

# new year new beginnings



10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

To Our Lovely Grange Families,

Welcome to our first Friday Flyer of the new year! For those of you who are new to us, our Friday Flyer is a way of us staying in touch with you and letting you know all of our news and updates. Last year the flyers went out weekly, but for this term, we are going to trial sending one out each fortnight. The flyers are published on Class Dojo, Facebook and our school website.

It has been wonderful to welcome you all back and to say a big 'hello' to our new Year R children who started school yesterday. I really don't know where the time goes and I can't believe we are here already at the start of a new school year, with a world of possibilities ahead of us all! September is a time of change and transition and I have been so proud of how well our children in Year 1 and Year 2 have settled straight back into school with such strength, independence and resilience. In the same way, just seeing how excited and happy our new Year Rs are to be with us, has brought such a buzz to the whole school and the smiles on the staff's faces says it all.



This is going to be busy but fun term and all being well, we have so many things planned for the children to ensure that they really do have the flying start they deserve. A huge thank you must go to all of the staff who have put so much effort into preparing the classrooms ready to welcome the children. Although we can't invite our families in just yet, we are hopeful that at some point very soon you will be able to come and see for yourselves how fresh and bright the school looks.

It really has been so lovely to see so many of you and to hear all of your news. As always, my door is open so please let me or the amazing office team know if there is anything we can do to help. We are always here for you!

May I wish you all a wonderful and restful weekend. We can't wait to welcome you back again on Monday! Miss Myers ☺

## Drop-off and Pick-up timings: A reminder

Thank you to everyone for respecting our one way system whilst we are still mindful of keeping everyone safe. Our shorter windows of 5 minutes have made a big difference to the 'slickness' of the beginning and end of the day. Year 1 and Year 2 are now confident enough to take themselves straight in every morning but class staff will always be available on the playground.

**Year R timings will start when the children are full time from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September.**

Owls, Blackbirds and Wagtails: 8.40am and 3.20pm

Chaffinches and Robins: 8.45am and 3.15pm

Starlings, Sparrows and Woodpeckers: 8.50am and 3.10pm (from 20.9.21)



**PE days: these are the new PE days that that will start next week. Please check for the day your child will have PE.**

The children will come to school in their PE kits as we no longer change in school. Please can you make sure all jewellery is removed as part of our health and safety guidance.

It is always good practice to name all items of clothing too!

**Starlings, Sparrows and Woodpeckers: Wednesday**

**Wagtails, Chaffinches and Robins: Monday**

**Owls and Blackbirds: Tuesday**

We would ask that PE kits consist of black shorts or trackies when it is colder and a plain white t-shirt. School jumpers or cardigans can be worn on top so please avoid hoodies or other sweatshirts. We encourage the children to wear black plimsolls or plain black trainers.



### Class Dojo



The Class Dojo app is a brilliant way of staying in touch. It's safe, secure and private but offers a platform for us to communicate with you and for you to be able to contact your child's class teacher.

Each child has their own portfolio into which photos and activities can be uploaded. The class page keeps you up to date with what's happening and often has photos of what the children have been up to that day.

If you haven't yet joined your child's class, please check 'clutter' in your emails for the invite or speak to your child's class teacher for details.

### Water Bottles

At the moment we are asking for water bottles to be brought in on a daily basis so that they can be cleaned and sanitised ready for the next day.

Please can we ask that the children only have water and **not squash or juice.** We are a 'Healthy School' and endeavour to promote healthy choices such as drinking water with the children.

Thank you!



### **Weekly attendance: Cool to be In School**

Each week, attendance is tracked across the school and on a Friday the class with highest attendance for that week, gets a certificate. At the end of each term, we look at who has had the best attendance overall and that class gets to choose an item for their class such as a new game.

### **This week the winners are: The Wagtails!**

Congratulations and well done for your great attendance this week.

Don't forget, the more you're in school, the more learning you can do!

**As a school, we have a responsibility and a duty of care to ensure that children attend school regularly and that attendance is good. Where attendance drops, we will make contact with parents and carers and work with you to get attendance back on track.**

**Should your child be unwell and unable to attend that day, please contact the office to let us know and this will be recorded on our registers.**

**During out of office hours, you will be able to leave a message.**



### **Parking outside of school**

Unfortunately, our car park is reserved for staff only, so we ask that families do not access this car park during school hours.

It has been noted that some vehicles are parking near to the school gate and driveway on Franklin Road which is causing a hazard for families who are crossing this road. Please make sure you are legally parked if you have to drive to the school. We do encourage all of our families to walk if they can!



### **Things to look forward to!**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October:** School closes for the half term break

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November:** School re-opens for Autumn 2

**INSET dates for this year-** we like to give you plenty of warning so you can prepare!

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November:** Staff training

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February:** Common closure day for Gosport and Fareham schools

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July:** Transition planning

### **School Uniform**

It has been lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniform!

The office is well stocked with everything you need expect for 24" jumpers, which are on order.

We also have a large amount of good quality, second-hand uniform available, so let the office know if you need anything.



### Grange Infant School Wednesday Club

At Grange Infants, we are in receipt of different pots of funding to support the children with their learning and attainment, as well as their social and emotional development. Two of these funding allocations are 'Pupil Premium' and 'Forces Premium' and families have been asked to let us know if they qualify for either one.

One way we use this funding is the running of our 'Wednesday Club'. We would love to get this club up and running again after putting it (and other clubs) on hold. A letter will be going out to those families in **Year 2** who qualify for Pupil Premium funding or Forces Premium funding inviting you to apply for a place for this term. As we are still under some restrictions and are being mindful of keeping everyone safe, we are just opening the club to those families in Year 2. All being well, we can then extend to Year 1 and Year R at a later date.

The children who secure a place, will go straight to Wednesday Club at the end of the day and will stay for fun activities and a snack until **5pm**.

The letter will come out to you next week, so watch this space...!

We are hopeful that other after school clubs will start again this term.



### Miss Myers has a favour to ask...

Our Vision for the school is 'A Flying Start' and this really underpins everything we do to give your child the very best start to their school years. We pride ourselves on the nurturing and welcoming approach we have to education as well as our strength in inclusivity and recognising every child for their uniqueness and individuality.

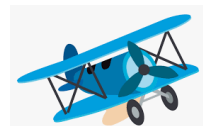
During our INSET day last week, myself and the staff spent time thinking about our vision for the school and what Grange Infant School truly means to us, why we love working here and what an amazing experience we think we give the children.

As parents and families of the school, you have a vital role to play as one of our most important stakeholders; your views really matter. In this way, I would love to hear your views, why you chose for Grange Infants to be the place to send your children and those things you really value that we do well. It might be things such as safety and security, relationships and happiness or education and learning.

If you are happy to share your thoughts, please send me an email: [s.myers@grange-inf.hants.sch.uk](mailto:s.myers@grange-inf.hants.sch.uk)

They will be shared anonymously on a whole school display which will also capture comments from both children and staff.

Thank you!



### Wow Writers and Proud Pot this week:

Every Friday, we have a whole school celebration assembly where we find out about the amazing things the children have been up to. Each class will put forward one child for their 'wow writing' and one child who has done something that they are really proud of.

For now, this assembly is virtual via Google Classroom but the hope is that we will be together again very soon!

A big congratulations to the following children who have excelled this week and been the very best they can be!

**Chaffinches:** Wow this week goes to Mac. This was Mac's first week at Grange Infants School and has been a little super star.

Proud pot goes to the whole of the Chaffinch class for settling into their new class in year 1, despite all the challenges thrown at them. Well Done Chaffinches ☺

**Wagtails:** Wow writer Jaxson for his writing all about himself ☺

Proud pot goes to Olly for his brilliant work on number orders.

**Robins:** Wow writer is Douglas for his brilliant sentences about emotions from the book 'Colour Monster'

Proud pot is Charlie.W for all his amazing learning this week and helping out all the teachers in the Robins class!

**Owls:** Wow this week goes to Peter for his great revising! ☺

Proud pot goes to Lola for completing all her maths jobs. Excellent job Lola!

**Blackbirds:** Wow writer is Scarlet for her beautiful handwriting.

Proud pot goes to Kyro for seeking help when he came across some tricky work!





### Mindfulness Moments

Our weekly slot with Miss Reed: Take time out for a moment of mindfulness

This week's mindfulness activity:

What a busy and fun first week it has been back at school!

You have been up to so many amazing things, let's take some time to reflect on the week you have had.

Using the 'Rose, Thorn & Bud Check in' have a think about the week you have just had.

Rose - think of 1 thing you are grateful for or that you have enjoyed this week at school.

Thorn - think of something that has perhaps challenged you or made you worry slightly. Don't forget you can talk to adults at school and at home about your worries so that we can help you with them.

Bud - think of something that you are looking forward to this year. Perhaps it is a school trip or a particular piece of learning, or maybe it is having the chance to play with an old friend you haven't seen for a while. Spend some time writing, drawing or just thinking about a Rose, Thorn and Bud. You could share this on Class Dojo by sending it to your class teacher.

### ROSE, THORN & BUD CHECK-IN

