

Grateley Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs R Dance

Deputy Head: Mrs A. Allonby

Admin Officer: Mrs S. McNair



"Respect ~ Friendship ~ Peace"

Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness, Relationships.

Keeping parents informed of the School's new events and important information

Friday 8th September 2017

Dear Parents,

This is my first newsletter as Head teacher at Grateley and I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am thoroughly looking forward to working with you all. I have received such a warm welcome from you, the staff, children and Governors and for that I would like to say thank you. I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming months. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns. If we all work together we can ensure that the children at Grateley thrive and achieve many successes in their time with us.

1. Leadership and management

Welcome back to everyone and a particular welcome to Mrs Dance who has been busy over the summer getting to know how the school works and putting things in place for the coming year. It will take her a little time to become completely familiar with everything so I would ask you to be supportive over the next few weeks to help her do this. Congratulations go to Miss Bailey who is expecting her third child and will take maternity leave from December 2017. Parents in Attenborough and Adamson classes will know that Miss Bailey and Ms Allonby have swapped classes for the year to ensure that our Year 6 pupils have continuity of teaching throughout the year. Mrs Dance will also support the teaching of Attenborough Class to ensure that the high standard of teaching is maintained. As well as supporting our new Head Teacher, the Governing Body's focus in the coming year will be to support the upgrade of the School's IT and website, improve the surface of the playground which tends to be slippery when wet, and consider the long term sustainability of the School given the expected changes to funding in the coming years. We will of course keep you updated on these issues, and if you have any questions then please ask. Thank you in advance for your continued support as we look forward to another busy, stimulating and successful academic year.

Amelia Bridges (Chair of Governors)

2. Teaching and learning

The children have settled back into school life brilliantly! It is great to see how the children have settled into their classes so quickly and are actively engaged in their learning. What a fantastic start to the year!

Behaviour, safety, health and well-being

This week we have been revisiting our Grateley school rules and what they mean to us all as learners and members of our school community. To celebrate excellent behaviour, we will be raising the profile of our school Houses: Oxford, Cambridge and St. Andrews by awarding house points throughout the week; as well as promoting positive

learning behaviour though the presentation of certificates and 'learner leaves'. Golden Time will continue, but has been moved to a Friday afternoon to link in with assembly.

During the summer holidays, I made contact with the charity MIND who has successfully hosted well-being sessions with Year 5 and 6 children across the Test Valley. They are designed to support children during the transition from primary to secondary education. We have been lucky enough to secure 10 sessions with an experienced leader (Sallie Haynes) who was previously an Educational Psychologist. There are only spaces for 10 children, so I have asked Ms Allonby and Miss Bailey to select children who they feel will benefit from these first few sessions. After the 10 weeks, once I have been trained in the techniques and activities, we will then be able to share these tools of resilience and strategies to build self-esteem to the rest of the children. I am delighted to say that Sallie Haynes will be offering support and well-being sessions for parents as well. Once I have more details regarding the sessions for parents, I will let you know.

It is our number one priority to keep the children safe at all times. With this in mind, adults will not be allowed into the school building at the start and end of the school day without prior arrangement. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher please speak to Mrs McNair at the front desk or write a letter to the class teacher to arrange an appointment. Or alternatively, speak to the class teacher at the end of the school day when they are dismissing the children on the playground. Thank you for your support in this matter.

3. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education and Fundamental British Values

The children are currently exploring in class, goals that they have for themselves over the coming year and how we, as a school, can support them in achieving these. Next week we will be holding school council elections; where the children will have the opportunity to be involved in a democratic voting system and elect their class school councillors.

After school clubs will commence next week beginning 11.09.17 for children in Yr 1 and above. Please see below the list of club options.

| Day | Time | Club Name | Led by |
|-----------|-----------|---|---|
| Wednesday | 3:30-4:30 | Football | Jason Holmes (Sports coach) |
| Wednesday | 3:30-4:30 | Homework Club | Miss Forsyth <i>(formally Mrs Tunnicliffe)</i> |
| Thursday | 3:30-4:30 | Chess Club | Mrs WoodHead |
| Thursday | 3:30-4:30 | Computing Club <i>Within the first couple of sessions the children will be taught some touch typing and keyboard skills.</i> | Ms Allonby <i>(formally Mrs Allonby)</i> |
| Thursday | 3:30-4:30 | Story Club The children will have the opportunity to explore a range of books through drama, art and a range of other mediums | Miss Knights |
| Thursday | 8:15-8:40 | A Grateley way to start the day! A chance to start the day in a quiet and reflective way. Using child friendly Yoga exercises and mindfulness techniques to help the children get ready to learn! | Mrs Dance |

Dates for your diary

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| Friday 8th September - Fire Service are visiting school and talking to the children in Darwin class. |
| Friday 15th September - School Council Elections |
| Wednesday 13th September at 2:30pm - PTA are hosting an informal coffee and cake afternoon to the parents of the new YR children. |
| Thursday 14th September at 7-8pm - New YR parents meeting |
| Wednesday 27th September - NSPCC assembly and KS2 workshops Information to follow next week. |
| Thursday 28th September at 6-7pm - Cursive handwriting parents meeting. |
| Tuesday 17th October and Wednesday 18th October - Parental Consultations Details will be sent out to you nearer the dates, so that you can make an appointment with your child's class teacher. |
| Day closures for 2017-18 <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Friday 20th October 20172. Thursday 4th January 20183. Friday 5th January 20184. Monday 23rd July 2018 |

Parents in to help – If you have any spare time to help in school, please see Mrs McNair our Admin Officer for an application pack. This will also require you to carry out a DBS check. We look forward to welcoming some of you in school to help the children with their learning.

Kindest regards,

Mrs R Dance
Head teacher

Thought for the week – 'I've learned that people forget what you said, people forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' Maya Angelou

Safeguarding Children at Grateley Primary School

<http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk/professionals/>

Grateley Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This means that we have a Child Protection Policy and procedures in place which we refer to in our prospectus. All staff, including supply staff, volunteers and governors, must ensure that they are aware of these procedures. Parents and carers are welcome to read the Policy on request. Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with his/her parents/carers first unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs R Dance – Head Teacher
Miss D Knights – Class Teacher

Safeguarding Governor is:

Mrs Sarah Jarman

Our Chair of Governors is:

Mrs Amelia Bridges

If you are concerned about a child's welfare, please record your concern, and any observations or conversation heard, and report to one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads as soon as possible on the same day.

DO **NOT** conduct your own investigation.

If your concerns relate to the actions or behaviour of a member of staff (which could suggest that he/she is unsuitable to work with children) then you should report this to the head teacher in confidence.

If the concern relates to the Head Teacher you contact the Local Authority Designated Officers, LADO, on 01962 876364, who will consider what action to take.