



Autumn Term 1 - October 2020 (Issue Number 36)

Back to School – Monday 2nd November 2020

End of Term – Thursday 17th December 2020

Back to School – Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a start for us all to this new academic year! I can only say COVID-19 keeps challenging us on a daily basis. Cases are on the rise. So many schools both nationally and locally have had cases of COVID-19 in their settings resulting in 'bubbles' having to be closed. Fortunately for The Grange, so far, we have not had a confirmed case amongst either staff or pupils. We are however prepared for every eventuality; home-learning provision is very secure, especially as we have the only Google Accredited Teacher in this Local Authority, in the name of Mrs Knowles. We are very proud of how she has excelled in achieving this goal and how she continues to execute our IT provision.

NOTICE: due to the concerns I have received from some parents/carers about the lack of social distancing, the lack of wearing of a face covering (if you are able to), more than one parent/carer dropping off and picking up their child/children and not leaving the premises once this has been done, I will be putting a proposal to the Governors at the next full Governors meeting. The proposal will be, if the cases continue to rise and there continues to be lack of cooperation with the points mentioned above, then a WIDER staggered timing to the start and end of the school day for each year group should be considered. The other option will be as per several schools in our Local Authority, where parents/carers are not allowed at all onto the premises. This will mean that children will be dropped off at the gates – this is an option I will be hesitant to put in place but may not have any other alternative.

Unfortunately, next half-term's usual concerts, fayre and other events will not go ahead for obvious reasons relating to COVID-19. We will conduct parents/carers meetings via telephone conversations.

I have been very impressed by our attendance percentages overall (ranging from 91% to 96%) which have been very good considering the pandemic. Thank you for sending your children to school and thank you to Miss Cook and Mrs Hempstock, who look after this aspect in school.

We have uploaded the Remote Education Policy onto the website. This can be found in two places:

1. About Us – Policies
2. Home Learning (blue section on the Main Page).

This policy covers our provision in the eventuality of a child self-isolating, having to send a 'bubble' home or having to close the school due to COVID-19.

Staff Update

1. Miss Thomas will no longer be returning to us. Since September she has been the Acting Headteacher at Leys Farm Junior School. She has now been permanently appointed as the Headteacher of the school. We are all extremely pleased for her and wish her the very best in her role. She will always be a highly respected and cherished member of The Grange Primary School. Her commitment to our school and dedication to its' improvement has been one of hard work and true passion. I know we will all miss her presence. On a personal note, I will always value her contribution in all the progress that has been made here and thank her for always remaining calm in the face of adversity; I have known Miss Thomas for over twenty years - our paths first crossed when she taught my daughter and I was a parent helper in her class. Thank you for everything, Miss Thomas and all the very, very best – please don't be a stranger to us!

Frequently asked Questions and Answers

I thought to share with you some questions that parents/carers have raised this term and attempt to answer these:

Q - Is it a must to wear a face covering?

A – No, however we are encouraging you to do so if you are able to. This will help us all, most especially, those who are at 'high risk'. Thank you to all those, who are not exempt medically, who wear a face covering.

Q – Why are some parents/adults still not wearing a face covering?

A – We have tried our best to encourage this through various correspondences. Some parents/carers might be officially exempt from wearing a face covering. I am aware that some schools have made it compulsory for face coverings to be worn on their premises. I do not want to adapt a dictatorial approach at this moment and I am relying on your good will to support the school and **each other**.

*** – Consider not allowing parents/carers onto the premises at all.**

* - This is still an option to the school if things don't settle down during pick up times. I am aware some schools do not allow parents/carers on their premises at all.

Q – Why is more than one person dropping-off and picking-up their child/children?

A - We have tried our best to encourage this through various correspondences and rely on the goodwill of parents/carers to abide by what the school requests. Thank you to all those who do.

Q – Why does my child have to come to school in their PE kit on their PE day?

A – This is the guidance that has been given to us by Sports England and our Local Authority Sports Network. The aim is to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus during changing periods.

Q – Why can't the school stagger the pick-up times?

A – We have staggered the pick-up times for years 5/6 and the rest of the school by 10 minutes. In considering our set times, we took into account those parents/carers working and how they may have arranged their times to coincide with pick-up times. If we should change this now, it'll cause a lot of problems for some parents/carers. Sadly, we cannot please everyone, although we do aim to do our very best. Early Years Foundation Stage have their own timings which seems to be working well.

**To all those who continue to support the measures we put in place and adhere to what we request, we are grateful.
Our aim is to keep our whole community safe!**

Diary Dates:

School Dates		
Term	Dates	Activity
Autumn	2 nd September	Staff INSET
	3 rd September	Pupils Back
	23 rd October	Half-term
	2 nd November	Pupils Back
	17 th December	End of Term
2021		
Spring	4 th January	Staff INSET
	5 th January	Pupils Back
	12 th February	Half-term
	22 nd February	Pupils Back
	31 st March	End of Term
Summer	19 th April	Staff INSET
	20 th April	Pupils Back
	3 rd May	MAY DAY
	28 th May	Half-term
	7 th June	Pupils Back
	22 nd July	End of Term

Please do continue to support us all in our quest to remain open by:

- practising social distancing
- leaving the premises as soon as you've dropped-off and picked-up your child/children
- having only one adult drop-off and pick-up children
- wearing a face covering **if you are able to**.

Keep safe, Mrs Thorpe