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

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**Dear Parents/Carers 24th April 2017**

**Welcome back to everyone. It was lovely to see everyone back today for a busy summer term! We are looking forward to a term full of exciting learning ahead.**

**Amazing News from all your spending at the local Co-op in Widdrington!**

The funding period for our project with the Local Community Fund finished on 8 April with the Co-op.We have been awarded a total of £2,232.04. We are one of more than 4,000 causes across the UK who’ve benefitted from the Local Community Fund and are making a difference in our community.

A massive big thank you to all the Co-op members and customers – Thankyou for supporting our local first school in the heart of the community. Many thanks from all at Grange View. We will be letting you know very soon what are project will be for spending of the funds.

**Topic Evaluations from spring term**

**Acorns Class -** Growth and Change

This term was a sad term because we said goodbye to Mrs Sim who has worked with the children in Nursery for 12 years. However I am sure she will really enjoy spending lots of time with her family especially her Granddaughter. Here are just a few of the exciting things we shared with Mrs Sim in her last term.

* We enjoyed lots of stories including the Hungry Caterpillar. From this we took part in the Giant Wiggle and had great fun as well as raising money for charity.
* We tasted all the different fruit the Hungry caterpillar ate and decided which was our favourite.
* In our role play area we visited a Garden Centre Café.
* We had a visit from Zoolab who told us about some interesting creatures as well as holding them…… cockroaches!!!!!!
* We made butterflies by using paint and folding our paper-the children loved this and were really good at doing it independently.
* We grew some broad beans and talked about how to look after them. We grew one in a jar so we could see all the different parts. Then we put food colouring in a bottle and put white carnations in it to see what happened!!! Maybe you could ask your child if they can remember what happened
* We learnt some new songs this term and sang them for our grown ups in Family Worship.
* We found some frogspawn in the pond and we will keep looking next term to see what happens to it.
* We made our Mothers Day cards after reading Guess How Much I Love You, to tell our Mums how much we loved them.
* We finished this term off with an eggciting Egg hunt with our grown ups.

Thank you for all your support this term and I am sure you will join us in wishing Mrs Sim a ‘Great Retirement.’ She was extremely grateful for the generosity shown to her on her last day.

**Oak Class-** Growth and Change

The children have had another action - packed half term learning all about Growth and Change. Here are some of the activities that we have enjoyed doing:

* Learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and then planting our own magic beans.
* Beanstalk Challenge – The children were very excited to take their beanstalks home and help them to continue to grow. Well done to the Winner Jayden whose beanstalk grew the tallest to 68cm.
* Learning the names of baby animals and then painting pictures of our favourites.
* The children loved learning the story ‘The Hungry Caterpillar’ and learnt the life cycle of a caterpillar. They made some beautiful butterfly pictures for our classroom.
* We also enjoyed the story ‘the tiny seed’ and learnt how to help seeds grow into flowers. We then planted some seeds in our outdoor area and hope they grow into some lovely flowers if we remember to keep watering them!
* We had good fun making flowers for our Mothers Day presents.
* The children also enjoyed some Easter activities which included making Easter Nest buns, Easter Egg hunt and learning the story of Easter through drama.
* The children have been very enthusiastic about our weekly PE lessons. They enjoyed travelling over and around climbing equipment and learning how to jump off the equipment safely.
* The weekly visits to the forest have been thoroughly enjoyed by everybody in Oak class. Some of the activities included: Making camp sites, making pretend fires and singing songs around the fire, making bird nests and looking for signs of Spring.

**Elm Class** – Our Green World

Our Green World topic has been a wonderful follow-on from last half term’s work about the Arctic and Antarctic. It has enabled us to compare the coldest and hottest parts of our world in terms of their locations and diversity in habitats, animal and plant life.

The children were intrigued by the rainforest animals that Rob from Zoo Lab brought with him on his visit to school and they learned lots for interesting facts while looking at, stroking and holding a range of different creepy crawlies. From this experience the children wrote a range of descriptive recounts and poetry as well as transforming the forest in Sleeping Beauty into a tropical rainforest, making use of their knowledge and understanding gained through the topic to describe the sights, sounds and feelings within it. As well as writing about the rainforest they also used their experience within ICT and art-based learning tasks.

We also used the issues facing the rainforest areas to reinforce the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling our rubbish. Later, the children showed great creativity in designing and creating a range of musical instruments using cardboard boxes, tubes, plastic bottles and pots.

Finally, as part of the school’s safety and fitness initiative, the class took part in scooter training, learning how to check their scooter is safe, how to start, stop and make the scooter go where they want under control, understand where to ride their scooter and how to behave around other footway users, and demonstrate how to cross roads safely. Everyone learned lots from this and we hope the children will remember what they have learned when they are out and about to keep themselves and others safe.

**Beech Class – Our Green World**

The children absolutely loved our Rainforest based topic last term. Throughout the term the children ignited their interests in rainforest animals after a visit from ‘Zoolab’! We were very lucky to have seen first- hand how different animals adapt to their surroundings. The children were able to observe, touch and learn about all of the animals. This led to some very descriptive writing about rainforest animals!

In Geography sessions we used atlases to find out where the world’s rainforests are located. We then compared the climate of rainforests to the poles and found out why being nearer the equator makes them tropical.

Our love of rainforest animals meant that we could use our understanding to write some beautiful creative list poems. Their use of imagery and rainforest knowledge was fantastic!

In our reading lessons we looked at a range of non-fiction texts about the environment and recycling. We clarified all sorts of technical vocabulary and the children were able to use them in their own writing. We felt extremely knowledgeable using our new vocabulary!

In Science we enjoyed exploring the properties of a range of materials. As a class we read the amusing and hilarious story of ‘Egg Drop’ by Mini Grey. The story led to discussions about how we could design some armour to protect our egg from breaking. We tested lots of materials and dropped our eggs from 1 metre high to see which materials were the strongest. The children loved this experiment!

**Willow class** - Green Grangers

We have really enjoyed this terms topic, it has been action packed learning about the food chains,rainforest layers, dangers, deforestation and ways in which the animals communicate. The children have created some fantastic descriptive writing as a tour guide through the Amazon and reinforced their Non Fiction text understanding by creating glossaries of rainforest language and information pages about spiders.

In Numeracy, we are so much more confident with our fractions and decimals now, we have also consolidated our written methods for addition, subtraction and multiplication which showed great improvements in our end of term tests. In reading, we have been working on developing our “Thinking Voice”, which helps us make notes and annotation over the text we are reading and hopefully understand it better.

Although we didn’t go on a trip this term, we did enjoy a visit from Zoo Lab, where we handled a variety of living things common to the rainforest. We attended a few sporting events as well and had our Harry Potter art work put on display in Bailiffgate Museum. However, the highlight of the term as always at this time of year was their great performance at the dance showcase. I was extremely proud of them!”

**\*Parent Questionnaires will be coming home soon, please return to school by Monday 8th May.\***

**Nursery and Reception Places**

If you have a baby in the family or know someone who lives in the village who has a baby please can a Nursery application form be completed. We are asked by the Local Authority to predict our Nursery pupil numbers as far ahead as 2020/21. This helps the Local Authority allocate funding and helps us calculate if we can offer an afternoon Nursery and places to ‘Rising 3’s’.

We now have been informed by the local authority who has a place for Reception for Sept 2017, you should have all received confirmation of this if you applied for Grange View.

**Site Security**

As the nights grow warmer and lighter we want to ensure our site stays secure and free from any damage.School gates are locked every night and if anyone is seen or caught on site the police will be called immediately. Any reported names of any pupils or ex-pupils on site will also be given to the police, as this is also classed as trespassing. Please report to the school office any incidents that you know of.

**\*\*\*\*Dinner Money\*\*\*\***

REMINDER - This must be paid by a Tuesday at the VERY latest. Any problems please see me or the school office, thank you. School cannot subsidise any school lunches for non-payment.

**Packed Lunches**

Please can all families ensure they give the office& kitchen at least a week’s notice if their child wishes to change to a packed lunch. Food is ordered in advance for all school lunches. Thankyou.

**MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS**

We are finding our Text2Parents service invaluable as a way of passing on information to parents. However, we have noticed some parents’ numbers are not allowing texts to be delivered, therefore information is not being passed on. If you change your number please let the office know as soon as possible, thank you.

**After School Clubs – beginning after the Easter Holidays**

Please give names to the office and we will try to accommodate everyone, thank you.

* Monday 24th April – Board Games with Mrs Herron & Mrs Skinner for Rec-Yr4 (£2)
* Tuesday 25th April – Football with Mr Guy
* \*\*\*\*Wednesday – Messy Church and **Dance is now on until May half term with a temporary teacher- see the office for a place please.**
* Thursday 27th April – Year 2 Maths Club (now only £1)
* Friday – no club this half term

**The school day – Cloakroom Doors**

Please remember that Nursery doors open at 8.45am and stay open until 8.55am. **BUT Oak/Elm/Beech and Willow doors close at 8.50am as soon as the children are in the building.** The school day begins when the bell rings. We have a lot of parents coming to the main entrance. Please use the Nursery entrance for your child to keep routines familiar for them.

Please be aware that if your child has to come in via the main entrance, he/she will receive a late mark in the register and these marks are monitored by the Education Welfare Officer.

# Dates for diaries– Please check these weekly as they are all subject to change or additional dates being added.

* Mon 24th April – school re-opens for Summer Term at 8.50am
* Tues 25th April – Yr4 Football Tournament at Ashington High School – separate letter from Mrs Chapman with further information
* Mon 1st May – school closed due to Early May Bank Holiday
* Wed 10th May – Messy Wednesday at 3.15pm
* Fri 19th May- Willow class – Ford Castle Day
* Thurs 25thMay- Y4s to JCSC for the day
* Fri 26th May- Half term, school closes at 3.15pm
* Mon 5th June- school re-opens for Summer Term 2 at 8.50am
* Wed 7th June – Messy Wednesday at 3.15pm
* Tues 20th June- Big Gig Music Event for Willow class at JCSC
* Wed 21st June- Y4 Leavers service with staff at St. Nicholas cathedral in Newcastle
* Fri 23rd June- Summer Fair at 3pm
* Year 4 Leavers Tea and end of year evening- dates to be confirmed
* Fri 21st July- School closes at 1.30pm for the summer
* Mon 5th Sept – TTD, school closed to pupils
* Tues 6th Sept – school opens at 8.50am for the Autumn Term

**Attendance – Does it matter? YES IT DOES!!**

To promote and reward good attendance across the school the governors have agreed to provide an AMAZING incentive!

The class with the greatest attendance at the end of the year will win a MINI IPAD and a family with 100% attendance will be entered to a prize draw to win £30 shopping voucher.

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.

Last week’s attendance:

**Well done Acorn Class who won with 94.8%**

Acorn – 94.8% Oak – 93.0%

Elm – 93.5% Beech – 94.3% Willow – 92.8%

TOTAL FOR THE LAST WEEK – 93.6%

Under our school target of 96% ☹

BEECH CLASS WON THE OVERALL

SPRING TERM ATTENDANCE WITH 96.1%

PLEASE TRY to get your child to school on time every day

and help us achieve our target EVERY week, thank you.

**DON’T Forget- 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.

**Kind Regards**

Louise Laskey

Mrs L Laskey – Headteacher