



Grands Vaux Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Maria McCool



Friday, 10 February 2023

Dear Parent and Carers,
Welcome to newsletter 10 of this academic year.

Safety on School Site:

I would ask that all school site users ensure they take extra care when accessing our site. The school is a very busy place and your ongoing support with this is much appreciated. All drivers must take care and drive carefully and considerately when on school grounds – there has been a report of two cars driving at a speed to cause concern – families will be moving around with small children and by ensuring that you drive slowly this may allow extra time/provide a mitigation against any potential accidents.

From Tuesday 21st February Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classrooms will be open from 8.30am:

Following a successful trial in year 6, from 8.30am when school doors open, the children from year 1-6 will be able to go straight to the classroom as they arrive at school. All children from year 1-6 will enter school through the front door when it opens at 8.30am. Please do not leave your children unattended before this time as there will be no staff on duty. The school day will start at 8.40am as usual, with registers taken at 8.45am. Those children that arrive between 8.30 and 8.45 will be able to go to class, the class teacher will be present to receive the children. This period of time will be used to undertake morning starters, 1-1 feedback, extra input, and/or finishing off. The KS1/2 playground will not be available at the start of the day as staff will be in class working with the children from 8.30am. KS1 and KS2 children in breakfast club will go to class at 8.30am instead of the playground.

EYFS (Reception and Nursery) will continue to access their playground space in the morning – Reception arrival time will remain as 8.30am and Nursery 8.45am, with registers taken at 8.45am and 9.00am respectively. EYFS children in breakfast club will go to the EYFS playground at 8.30am as usual.

NSPCC- 'Listen up, Speak up' campaign:

This campaign is encouraging all adults across the UK to complete a free 10-minute digital training, designed to empower every adult to know what to do if a child needs help, and where to go if they need support themselves.

Please see the link to the training below –

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/listen-up-speak-up/>

Appointments in School Time:

A reminder that we do need to see sight of appointment letters to verify the reason for absence from school. We do not hold a copy of the letter but do need to see it so we can ensure the register is an accurate record of absences. Please can I ask that you also inform us if appointments change so we can adjust the register accordingly. If you need to discuss this further please do get in touch.

Lost Property:

Uniform lost property collection continues to be available at the front of school. Families who can make use of the items that remain can do so – as this is from lost property no donation to school is required.

Glasses:

A team of Ophthalmology professionals from Jersey are visiting Lahore, Pakistan in March 2023 to undertake visual screening in schools and orphanages. Glasses donations are being requested – the team are hoping to take as many pairs as possible, of old children's glasses (or small adults) with them, so are asking families to donate any old pairs the children no longer need. These will be collected in the school office.

Yr 5 and 6 Peer Mediation Training – Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th February:



An exciting training opportunity has been organised for our yr 5 and 6 children. Peer Mediation is a school programme where children and young people learn to engage positively with conflict. Peer Mediation develops social skills that help make communication healthier and empowers young people to create positive changes in the lives of their peers. Restorative practices help students to resolve disagreements, take ownership of their behaviour, and engage in acts of empathy and forgiveness. Following the 2 days of training the children will be asked if they would like to become Grands Vaux Peer Mediators. Peer mediation involves student mediators helping their peers to sort out their disagreements by acting as neutral third parties. There are clear guidelines as to when peer mediation is suitable and when it isn't. Staff have completed the staff CPD package to ensure the knowledge and expertise is in place to support those yr 5 and 6 who want to become peer mediators, alongside Mrs Romeril, who is our Peer Mediation Co-ordinator. This work will also complement our work on Inclusion, Oracy and our Rights Respecting Schools journey.

More information can be found here – <https://theresolutioncentre.com/peer-mediation/>

Durrell Tortoise Take Over:



We have today unveiled our own Tortoise – he/she will join Vaux, the gorilla, once completed. The first stage is the design process. The children will bring home the design sheet today with an outline of the criteria. Please can you encourage them to get involved. We will ask for the designs to be returned after ½ term and judging will take place in the first week back, our winning design needs to be with Durrell by Friday 24th February. To celebrate the start of the Tortoise Take Over and to jump start our fundraising to pay for the sculpture, we will have a non-uniform on Friday 24th February. Children and staff are invited to join in and we request a donation of 50p.

Parent/teacher Association AGM:

As you will be aware we have had two key members of our PTA (Mrs Serinet and Ms Chapman) resign from their posts after many years of dedicated service. I had hoped that we would be able to undertake an AGM and elections in January but obviously this plan was impacted by the response to the flood. It is hoped that an AGM will be co-ordinated soon whereby a new PTA chair and treasurer can be elected. Please watch this space for an invite to the AGM.

DATES:

INSET Monday 20th February 2023 - school closed to the children

INSET Monday 5th June 2023 - school closed to the children

Additional Bank Holiday - Monday 8th May 2023 - is to be observed as a public holiday, in recognition of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III -school closed.

A reminder that we have an INSET day on Monday 20th February, so school is closed to the children. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school after the February ½ term on Tuesday 21st February.

As always, if you wish to discuss anything in the newsletter, please do get in touch.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. McCool".

Miss Maria McCool – Headteacher