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Interim Deputy Headteacher: Mr. Alan Brennan (NPQSL)
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Wednesday, 31st March 2021

Dear Grange families,

It has been wonderful to have all our children back in school and I am delighted to say that the return to school has gone very well. The children have settled back into their routines quickly and they all seem pleased to be back at school with their friends and their teachers. From our point of view, it certainly makes a difference to have the school alive again with all the children, it is never the same without them.



The past few weeks certainly have not been without their challenges! However, in true Grange Primary fashion, we are always keen to take on new as well as familiar challenges!

Some of our children have needed more support emotionally as it has been a difficult time for them. Please be assured that we will continue to support them.

Over the past few weeks we have been assessing our children in their learning. There has been a lot of talk in the media regarding catch up and how much the children have fallen behind, please do not be too alarmed by some of these headlines. When the children returned in September, staff worked hard at providing targeted support and pupils were making progress in the Autumn Term. In the latest lockdown the remote learning continued to follow our curriculum closely and the majority of children completed the work, so we have no reason to believe that although there may still be some gaps in their learning it is nothing that cannot be addressed with good Quality First Teaching. There will of course be some children that will need more support than others but we will discuss this with individual parents.



As we move into the summer term, unfortunately some of our usual events will have to be cancelled this year due to restrictions, but we will be doing as much as we safely can. We will not be holding any school visits at the moment. We are awaiting further guidance from the government regarding the lifting of the lockdown measures and what it means for schools for the summer term. If more restrictions on schools are lifted in the coming months, we can plan to do more and we will of course continue to keep you informed.



Shielding

Shielding restrictions for those children who are clinically vulnerable come to an end on the 1st of April 2021. If you have any concerns about your child returning to school, please speak to your GP. We look forward to welcoming these children back to school on Monday, 19th April 2021.



Positive COVID Test Result

If your child develops symptoms of COVID during the first week of the Easter holiday can you please email the school at the following email address: info@grange.southwark.sch.uk
The DfE require the school to continue Test and Trace duties during this period.



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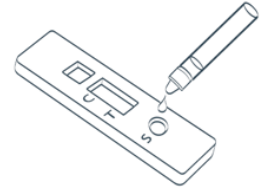
Lateral Flow Tests

Families of school children are now able to order lateral flow tests. The recommendation is that lateral flow tests are conducted 2 times per week 3-4 days apart. You can qualify for ordering these tests if you have a child who attends school. The testing is aimed at adults and older secondary school aged pupils within the household. The government is **not** asking children of primary school age to be routinely tested using these tests. If a family choose to test a primary school age pupil it is based on their decision and is not a direction from the government or school. You can find more information at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

You can order home test kits using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> You can also collect 2 packs of home kits from a collection point.



Follow the following link to find out more information. <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Symptomatic Cases

Lateral flow tests should **not** be used to test children who are symptomatic: e.g. have a new continuous cough, temperature or lose their sense of taste and smell (anosmia). These tests are not as reliable as the PCR test. Any person who is symptomatic must book a PCR test. We request that parents/carers book PCR tests if children have symptoms of COVID.



Attendance

Good attendance is essential for children to achieve their potential. The school will not penalise parents/carers when their children have been directed to self-isolate. However, children have faced a great deal of disruption over the past 2 academic years and to mitigate against further negative effects we ask parents to plan any future holidays with caution ensuring that these are not organised within term time and that you build in any quarantine arrangements, if travelling abroad.

Persistent Absence: Children are considered to be persistently absent if their attendance drops below 90%. We are directed by government to take action to improve attendance when this happens. If your child's attendance has fallen below figure the school will contact you to discuss the reasons why and how to improve attendance going forward. We will then work closely with you to monitor your child's attendance. Self-isolation periods and lockdown have been statistically removed when calculating these percentages currently.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Mr Stephen Brock and his partner on the safe arrival of their beautiful baby girl.



Farewell

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Helen Lewarne (Year 6- Aurora Classteacher). We would like to thank her for her dedication and commitment to all the pupils and parents of Sky Class and would like to wish her all the very best for the future.



Welcome

We would like to extend a warm Grange Primary School **WELCOME** to Mr Samuel Matthews. Mr Matthews will be teaching (Year 6- Aurora class) after the Easter holiday!



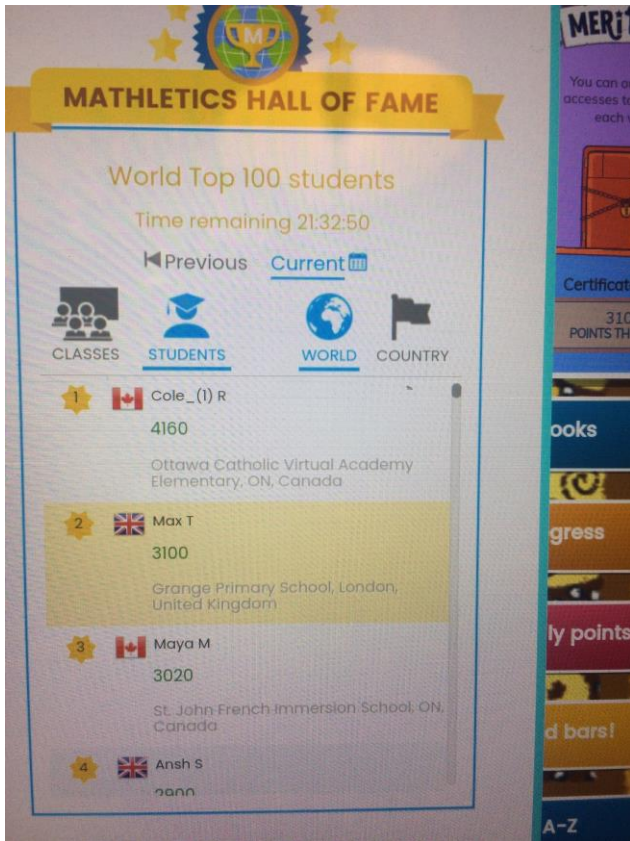
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A huge **congratulation** to Max in Year 2, who has been working extremely hard on Mathletics and was number 2 in the world rankings!

This is a massive boost for Mathletics in Grange and Max is an inspiration to all our children.

Well done Max and hopefully we will see more of our pupils reaching these heights soon!

As always, we are grateful for your patience and thank you all for your continued support.

We hope you are able to take some time over the next few weeks for some well-deserved rest and recovery.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Lorrain Black and Team Grange
Grange Primary School
31/03/2021



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