



Grands Vaux Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Maria McCool



Wednesday, 06 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you had a lovely Summer break and managed to spend quality time with family and friends.

The children have settled very well. We welcome several new members to our school community – we have had new pupils join us as well as staff. I am sure they have been made to feel part of our community and will be up to speed in no time. Mr Hayward has settled into Reception. And Miss O'Connor returns as Mrs Audrain following her wedding over the Summer. It was also lovely to see some of our old yr6 children (now yr 7)

return to share their first days of secondary school – reports are that this has gone very well.

Potential Industrial Action Tuesday 12th September:

An update has already been shared via InTouch Communication – any change to this information will be shared as soon as it is available.

Lunchtime Pilot:

We are currently trialling a new lunchtime system. This is as a result of requests by the children for us to review our lunchtime provision – they requested the ability to choose which areas available they could access, to reduce the noise levels in the hall during eating (acoustics are not the best in the hall for this social time) and to reduce the length of eating time as they found 30mins too long for the eating session. We have now adopted a 3 x 20mins lunchtime for a trial period – this means that the number of children eating at any one time is reduced and the children have 2 x 20mins playtime and 1 x 20mins eating time. If children need longer to finish eating this will be facilitated. Early feedback has been positive but we will obviously continue to review this going forward.

Meet the Teacher Thursday 21st September:

It is hoped that by changing the format for meet the teacher this year that the turnout will improve. We understand that families have different preferences so hope that our new suggestion facilitates a higher attendance. The meet the teacher session this year is scheduled for 2.40-3.00 on Thursday 21st September, this is for Reception-Year6. It is recommended that families with more than one child attend the meet the teacher session for the eldest child. Children can attend alongside parents/carers. Unfortunately no child care is available within school.

Language Classes for Parents/Carers:

These will resume this term. The first session will be held on Tuesday 19th September 2-3.30 in the Music and Drama Room. Unfortunately school can no longer provide child care during these sessions and so children will need to join their parents/carers in the language class at the end of the school day.

After School Sports Clubs:

Information about the availability of Sports Clubs for Yr 1-6 can be found here - <http://www.grandsvaux.sch.je/clubs-activities/>

Attendance:

Please see attached Attendance Letter update from Gareth Bayley (Education Welfare Team Manager). In particular this references term time holidays and off-Island trips

Children and Families Hub Flyers:

Please see attached flyers outlining some up and coming offers of training and support –

1. Family Transitions Triple P
2. Strength-based Parenting Programme
3. Free Mindfulness Course



Children and Families Hub Programme Offers (reminders):

Play and Connect Monthly Drop in Session

Discover how play and connection can promote positive mental health for your children and teens.

Join practitioners from CAMHS Early Intervention team, Mind Jersey and the Children and Families Hub to learn about play and discuss any concerns or worries you may have about your child's development or mental health.

Who is it for? For parents, carers and their children up to 18 years old.

Please note that you can attend alone, without your child.

When is it happening? The last Tuesday of every month, 12:30 – 14:30.

How can I take part? Please feel free to drop into The Bridge on the above date and time, or for more information contact the Children and Families Hub team on 01534 519000, or email childrenandfamilieshub@gov.je.

Head Lice:

We have had a few cases of head lice in school upon our return. We appreciate your support in keeping your child's hair treated where necessary and making sure hair is tied back/put up appropriately when at school. Letters have been sent out to those classes affected.

Uniform:

A reminder below of the uniform expectation as in our school handbook. Please can I also take this time to remind you about labelling items - this does make it easier to return missing items to their rightful owners.

Everyday School Uniform - WINTER School sweatshirt. White polo shirt (with school logo). Grey skirt, tunic or trousers. Black shoes (school shoes, plain black trainers) SUMMER As winter or summer dress or grey shorts.	P.E KIT - Navy Blue School tracksuit or navy blue unbranded jogging bottoms/leggings White polo shirt (with school logo). Black/Navy shorts. Trainers.
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Secondhand uniform can be purchased from school for a nominal price per item.

Uniform from the lost and found rails at the entrance to school are free to take as they are unnamed and so, despite best efforts, cannot be returned to their owners.

DATES:

INSET Dates – Thursday 14th Sept (Battle of Britain Day), Wednesday 27 March 2024, Friday 24 May 2024 - school is closed to the children

World Car Free Day:

Friday 22nd September is World Car Free Day. All GoJ departments are being encouraged to walk, cycle, or use public transport as a more sustainable way to get to travel. This may be something as a family you wish to take part in.

St Helier Repair Café (reminder):

Janvrin School will be hosting the St. Helier Repair Cafe every month. A repair cafe is a place for people to come along to get faulty and broken belongings fixed for free. Run by volunteers, the idea is to learn from others how to repair everyday items and develop environmental awareness by trying to avoid throwing things away.

Examples of items for repair could include kitchen electrical items, hi-fi and music equipment, electronics, toys, coats, bags, clothes and school uniforms, bicycles and e-bikes, clocks, garden equipment, TV's and many other things.

We would also love to hear from you if you have skills you would be willing to share as a volunteer. We are looking for people who can sew and use a sewing machine, fix electrical and electronic items, fix bicycles or have any other repair skills that they think would be beneficial.

Please contact Max Livesey, Janvrin School's computing teacher for any more information on 07829786229

or maxlivesey@gmail.com

The Repair Café will then run 9.30-1pm on each of the following dates at Janvrin School:

- 30th September
- 28th October
- 25th November
- 16th December

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning and school life. All at Grands Vaux Primary School are committed to the well-being of your child/ren so if we can help, please let us know.

Kind regards

Miss Maria McCool – Headteacher