



Ref: PrimaryNews/KNY/jud

22nd October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Primary News and Information

As the half term comes to an end I want to thank you all for your patience and support. It has been an incredibly difficult time. We did not get everything right first time but we adapted and changed and I am proud that all of our children and community have remained safe and protected. We have only had two partial closures of bubbles, which, considering we have over 400 Primary pupils, is outstanding and a testament to the work of everyone involved in our school community. The children have been wonderful. They have adapted quickly to the new routines and as a result everyone has been safe and happy. We will continue to maintain the standards we have set next term so that pupils, staff, parents and carers continue to be safe and healthy.

Both Miss Salisbury and Mrs Nelson leave us this Friday 23rd October to begin their maternity leave. I am sure you will join with us in wishing them well for the year ahead. It is both an exciting and anxious time for them – particularly during the current lockdown restrictions. We hope that they remain safe and look forward to sharing their news when their babies decide to join the world. Both staff members will return to school in July. In the meantime Miss Stockton will take on the role of Primary SENCo (a job she has held previously so is experienced). We have already made adaptations to accommodate the gap Mrs Nelson would have left and therefore there will not be any significant changes for the children. Good luck and best wishes from all staff and pupils at The Grange Academy.

Parent Consultations

Due to Covid restrictions, we are currently unable to offer our usual Parents Evening 'Meet the Teacher' option for Primary pupils. I would hope that all of you have managed to introduce yourselves to your child's class teacher as they are on the Plaza every evening.

After half term, we intend to provide you all with a short update report, which will give you clear information about how your child has settled, their behaviour in class and during social time, their effort, successes and areas requiring some focus. It will also provide you with information about how well they are achieving at the current time.

For the vast majority of you this should provide you with the information we would share during a face-to-face meeting. If, however, you would like to follow up any comments on the report, have any concerns or wish to speak to your child's teacher in more detail then you will have the opportunity for a telephone meeting. Details of how to arrange this will be sent out after half term, however please be aware that you can always contact school should you wish to speak to staff or speak to them after school.

I know that this is not the same as actually meeting your child's teacher but, due to current restrictions, we are unable to facilitate this for all parents at this time. We will try to make sure that you all receive the information you want and need.

ASPIRE FOR EXCELLENCE



Home Learning

As you are aware, we have started to use SeeSaw for home learning. We are working to find ways of sharing more of your child's work with you through this technology as you are not able to come and look through their school books. Please try and connect with the App and let us know if you are having any issues connecting.

Should your child have to isolate for any reason or if you wish to encourage them to do additional work, there are work packs on the school website. Click on the Primary tab and then Home Learning. In the packs is an outline of topics being studied during the term, lots of website links to support learning in these areas and also some tasks which cover the basics that pupils in each year group need to know. Please access these useful resources if required.

Half term 2

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our usual Christmas performances this year as we are not allowed gatherings of over six people. We are going to celebrate Christmas and will be looking to make films or share with you, in some format, something from each class. This way you can still experience the joy of Christmas which our plays and songs would usually bring.

We will be taking part in Children in Need this year and will let you know after half term what this will look like for your child.

I know that the half term break during a lockdown may not be as great as we normally experience, however I hope that you all stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2nd November for the start of our new term.

Yours faithfully

M Kenneway
Head of Primary Education