100% better'

'Report felt personalised rather than standardised. Found the grading system useful too'

'The new format is a big improvement. Well done! This will help parents and staff to be more objective in discussions of the child'

'New format easy to read and understand'

School Gate Parking



Concern has again been expressed at the way in which some parents are parking outside school.

The vast majority of parents/carers continue to be very careful about how they park around the school site and I thank them for that.

However, some parents and carers still pull up on the yellow zig-zags/double yellow lines immediately outside the school.

In addition some of our neighbours who live on Dewsbury Ave and surrounding streets continue to find cars obstructing their driveways. This is clearly unacceptable and inconsiderate. In addition, it is damaging the good name of the school and its pupils.

Local Police Officers have now also expressed their concern and have indicated that they intend to patrol outside the school on occasion.

Our children's safety is paramount and cars that pull up directly outside the school restrict vision and therefore compromise children's safety.

I would once again therefore ask all parents to park with care and consideration.



Newsletter

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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 parents should try to take holidays during school holidays. Parents should always avoid taking their 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.

Open Evenings

On Thursday 4 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 24 September.

School Photographs

Wednesday 10 October

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

School Year Diary Dates

2007/2008

Oct 4	Parents Evening
Oct 10	Individual and Family Photographs
Oct 20-28	October Half Term
Dec TBC	Christmas Family Disco
Dec TBC	Christmas Concerts
Dec 20	Christmas Parties
Dec 22-Jan 6	Christmas Break
Jan 7	Teacher Training Day
Jan 19-23	Y6 Residential / Dol-y-Moch
Feb 6 & Feb 7	Parental Consultations
Feb 9-Feb 17	February Half Term
March TBC	Easter Music Concert
March 21-April 2	Easter Break
May 1	Polling Day / Teacher Training Day
May 5	May Day
May TBC	Class Photographs
May 24-June 1	Half Term
June 2	Teacher Training Day
July 11	Sports Day (July 16 if wet)
July 18	Teacher Training Day
July 19	Summer Break

Friends of Grange Farm School

A reminder that The Friends of Grange Farm meet tonight at 7pm at the school.

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.

Our e-mail address is:

Friendsofgrangefarm@gmail.com

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 2007