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| **Grange View C.E. First School**  Grange Road, Widdrington Morpeth, NE61 5LZ.Telephone: 01670 790 686email: admin@grangeview.northumberland.sch.uk Headteacher: Mrs Louise Laskey B.Ed(Hons) **www.grangeview.northumberland.sch.uk**  |

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**Dear Parent/Carers 4th Sept 2018**

# HEADTEACHER’S MESSAGE

Welcome back to everyone and we hope you have all had a wonderful summer holiday and spent quality time with your lovely children. Now it’s back to school with lots of hard work and challenges ahead. We look forward to working with you all this year to help and support your child learning lots of new skills. Please support us with all we do.

# THANKYOU

Many thanks go to all of the parents and pupils for all your kind cards, flowers, chocolates, gifts, etc! We really are grateful for all your thoughtfulness and kindness.

**Online Portal Opening September 2018 - Middle, High and Secondary**

The Online Portal for Admissions to Middle, High and Secondary Schools will Open in September 2017 for children transferring from First to Middle (current Year 4) – Middle to High (current Year 8) and Primary to Secondary (current Year 6). Further information can be found on the County Council School Admissions page. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO APPLY FOR A PLACE AT MIDDLE SCHOOL.**

**Staff changes**

Mrs Herron is now officially back in her role as Assistant Head Teacher

Miss Darlow has joined Beech Class as our new Year 2 Teacher

Mrs Miller is now our Year 1 Teacher in Elm Class

Miss Armstrong is our Maternity Cover Teacher in Nursery until Miss Conroy returns

Mr Guy is our new Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant replacing Miss Jeffrey

**Outside Play Equipment**

The outside play equipment near Oak Class/Nursery is OUT OF BOUNDS so please do not let your children play on this at the beginning and end of the school day – it has had work done on the holidays as this needs to settle in. All children MUST be supervised by parents for health & safety reasons, thank you.

**Summer Term Topic Reviews**

**Acorns - Summer 2: The Seaside**

We started this half term with our STEM week which was amazing fun for everyone. We used a range of materials to build boats that we hoped would float. The children were able to build and construct with a wide range of objects, selecting appropriate resources and adapting their work where necessary. They selected tools and techniques they needed to shape, assemble and join the materials they used. The children also enjoyed all of the visitors we had over the week.

Sports day and the fun day were also very popular events this half term; the children all enjoyed taking part in our obstacle course and got into the spirit of it all cheering their friends on.

We were able to do a lot of our seaside topic work out of doors because of the lovely weather and made good use of the quad and the garden area and need to thank Mr Millican for all of his hard work helping us develop our mud kitchen area.

**Oak- Summer 2: The Seaside**

Reception class have looked after me this half term during my phased return to school. They have worked really hard with their writing using their phonics to have a go at tricky words. They have been writing about the seaside and telling me what they have done there. They described sandcastles they built at the beach and explained to others how they built them. We built sandcastles in our sandpit in the garden area. We talked about creatures we found at the beach and used creative materials to make them. Reading has been a big focus this term and the children have been doing great reading with lots of support from home.

Elm and Beech Classes

**Beech Class- Topic review Summer 18**

We have had an amazing final half term in Year 2. They children been involved in so many exciting learning opportunities I don’t know where to start! Our ‘What’s in the news?’ topic led to lots of engaging lessons all following the children’s personal interests. Many of these sessions involved the world cup. The children thoroughly enjoyed finding out about the host nation Russia. We looked at the geography and location of Russia using atlases and maps. After a little research we were able to make our own fascinating fact files full of information about Russia and the world cup. Another highlight this half term was of course our ever so exciting STEM week. The children adored meeting all the different engineering visitors throughout the week and had the opportunity to ask them about their jobs as engineers. This certainly sparked some enthusiasm about what we want to do when we grow up. We also had a great time in Design and Technology creating our very own moving mini-beast! I was so impressed with the problem solving skills and cross curricular Maths that took place throughout this week. From this, we made lots of links to our other subjects and in particular enjoyed creating a Kandinsky inspired snail pastel drawing with Mrs Laskey! This led to lots of discussions and exploration around colour and how it is used differently by different artists.

In English the children wrote their final story of Year 2 and they shone. The progress in the writing this year has been wonderful to see. The children produced some extremely engaging writing and the effort in their presentation was sparkling. Well done Beech! Our last half term of Maths learning provided the children with lots of opportunities to show off their reasoning and problem solving skills. We also saw two of our very own pupils receive the gold certificate for their online Mathletics homework.

Finally, to finish a truly amazing year off, we headed to Druridge Bay Country Park for our water sports trip. Please if you haven’t yet visited our website to view some of the photographs then go and look now! This was one of the best trips the children have been on all year and they had an awesome time –as did the adults! We saw the children really come into their own and I was astonished by their brilliant team work and confidence.

**Chestnut and Willow Classes**

What a great final term we had last summer in Willow and Chestnut Class. Our ‘What’s making the news?’ topic covered so many new and interesting things which captured the children’s interests. Within their ICT work, they revisited a range of presentation apps and used these skills to talk about natural disasters and help with their apprentice work. Natural disasters proved very fascinating to the class. They created a brilliant news broadcast script about the Japan Tsunami and worked in pairs to design wonderful posters presenting the facts about the Pompeii Vesuvius explosion as well as decorating a pillowcase for the red cross pillowcase project. Within their other topic work the children learnt all about the features of Volcanoes and even saw how the reaction between white vinegar and baking soda can recreate it. As a class they have made great progress in their SPAG and Literacy skills this year, culminating in brilliant test scores this term and wonderful pieces of writing in their independent writing as a result of the new literacy shed and talk for writing units. Following a suggestion to become pen pals with Wansbeck Care Home, the children were interested in the idea and each child wrote an impressive letter about themselves containing great language and beautiful handwriting. The term has been understandably busy for the Year 4’s, with many sporting events, transfer days and leavers celebrations, however, as always the year ended with an impressive Apprentice Challenge. Using topics throughout the year as the theme, each group created their prototype, TV advert, Morfo video, poster and information leaflet. They pitched their ideas to our Apprentice panel, with the winning team putting on a great polished performance. Another fabulous term and year in Year 3 and 4. Now, it’s time to launch the adventures of Will-nut 2018!

**Early Years**

Please hand all £5 donations for Nursery and Reception pupils to the class teachers for this term, these donations are essential for all the everyday disposable resources that the Early years use. Don’t forget labelled spare clothes for your child to keep in school. Thankyou

**Uniform**

Please ensure all uniform including wellies/shoes/PE kits are labelled with your child’s name. School cannot be responsible for unnamed items sorry.

All pupils must wear full correct uniform and black school shoes please at all times.

# Attendance

Please remember your child’s attendance in school is extremely important. Awards will continue to be given to each class with the best attendance.

Can we remind parents about a section of the Education Act 1996:

“Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school”

**NO HOLIDAYS will be authorised in term time.**

# Topic letters

Our class topic letters will be with you next week to enable you to see what we are learning about in school this half term.

**Harvest 2017**

We are hoping you will all join us to celebrate Harvest this year in school. More information to follow soon.

# Dates for diaries

* Tues 4th Sept- all children return
* Wed 5th Sept- New Nursery pupils start school.
* Fri 7th Sept – **Family Worship at 2.30pm as special BISHOP visiting us.**

**All welcome, NO morning worship**

* **Saturday Sept 8th 2-4pm Widdy Grows Community Garden Event in the vicarage garden with displays, games, activities, a free BBQ and refreshments. Welly competition attached.**
* **Sunday 9th Sept 11.15am Cafe style church in the community centre.This is an alternative to our traditional Sunday church service, starting with croissant and coffee at 11.15am.**
* Week beginning Mon 10th Sept- After school clubs begin, spaces still available
* Wed 12th Sept – swimming starts, back for usual home-time 3.15pm
* Wed 12th Sept – Messy Wednesday begins - come and have a cuppa and enjoy the fun!
* Fri 20thSept- Friends AGM 9am – all welcome Old & New!
* Tues 25th Sept-KS2 Castles Visit to Alnwick
* Wed 26th Sept- European Day of Languages-letter to follow
* Fri 29th Sept – Family worship/MacMillan Coffee afternoon - cakes, biscuits and a cuppa for all for a good cause at 2pm.
* Week beginning 15th Oct – Parents meetings- days and times to be confirmed.
* **Fri 26th Oct - Half term. School closes as normal at 3.15pm**

# New Earlier Breakfast Club for Sept 18- 8am start

Places must be booked at the office on a MONDAY and the cost is £1 per session, 8am- 8.55am and payment must be made when booking. No places will be available without prior payment please. Doors will open at 8.00am and close at 8.30am

# School Lunches

Mrs Palmer has planned some really delicious healthy and wholesome lunches this term.

School lunches cost only £2.20 per day. Our cCok uses recipes/menus to accommodate what the children enjoy. This is often the roast lunch she makes and the casseroles/stews she provides for our children. We will have lots of exciting themed days coming up in the year.

**Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** will continue to receive a universal free school lunch EVERY DAY. Only parents who have opted out of this provision will be expected to send their child to school with a packed lunch.

**Year 3 and Year 4 having school lunches will still need to pay on a Monday morning please. THIS MUST COME IN AN ENVELOPE/PURSE WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME CLEARLY MARKED AND WILL BE COLLECTED BY THE TEACHER TO BE PASSED ON TO THE OFFICE. NO LUNCHES WILL BE PROVIDED WITHOUT PRIOR PAYMENT.**

Thank you for your co-operation and support with this, as we are trying to relieve congestion at the office window on a Monday.

# Packed lunch help

We are a Healthy School and to help us to maintain this award we need to ensure that all packed lunches are balanced and healthy. A sandwich, one savoury item, fruit/veg and yogurts are a good option. Please ensure your child does not bring any fizzy drinks and sweets/chocolate in their lunchboxes and bags. **We encourage savoury sandwiches, fruit, yogurts, healthy savoury snacks and 1 treat (biscuit/cake). Chocolate bars/sweets will be sent back home in their lunchboxes.**

For those parents/carers who would like some interesting and exciting ideas to liven up and make their child’s packed lunches healthier please use the website links below:

http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/resources/packed-lunch-menus-and-recipes <http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx>

We will be consulting with pupils and parents in relation to the School Food Plan very soon!

# FREE SCHOOL MEALS (PUPIL PREMIUM)

Some parents/carers whose income is below £16,190 per family are entitled to Free School Meals **(OFSTED call this pupil premium).** The school currently receives additional funding per pupil in our budget to use to support these pupils across the school. We use it to benefit every child by supporting us to have extra staff for small group work, buy resources to support small group work and interventions. A small proportion of this funding is used to subsidise Breakfast and Afterschool clubs and support half the cost of residential and school visits.

The information is fully available on the school website for everyone to read.

Ofsted hold school accountable for the spending of this funding and we have to show that we are supporting every child/family who is able to apply for Free School Meals (pupil premium). We hope all our families who are eligible apply for this funding as it makes a massive difference to our budget and our currently staffing levels.

If you are entitled to applying please pop to the office and we can help.

**Easy Fund Raising** [www.easyfundraising.org.uk.](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) Please register and keep Shopping online on this website for school funds. Every penny you spend helps school.

**NO Jewellery**

**We cannot allow any earrings or jewellery in school for PE or in the Early Years Unit.** Your child’s earrings need to be removed or taped up. Please ensure this happens or your child may miss out on valuable activities across the day. This is for health and safety reasons.

Kind Regards

Louise Laskey

Mrs L Laskey- Head Teacher

***Grange View C.E. First School***

***We aim to SPARKLE!***

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