



The Grange Primary School and Nursery

NEWSLETTER

www.thegrangepprimary.com



No. 27 Spring Term 2025

Friday 4th April 2025

St. Joseph's Hospice Smarties Challenge 2025

Your child has been given a tube of Smarties today ...

PLEASE DON'T THROW THE TUBE AWAY WHEN THEY'VE BEEN EATEN!

The Smarties are a gift from St. Joseph's Hospice as our school is taking part in the Smarties Challenge 2025 to raise funds for our local hospice.

On Monday we were joined in assembly by Zoe Furnivall from the hospice. She explained what a hospice is and that it costs £11,000 a day to run.

We ask that, over Easter and the early weeks of next term, children fill the Smarties tube with money - coins or notes - and bring them to school on or before Friday 9th May. All money raised will support St. Joseph's Hospice.

We are especially keen to support the hospice this year as a member of staff at our school has recently experienced the marvellous work done there during her mother's illness.

If you run out of room in the Smarties tube, we have some collecting tins in school (at the main office.) We would encourage children to tell family and friends about the Smarties Challenge in the hope that they will make a donation.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for this wonderful cause.

Celebrating Good Attendance

A total of 31 children were presented with a £10 cash prize in this morning's assembly for maintaining 100% attendance and no late arrivals for the entire spring term (since 6th January.) This is a magnificent achievement, and all should be warmly congratulated.

For the unlucky ones who had to miss school with an illness this term - don't worry! We start again on Wednesday 23rd April. Anyone who manages to attend on time every day until Friday 18th July will receive £10 in the final assembly of the year.

The Class Attendance Award for the week was won by Class Eleven - Well done Class Eleven!

You can't teach an empty chair!

After-School Clubs Next Term

A full menu of summer term clubs will be issued on Friday 25th April and clubs will start in the week commencing Tuesday 6th May (Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday.)

Monitoring your child's social media activity

Thank you those of you who have spoken with me about last week's online safety message. I am pleased to say that we have had a week without new concerns being raised. I am sure that this is due to vigilant monitoring of children's online activity - it is greatly appreciated.

With this newsletter, please find the latest Lydiat Learning Trust Online Safety Newsletter. It contains lots of very topical information to help keep children safe online.

Year Six Achievement School

Revision sessions will be held for Year Six children taking the national SATs next month on Monday and Tuesday next week from 9.00 a.m. - 12 noon. Children who attend both sessions will be given an Easter egg on Tuesday.

Community Garden Working Party - Saturday 3rd May

After last month's very successful working party where great progress was made, we will be holding a further Saturday morning session on 3rd May from 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon. We have booked a skip to dispose of the vast amount of unwanted vegetation so we can create an attractive, colourful and relaxing space to enjoy over the summer.

Mrs. Doyle and I are hopeful that all the familiar friends of the Community Garden will find time to help out and that, as on March 8th, some of you who are new to the school and the garden will be able to join us.

School Nurse - virtual drop-in

Please see details of a forthcoming virtual drop-in session with our excellent School Nurse - Keren Nesbitt - on Monday 14th April. Details can be found on the website accompanying last week's newsletter.

What's going on in the community?

Accompanying previous newsletters, please see details of a variety of activities for children and families including lots of Easter Holiday events and opportunities.

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.

Free Legal Advice Drop-In Service

I am very grateful to MSB Solicitors for their continued generosity in offering free legal advice to Grange families. Details of how to make an appointment to meet with MSB legal advisors can be found at the school office. Following another successful drop-in session, I am pleased to announce that a further session will take place on Wednesday 30th April.

Dates for your diary - Summer Term 2025

Friday 4 th April	Term ends at 3.15 p.m.
Monday 7 th April	Year Six Achievement School
Tuesday 8 th April	Year Six Achievement School
Monday 21 st April	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22 nd April	Staff Training Day
Wednesday 23 rd April	Summer term starts
Saturday 26 th April	Year Six Achievement School
Saturday 3 rd May	Year Six Achievement School Community Garden Working Party - 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 9 th May	Smarties Challenge - tubes back to school
Monday 12 th May	Year Six SATs Week
Friday 23 rd May	Half-term starts
Monday 2 nd June	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 3 rd June	Term re-starts
Tuesday 10 th June	Quidditch Day
Friday 18 th July	Term ends at 1.30 p.m.

Wishing you all a very pleasant spring break

Next term begins on Wednesday 23rd April

Daniel Hains - Headteacher



Online Safety Newsletter

April 2025

Screentime

Screentime is classed as any time spent in front of a screen, so it includes everything from watching tv to completing homework on a laptop. Whilst there is no recommended screentime (except for under two, which is zero), it is important that we find a balance.

Screentime can obviously be beneficial, both for educational and entertainment purposes, however it is important to be aware of the risks, such as:

- Eye strain.
- Disrupted sleep.
- Less time for other activities and being outdoors.
- Affects our attention span.

Further information

Childnet discuss what is screentime and how much screen time is enough in this useful article:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/screen-time-boundaries-parents/>



Social Media Concerns

Most social media apps have a minimum age rating of 13+. Whilst there are benefits, this article discusses some of the potential risks of using social media.



Risks of Social Media

- **Inappropriate content** – social media may expose children to content that is not appropriate for their age, including sexually explicit content or content that promotes harmful behaviours such as self-harm.
- **Cyberbullying** – this can take many forms, including sending nasty or hurtful messages, leaving unkind comments, sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission or impersonating somebody with a fake account.
- **Excessive Screentime/Addiction** – too much time online can affect mental health and disrupt sleep patterns.
- **Contact from strangers** – there is a risk of stranger contact, which can lead to an increased risk of grooming.
- **Challenges** - children may not have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse what they see online. Whilst some challenges are fun and provide no risk, there will be challenges online that are risky/dangerous.
- **Sharing too much information** – children may share personal information e.g. their phone number, school name or inappropriate photos of themselves.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms to keep us engaged on the platform. This can lead to 'echo chambers' where users are only seeing content that relates to their opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint. It can also lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.

How can I help make it a safer environment?

- Check the age rating of each app and restrict access until they reach that age.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls, for example set content restrictions and screen time limits.
- Chat to your child about what they are doing online, including who they are following and interacting with online.
- Restrict devices in their bedrooms.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

Further information

You can find out more from the following:

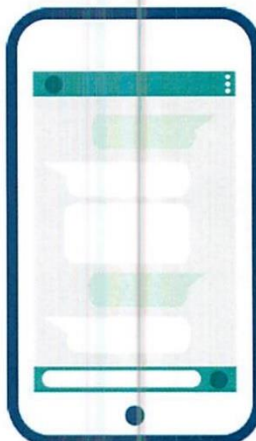
- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/social-media/#Talkingaboutcyberbullying>

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Group Chats

Is your child part of any group chats? This could be on social media, for example on WhatsApp or within games such as Fortnite. If so, it is important that you are aware of the potential risks, which include:

- **Inappropriate content** – there is often a lack of moderation within chat facilities so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- **Bullying** – there are many instances where inappropriate/hurtful comments are shared within groups, this could take the form of name calling or body shaming. Bullying can also be in the form of excluding others from the group. These issues often overspill into 'real life'.
- **Strangers** – your child could be added to groups with people they do not know or even with someone that they have previously blocked.
- **Conversations can be shared/screen shot** – make sure your child is aware that anything they share within a group can be shared with others outside the group.
- **Sharing personal information** – remind your child to be aware of the information they share with others including images and location.



How can I help make group chats safer?

- Check the recommended age rating and adhere to them. If we all did this, peer pressure would be reduced.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls and set screen time limits.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

What else can I do?

- It is crucial to have regular conversations with your child about the risks outlined above and about what they are doing online.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be perceived by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Devices should be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing and who they are interacting with.
- Finally, make sure to model good digital behaviour yourself, as children often learn by observing the adults around them.

Further information

Childnet have created a Group Chat Guide for parents following consultation with the Childnet Youth Advisory Board and Digital Champions: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/cheat-sheet-group-chats/>

Did you know some Emojis have a double meaning?

For those that have watched Adolescence, you will know children and young people may be using emojis to mean something completely different. For example, the kidney bean emoji may be used to identify as an incel. It is important that you are aware of how emojis can be used and keep up to date with the way in which they can be used as their meanings are changeable. You can find out further information here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/emoji-slang-guide/>

Vodafone: The Rise of the Aggro-rithm

Vodafone released a short video last year, titled 'The Rise of the Aggro-rithm'. It highlights the harmful algorithms targeting young boys. It's certainly worth a watch as well as learning about the terrifying statistics accompanying it:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/press-release/ai-aggro-rithms/>

3 things to consider before giving your child a smartphone

Wayne Denner has published a blog discussing the three things that parents wished they had considered before giving their child a phone. You can read the article here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/3-things-parents-wish-they-had-considered-before-giving-their-teen-a-smartphone/>