



Grange Primary School

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Monday, 22nd February 2021

Dear Grange families,

Schools have risen to the challenge, and so have parents

We are so proud of our staff for how they've adapted to this new way of working. Let's be honest, these have been some of the most challenging times that we've all lived through. Having said that, it's incredible how quickly we've adapted. The staff are now prepared and used to teaching remotely. With all the additional CPD we've undertaken and the support that's available, teachers and support staff are more confident with things they might previously have found daunting. We're used to recording videos and being seen on screens walking around the classroom or our homes with our headsets on, looking like DJs.

I understand if parents feel anxious at the prospect of their children learning from home for so long. We're all awaiting the Prime minister's announcement at 7:00pm this evening about the next steps for the re-opening of all schools.

Regular live interaction between teachers and their class and also pupils with their peers is vital, so we have taken a blended asynchronous approach to remote education, with live lessons – the remote learners joining the children in class through Microsoft Teams – mixed with pre-recorded lessons made by our teachers or high quality external resources. We don't let the children go for more than an hour without checking in, and we make sure that we're monitoring their progress at home through regular assessments followed up with high quality feedback.

The daily morning 'Meet and Greet' at 09:30am is one of the simplest but most effective things we've introduced. It's a magical moment when they all log on together in the morning – they are so excited to see their friends in the classroom on screen. Some can feel isolated at home, so seeing the class and feeling part of it motivates them.

Advice for parents

We admire you as you have experienced first-hand the absolute chaos when you're trying to meet your own deadlines and also get your children to work. My advice to parents, which you may find useful, is:

- get the children out of bed early and stick to the school day routine.
- if you can, have a defined space for children to work in – somewhere to sit with the things they need around them.
- keep the structure of the school day and establish a routine based on the circumstances of your home. Make sure breaks are built into the timetable, so the children aren't working solidly for five hours – let them run around a bit outside or do some mindfulness activities.
- it's really important that children shut down their computers when school finishes.

Most importantly, remember that you're not alone. We're all in this together so keep in touch with us and seek help if you need it.

Parent/ Teacher Consultations- MS Teams

We will be offering a timed 10-minute session for each child virtually. These will be taking place on:

Wednesday, 24th February 2021 for EYFS and KS1 and

Thursday, 25th February 2021 for KS2.

- On Monday, 22nd February 2021, you will receive a ParentMail or text message with your given time.
- On your Parent Meeting day you will need to log onto your child's MSTEams account and click on the class group. You will find a meeting that you can join. **(Press the purple Join button)**. You may have wait to be added to the meeting. This will be because the teacher may still be in the previous meeting.

During the meeting we want to hear from you and you will also receive feedback from the class teacher on your child's learning and you will be able to ask any questions.

You are however welcome to use this 10 minutes in whatever way you feel is best for you. If you just want to chat as you have lots of questions, this is fine with us.

Staff are very keen for you to know that you will automatically be removed from the call after 9 minutes 55 seconds so it is important that you understand this as we do not want to offend anybody or leave anybody talking to themselves! Staff will do their best to manage this and remind you when time is running out but we would appreciate your help in managing this.

We look forward to meeting with you and celebrate all our children's achievements!



Yours faithfully,

L.Black

Mr Lorrain Black(MCCT)

Interim Headteacher

22/02/2021



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Believe

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