



The Grange Primary School and Nursery NEWSLETTER

www.thegrangeprimary.com

No. 17 Spring Term 2025

Friday 17th January 2025

Staying safe online

I am grateful to parents/carers who have contacted me this week following their regular monitoring of their child's online activity. I have had to speak to a number of classes where it is apparent that WhatsApp groups that many members of the class belong to have been a platform for offensive and hurtful comments. Strictly speaking, the responsibility of supervising activity on WhatsApp groups lies with parents/carers and should not be something that a school is involved in. However, when a child comes into school upset over comments posted by a classmate that could potentially interfere with learning, the issue becomes ours.

I have reminded children that everything they post is indelible - posts never go away and can be seen by anyone. This should be in your child's mind before they post anything. If they would not be comfortable with their post being read by you or me and my colleagues, they should not post it.

PLEASE BE CERTAIN TO MONITOR WHAT YOUR CHILD IS POSTING ON WHATSAPP AND SIMILAR PLATFORMS.

Please see the Online Safety Newsletter produced by the Lydiat Learning Trust with this newsletter.

Mental Health Support Team - Parent/Carer Workshops

The following workshop for parents and carers will be taking place in the staffroom, places can be booked at the school office: Screen Time - Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 2.15 p.m.

After-School Clubs Next Week

The following after school clubs will run next week:

Monday - Playcourt Football - Years Four, Five and Six

Monday - Young Voices Choir - Existing members

Tuesday - Table Top Games - Year Two and Three

Thursday - Lego and Construction Kit - Years Four, Five and Six

Thursday - Oracy - Years Three - Six

Individual and Family Group Photography

You will be receiving proof copies of the individual and family group photographs taken on Wednesday in due course. Details of how to order copies will accompany the proof. I do hope that you are pleased with the results.

Santa Dash - December 2024

Once again, our annual Santa Dash proved to be very successful with over £1000 being raised. The money has been spent on resources to enhance and enrich the school experience of our pupils. Items bought include beautiful educational games for Table Top Games Club and Breakfast Club and two balance bikes that transform into scooters!

Celebrating Good Attendance

Today's winner of the 100% Attendance Prize for the term to date (100% attendance and no late arrivals) is Zara Hughes in Class Two and the Class Attendance Award for the week was won by Class Four - Well done Zara and Class Four!

You can't teach an empty chair!

What's going on in the local community?

Please see details on the website of a 12-week football course being held at King's Leadership Academy Hawthornes in Bootle starting on 29th January.

Please note: We are happy to share information that we receive about events going on for children and parents in the local community. This should not be viewed as an endorsement from the school.

Breakfast time activities in the Rocket Room

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays children who come to school early can enjoy some fabulous reading activities in the Rocket Room. On Fridays we have Story time with Alice where Alice Farrar (Class Six) reads to our younger children.

Thank you and well done Class Twelve ...

For leading this morning's wonderful assembly!

A message from a local pharmacist - Rightdose Pharmacy Ltd.

It has come to our attention at Rightdose Pharmacy that quite a substantial amount of people are not aware of the scheme 'Pharmacy first' and what children can now be treated for without needing to see a GP. Children may now be given treatment over the counter for minor conditions such as:

Ear infections
Impetigo
Infected insect bites
Sinusitis (over 12 years)
Sore throat (over 5 years)
UTI (16 years +)

Here is the link for further information on this should you require it:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies/how-pharmacies-can-help/>

The pharmacy first service can be provided at ANY pharmacy should the pharmacist be willing to provide treatment. Feel free to contact us if you need any more information, we are always eager to help!

Thanks!

Joy Blacklock - A.C.D
Rightdose Pharmacy Ltd
87 - 89 Liverpool Road South, L31 7AD
0151 520 3042

Dates for your diary - Spring Term 2025

Thursday 13 th February	Half-term starts
Friday 14 th February	Staff Training Day
Monday 24 th February	Term re-starts
Wednesday 5 th March	Parents' Open Afternoon
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 13 th March	Lydiat Learning Trust - Official Launch - details to follow
Thursday 20 th March	Book Fair
Friday 4 th April	Term ends at 3.15 p.m.

Wishing you all a very pleasant weekend,

Daniel Hains - Headteacher



THE GRANGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
& NURSERY

LYDIATE
LEARNING TRUST



Online Safety Newsletter

Jan 2025

Social Media Influencers

What is an Influencer?

An influencer is somebody on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account.

What should I be concerned about?

Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share content that is for example, misogynistic, racist or misleading. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact, so it is important to talk to your child and encourage them to fact check and critically analyse what they see and hear online.

What we see on social media

What we see is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, creating an echo chamber and therefore we do not see a balanced picture. Find out more here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

What can I do to help my child?

Talk to your child about social media and who they follow. If there is anybody that you are unsure of, then check their feed and discuss with your child if you find anything worrying.

Further information

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/>

Fortnite Battle Royale

Fortnite Battle Royale is rated PEGI 12 due to moderate violence, meaning it is not suitable for children under the age of 12.



What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including Fortnite Battle Royale, which is free to play (although it contains in-app purchases). In Battle Royale, up to one hundred players compete against each other until one winner remains.

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Chatting and inappropriate language:** Fortnite includes voice and text chat, which may mean your child encounters strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report/block any players that make them feel uncomfortable.
- **In app purchases:** Players can purchase V-Bucks so make sure you restrict purchases and do not store your card details.

Parental Controls

Fortnite provides several parental controls in your child's Epic account to help you create a safer environment for your child. The controls allow you to:

- disable voice chat
- filter language
- manage which experiences your child can access based on their age
- set a PIN to add friends
- set a PIN for purchases
- set time limits
- set appropriate privacy settings.

Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on.

Reporting/Blocking Features

As always, ensure your child knows how to use the reporting and blocking features and that they know they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

You can find out more here:

- <https://safety.epicgames.com/en-US/parental-controls>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 01.01.25.

Get to know age ratings

Age ratings exist to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing.



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online or using social media – make sure you check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI (Pan European Game Information) provide further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence or bad language.

What else should I review?

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls. For example, does it include the ability to communicate with others and are in game/app purchases available?

What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child and how they protect them.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

You can find out more here:

<https://eegamesmart.co.uk/articles/how-age-ratings-help-families/>

Smartphone Free Childhood



Smartphone Free Childhood is a parent-led movement whose mission is to protect children from the dangers of using smartphones too young.

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age. Are you ready to join? Find out more here:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

Digital differences between men and women revealed

Ofcom have released their annual report into our daily habits. The findings show that women and teenage girls are more worried about online harms. You can read the full report here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/online-habits/digital-differences-between-men-and-women-revealed/>

X (Twitter) Checklist

You should be at least 13 years of age to have a Twitter account. The SWGfL have created a free Privacy and Security checklist for you to download. The resource is available here:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/introducing-the-x-checklist-keeping-your-profile-under-control/>