Grands Vaux Primary School
Headteacher: Miss Maria McCool

Tuesday 13th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,
I hope this newsletter finds you well, this our second of the new academic year.

Staffing Update:
At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye and best wishes to Mrs MacDonald, who is leaving Grands Vaux School to take up a full-time position in the private sector.
Mrs MacDonald has been a valued member of our school community, and we are grateful for her dedication, hard work, and support of our pupils and families. She will be greatly missed by both staff and children alike.
We would like to thank Mrs MacDonald for all she has contributed to the school and wish her every success and happiness in this exciting new chapter of her career.

Parent Teacher Consultations:
A reminder that you should have received communication about the Parent Teacher Consultations on Wednesday 14th October.
If you have not received communication about this or would like to book a meeting, please do get in touch.

School Photos:
We are pleased to be trialling a new photography company this year, AJS Photographic. Individual photographs will take place on the morning of Friday 6th November. Please ensure that all children attend school in their full school uniform on this day.
Further information, including arrangements and timings for sibling photographs involving children who do not attend Grands Vaux School, will be shared closer to the date.

Cross Country: Thurs 1.10.26:
28 children from Year 5 and Year 6 pupils recently attended the Cross-Country event at Les Quennevais, where they represented the school brilliantly. All of the children participated with enthusiasm, determination, and a positive attitude throughout the day. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship by encouraging one another, showing respect to other competitors, and giving their very best effort in every race. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented our school.

Healthy Snacks (reminder):

To support children's learning and wellbeing, all snacks brought into school should be healthy choices. Suitable snacks include fruit, vegetables, cheese, crackers and other nutritious options.
We ask that children do not bring sugary snacks into school. Foods that are high in added sugar can cause rapid increases and decreases in energy levels, which may affect concentration, focus and readiness to learn. Healthier snacks help to provide more sustained energy throughout the day and support children's overall health.
Please do not send chocolate, crisps, biscuits or sweets as snacks for school. The children are aware of these expectations.

Guernsey Visitors:
On Thursday 8th October we were delighted to welcome two teachers and Guernsey's Education Development Officer to Grands Vaux School this week to observe teaching and learning across the school. During the visit, Mrs Audrain shared our journey to becoming a White Rose Maths Champion School. She explained how, rather than following the scheme as a script, we have carefully adapted and refined White Rose Maths to reflect the needs of our pupils, our staff expertise and our school context. This has enabled us to create a mathematics curriculum that remains faithful to the principles of White Rose while truly making it our own.
A learning walk across the school gave our visitors the opportunity to see these approaches in action. They observed the consistent use of carefully chosen representations, mathematical vocabulary and questioning strategies that support pupils' understanding and confidence in mathematics.
Feedback from the visitors was extremely positive. They commented on the school's thoughtful approach to implementing White Rose Maths, the excellent behaviour of the children, and the strong relationships between staff and pupils. Mrs Audrain was particularly proud of the children's high levels of engagement, secure mathematical understanding and confident use of mathematical vocabulary, which were evident throughout the school. Champion School blog: Our White Rose Journey

Super Smiles:

At our school, children take part in the Super Smiles toothbrushing programme. Super Smiles is a local Jersey charity founded in 2012 by Sarah Pollard, a dentist, and Caroline Wetherall, a dental hygienist. The programme encourages children to brush their teeth every day at school, helping them develop good oral hygiene habits from an early age. Children are taught the correct toothbrushing technique through simple, consistent instructions. The Super Smiles team regularly visits school to monitor the programme and provide engaging sessions on oral health. These include advice on tooth-friendly foods and drinks, healthy eating habits, and the importance of looking after our teeth. Older children particularly enjoy the plaque-disclosing sessions, which help them see areas they may be missing when brushing and reinforce good brushing techniques. Parents and carers can find a wealth of helpful information, tips, and resources on the Super Smiles website: **Super Smiles | Jersey Charity Providing Oral Health Support for Children**

Free 'In Our Place' online courses for parents, grandparents and teens: (Reminder)

'Designed to support parents at every stage of their journey, from pregnancy to adolescence, these courses empower parents to better understand their child's brain development, decode their behaviours, and develop nurturing relationships, all aimed at fostering kindness, confidence, and emotional awareness in children who thrive throughout their lives.'

The courses can be accessed here https://inourplace.co.uk/jersey-and-guernsey/ with the access code WELCOME

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 14th October – Parent Teacher Consultations – bookings will be made available shortly.
Friday 6th November – Whole School Photos
Tuesday 1st December KS1 Christmas Celebration – St Paul's Church - 6pm
Wednesday 2nd December KS2 Christmas Celebration – St Paul's Church - 6pm



INSET 26-27 - sch closed to the children Monday 12th April 2027 and Monday 7th June 2027. These can also be found here: School term dates on gov.je
INSET 27-28 are due for publication soon.

Children in Need:

Friday 13th November is Children in Need; we are going to have a non-uniform with a donation of 50p. Pin badges will be on sale from the office for £1.

Nature Base Event:

Nature Base offers a range of sessions that provide the 'base' for children and families to play, grow and breathe together. The sessions offer rich, multi-sensory experiences that strengthen family connections, nurture nature connection and support children's development, wellbeing and hopefully a lifelong love of the outdoors. On Monday 21st December, Grands Vaux School Forest School will be used to hold another Nature Base event. More details to follow.

Data Sheets:

A reminder to please ensure that your contact information is kept up to date. We must have accurate address, email and phone numbers for the children's contacts on our system. This is essential should we ever need to get in touch with you in an emergency. Please inform us of any changes as soon as possible, you do not need to wait for our regular update request.

Uniform (reminder):

A reminder of our school uniform expectations.
WINTER - School sweatshirt /cardigan (logo), white polo shirt (can be plain or with sch logo), grey skirt, tunic, trousers or shorts, black shoes (these may be plain black trainers).
SUMMER - As winter above or summer dress.
P.E KIT - Navy Blue School tracksuit or navy blue unbranded jogging bottoms, white polo shirt (as above), black/navy shorts, trainers.
Our uniform provider is Lyndale Sports.



Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or if 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

M.M.McCool

Miss Maria McCool – Headteacher