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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 9th January 2018**



**Wishing you all a very New Year!**

Welcome back for what will no doubt be a short, fun yet action packed first spring term. All classes have their creative books planned and ready to launch this terms topics, we hope you have enjoyed valuable time spent with your families and the children have had a good rest ready to learn lots and SPARKLE!

We welcome back Mrs Laskey today, and we also welcome our new nursery children who join us this week in Acorn Class. We hope they will be very happy with us all here at Grange View.

**Christmas Performances Pride!**

Thank you to all our families who came to watch, support and enjoy the children’s Christmas performances at the end of last term. I am sure you will agree they all did brilliantly and made the staff, parents and themselves very proud. We loved every minute!

**Online portal for Reception Class – open now!**

The online portal for Reception school places in First and Primary for September 2018 closes on 15th January. You must complete an application for a place in a Reception class even if your child attends the school nursery or pre-school setting.

**New Early Years Soft Flooring**

We are very excited about a transformation that took place during the Christmas holidays. The early years quad has had a colourful soft surfacing laid, making it more easily accessible and useable for the children. Alongside the giant building blocks purchased last term this space is going to be a fantastic, engaging learning space for the children in Oak and Acorns. Please feel free to have a look when dropping your children off in early years, through donations and fundraising we are hoping to continue to raise money this term to add more gross motor development opportunities to this new exciting space.

**Mathletics**

We are changing our online learning for the children, currently KS2 use the frog program within school 360 however there have been many technical difficulties. As a result, the friends have paid for yearly membership to a highly popular web portal called Mathletics. It is a captivating online learning space providing students with all the tools they need to be successful learners, both in the classroom and beyond. We intend to start using it from Year 1 -4 and throughout the year possibly include Reception, the games and activities are matched with dynamic tools and reporting for teachers. Mathletics supports and caters to each teacher’s unique blend of **student-driven learning** and **teacher-led instruction.** We are hoping it will really engage the children in their Numeracy learning further and help support the mastery maths approach we have been developing this academic year.

**We will be hosting launch events for parents in each Key stage to discuss and explain the website and send out log in details for the pupils.**

**Friday 12th January – KS2 will be having their parent chat at 3pm in Willow Class.**

**Monday 15th January – KS1 will be having their parent chat at 3pm in Beech Class.**

# 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.

This is what we enjoyed last term:

**Oak and Acorn Class - Autumn term 2 – Stories**

Acorn and Oak class have really enjoyed learning a new story every week and being able to re-tell the story for themselves. Here are some of the fun activities we have done this half term;

* Learning the story of Elmer and making our own Elmer elephants from collage materials. We also talked about how we are all different and special.
* We learnt the story ‘After the storm’ and made homes for all of the animals in the woods.
* We loved learning the story ‘Handa’s Surprise’ and enjoyed tasting all of the different fruits from the story and doing some fruit printing.
* We learnt the story of Christmas and why we celebrate Christmas.
* Inter-faith week – we learnt all about Hinduism and enjoyed lots of craft activities such as making Diva lamps and doing some hand art.
* We have had our weekly yoga sessions with Debbie and have done some ribbon dancing in the hall for PE.
* The visit to the woods has continued to be a fun activity for all of the children in Oak class. They have really enjoyed making fire pits and building dens.

**Elm Class – Autumn Term 2 – What are things made from?**

 This half term has seen the children feel more settled into Year 1 routines and we have certainly been very busy, especially in our English and Mathematics work.

We spent some of our English, Science, Art and Design and Technology lessons exploring, describing and using different materials making poetry, collaged pictures and models. The children showed a good understanding of the different materials and made good attempts at suggesting why some materials were more useful for particular tasks. Within our history we looked at the toys we play with and compared them with toys form the past. Again we thought about the different materials and their properties and decided that Miss Charlton’s mum’s teddy was not very cuddly. We definitely prefer our own teddy bears and other cuddle toys!

Our Computing work during the half term focused on learning to log-on to the school network ourselves using user names and passwords. We learned that these need to be safely stored in our heads and not shared with other people. All the adults in class were very impressed with how quickly the children remembered how to log on, hopefully the children will remember next time they use the laptops and PCs in the spring term!

Christmas came around all too soon and very quickly we were rehearsing songs, actions and lines ready for our performance. The performance was brilliant and the children did themselves and each other proud. Mrs Chapman is already getting excited for future years! Along with the Christmas festivities the children also had opportunities to create their own cards and decorations showing what a creative group of children we have.

We could mention even more of the fun and exciting things we have done including Children in Need and Interfaith Week to mention only two but you have already heard of these within our weekly school newsletters. Now we are looking forward to our next topic focusing on traveller’s tales.

**Beech Class- Autumn Term 2 – What are things made from?**

Well it’s been another jam packed half term in Beech Class. This half term your children have astounded me with their efforts and enthusiasm towards their learning. We have covered so much in English and the children are well on their way to becoming engaging story tellers! The children enjoyed reading the story of ‘The Owl who was afraid of the dark’ and carried outs some wonderful drama thinking about how Plop the baby barn owl felt. They then used all their inspiration to write their own adapted version of the story. They were fantastic!

In Science this half term we have found out all about different everyday materials and their uses. We investigated a range of materials to find out which were bendy, stretchy and easily squashed. We particularly enjoyed squashing the clay! Following on from this we went on a material hunt around school to find out how materials are used for different purposes. We all gave reasons as to why we thought certain materials were more suitable for different jobs.

Oh and we can’t forget to mention what and incredible week we had for ‘Inter-faith Week’ In Beech class we learned all about Sikhism. We were fascinated by the beliefs of this religion and really enjoyed learning about it through photographs, drama, storytelling and art work. We particularly enjoyed researching the 5 ks of Sikhism and sharing this with others.

In History we used our knowledge of materials to debate why The Great Fire of London spread so fast. The children were so engaged in this significant event and what life was like back in the 1600s. We found out so many interesting facts and used them to write our own information text about The Great Fire.

We had so much fun at Christmas creating our Christmas cards using our printing skills and our stunning calendars. We hope you liked them! To top it off the children shone bright in their wonderful ‘Hey Ewe!’ performance. Well done Beech Class!

**Willow & Chestnut Class – Autumn Term 2 – Marvellous Mega Structures**

What an action packed and enjoyable topic this has been from start to finish! The children were thoroughly exhausted but highly motivated following our trip right at the beginning. It consolidated their stone age work brilliantly at the Hancock Museum and fuelled their interest and enjoyment for mega structures with our Victorian Tunnel exploration and bridge sightseeing. The class showed great skills at chronologically ordering dates for the different mega structures and describing them with the wealth of material property terms they learnt. They transferred the skills into conductors and insulators for their circuit building. However it was their wonderful research skills and excellent artistic talent that was the greatest triumph for the classes this term, their soft pastel representations of different mega structures were exquisite and their focus and determination to record lots of fascinating facts about the different world wonders was lovely to see. This has certainly been a whirlwind term, filled with lots of great learning and achievements, certainly topped off with a wonderful show stopping performance by all in our Christmas production in the last week.

**Car parking**

Could we remind all parents that the car park is for staff and visitor parking only, if you drive to school to collect your children please park on the roads outside of the school grounds. Thank you

**Sending money into school**

Please remember if you are sending in any money to school for whatever reason, send it in an envelope or money bag indicating what the money is for, this includes when handing to members of staff. PLEASE DON’T HAND LOOSE CASH TO MEMBERS OF STAFF.

School handles money for lots of different activities and would appreciate your co-operation, thank you.

**PE Kit**

This should be in school at all times, and only taken home at the end of a half term for washing and should be sent back in again at the start of every half term, thank you. This will allow your child to partake fully in all PE lessons.

**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.

# 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 costs of residential and school visits.

Information leaflets are available in the Main Entrance and the FMS telephone number is

01670 623592

# 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.**

We have a new Education Welfare Officer working with us this year who will be monitoring attendance very closely; especially the late marks so please ensure your child/ren are on the school yard for the bell at 8.50am **every morning**.

We have children coming in late in the mornings via the main entrance already this term. This is a disruption to the start of your child’s day and can have an impact on his/her learning. Lessons start promptly following registration so it is important that your child is in the classroom ready to learn!

If you are running late for any reason, please ring to let us know, thank you.

**After School Clubs start this week!**

We have 3 new clubs starting on a Monday and a Thursday with limited number of places available so if your child wants a place, please book at the school office and names will be taken on a first come first served basis, thank you.

Football, Dance and Karate will continue so names will be carried forward. However if your child doesn’t want the place, let the office know. Alternatively if your child wishes to join Football/Dance/Karate for the first time, again let the office know and if there’s space we’ll add their name to the list, thank you.

**\*\*\*Drama/Singing/Karate clubs must be paid up to half term to secure place at the time of booking, thank you\*\*\***

* **Mondays** – Drama Club for Years 2-4 with Miss Conroy and Miss Charlton from 15th Jan

(£8 for 4 weeks to half term) 15 places available

* **Tuesday** – Football Club from 9th Jan
* **Wednesday** – Dance Club from 10th Jan
* **Thursday** – Singing Club with Rev Joanna and some of the Messy Team from 11th Jan

(£10 for 5 weeks to half term) 20 places available

Minecraft club for KS2 = letter send separately and register/pay online

* **Friday** – Karate Club from 12th Jan

(£10 for 5 weeks up to half term)

Dates for diaries

* Thursday 11th January – Year 2 (Beech) Gymnastics festival in the afternoon
* Friday 12th January - Beech class trip to Woodhorn
* Friday 12th January – KS2 Mathletics chat in Willow Class 3pm
* Monday 15th January – KS1 Mathletics chat in Beech Class 3pm
* Thursday 1st February – One Day Creative in to do drama workshops in KS1 and 2
* Tuesday 6th February – Internet Safety Day
* Friday 9th February – School closes at 3.15pm for HALF TERM week

**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**

Lauren Chapman

Mrs L Chapman

Acting Assistant Head Teacher