

THE GRANGE SCHOOL
DAVENTRY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE DATE
20th December 2023



School is now closed for children until Monday 8/1/2023.

If you need any support with food over the holiday period, please contact mrs.hennessy@thegrangeschooldaventry.net who will be able to support you by submitting a Food Bank Referral for you.

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Dear parents & carers,

As you are aware, Ms Victoria Haddon is leaving us tomorrow to begin a new chapter in her life - we wish her well. Also leaving - to follow her dreams - is Miss Summer Medlin. We wish her every success and happiness in the future.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that we are delighted to be welcoming back Mrs Lucy Sanders, who will work alongside the existing Year 1 team. You will remember Mrs Sanders from your Year 1 child's Reception year and she has recently been into school and spent some time with the children. Due to circumstances beyond our control, Mrs Sanders will be unable to join us during the first week of term, but we know that she is worth the wait! The class will be taught by the Year 1 team and Mrs Waldock during this time.

We are also pleased to announce that the Year 1 team will have a further two teachers joining us for the Spring Term. Ms Sarah Faulkner and Ms Aswathi Rajkumar will be working across Year 1, alongside the existing team members. We will ensure that you are able to meet the new staff at pick up times during the first week of term. Miss Katie Hunt and Miss Katy Timms will be temporarily leaving us, to gain experience in another school setting, but will return full-time after the February half-term break.

Mrs Jasryn Dhillon will be returning from Maternity Leave in January and will be working alongside the EYFS team in our Reception classes.

Now that the Year 1 children have had a term to settle into Key Stage 1, we will begin to equip the children for more formal learning, as you would expect in Key Stage 1. We will also be making some changes to the way in which children are taught Early Reading skills and more information on this will follow shortly from Mrs Heath (Early Reading Lead) and Mrs Waldock (Assistant Head Teacher).

We are delighted to be able to welcome new (and returning) members to our EYFS & Year 1 teams and feel sure that, with the support of Senior Leaders in the school, the children will thrive during the Spring Term.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish those of you who celebrate a very, Merry Christmas. I hope you all have a happy and restful holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kind regards,
Vicki

Vicki M M Masters
Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	8th January	School opens for pupils 8.40am
Thursday	11th January	Young Voices (Choir)
Friday	12th January	Bonsai Gurdwara Visit
Tuesday	16th January	Reading open morning all Classes 9.00-10.30



A Spotlight on Special Needs



Top Tips for Christmas for Parents and Carers of Children with Disabilities and Autism



Routines

It can be difficult to stick to your usual routines at Christmas with all the additional and unexpected events and having more visitors around during the festive period. Structure and routine is important for some children as it creates predictability and minimises anxiety. Try where possible to follow some of the child's familiar routines each day. It might help to leave a gap in between social events to allow your child to follow their usual routine.

Make a schedule

Use visual structure for example, on a calendar to help prepare your child for changes in their usual routine, such as a nursery/school event, visiting family and friends, visiting Santa and putting the tree/decorations up. Tick off the event once it has happened. If your child can communicate with you, talk to them in advance about an upcoming event and ask what their preferences are, and what would make things easier for them.

Social Stories

Use social stories to prepare your child for activities outside of their usual routine. Share these with your child regularly leading up to the event or activity. You will be able to find free Christmas Social Story Templates on the internet. Here is a link for a website with some examples [8 Christmas Social Stories for Kids | Autism | Santa \(adavinourshoes.com\)](#)



Presents

Presents can be confusing for some children. Try wrapping each persons presents in different wrapping paper so it is clear which presents belong to who. Place a tag on the present with the child's name/photo and a maybe picture of what's inside. For children who find surprises difficult, it might be an idea to leave presents unwrapped or wrap them in clear cellophane so they can see what's inside. Remember to assemble toys and add batteries so they can be played with straight away. Your child may need to open presents gradually over a few days.

Family and Friends

Include days when family and friends are visiting or if you are planning to visit them on a visual schedule/calendar. You could perhaps show your child a photo of the person/people they are going to see. Sometimes staggering visitors can be less overwhelming for children who find change to their routine or busy/noisy environments difficult. Try to share your plans with family and friends where possible to avoid unexpected changes to your routine.

Food

Remember that it's ok for your child to eat the food they enjoy at family events at Christmas. If eating away from home, take their favourite food with you as well as their familiar plate, cup and cutlery. This can help provide some familiarity to the change in routine. If your child is overwhelmed by extra visitors or the busy environment, perhaps offer their food in a quieter space if possible which doesn't have to be at the same time that everybody else is eating.

Sensory differences

Think about your child's sensory differences which may cause distress or discomfort so you can plan ahead as much as possible. You can then think in advance about what you might need to do to minimise the distress, for example, remembering to take ear defenders if your child is sensitive to loud sounds or busy environments. If you are visiting family and friends, perhaps discuss your child's sensory differences with them so they can help too.

Safe space

Where possible, create a quieter area or safe space at home or when visiting family or friends where your child can retreat to if needed. This could simply be another room, a small tent or an area with cushions. Minimise noise and other sensory stimulation such as noise, flashing lights, and decorations for example. Provide some of your child's favourite items or gentle music which they can control themselves perhaps through headphones. Sometimes, a period of time spent in the garden or a short walk can help to provide some quiet time and an opportunity to regulate.

Sensory Tool Kit/Calm Kit

Carry a sensory tool or calm kit with you to Christmas events, outings and visits to family and friends houses. Include some of your child's favourite items, bubbles, sensory toys, fiddle toys, and chew toys. You can offer the calm kit to your child to help them regulate if you see they are becoming anxious or overwhelmed.



SEND Support Service



Safeguarding Your Child's New Devices



An National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel this is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe focused adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonsafety.com for further guides, tools and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – both technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to do before when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen time limits or unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. Here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should create when first setting up the device. Then, it's all about linking up the account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can play for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. All an account does is create one on account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS, you can make exceptions for any games they might accept despite their high age rating.

IPAD

For parental controls are essential to those on iPhones. However, if you've got an iPad, you'll need to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate either before or after the device. There's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, your iPad can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. As soon as your child can't alter your child's later. You'll be able to set limits on the functions at setup, but you can also reach them through the Settings > Account > Family Settings.

Meet Our Expert

Berry Collins is a technology journalist with 20+ years' experience reporting on the consumer technology scene. With an MSc in Computer Science, he's responsible for all our expert advice on the safety of mobile devices. You can find out more about him on his website, berrycollins.com. He'll be on hand for children and advice regularly on the subject of internet safety.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to set up the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day on the device, set age ratings and parental controls. It's important to note that some parental controls are inaccessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account on the console. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account. If you've already done this on a previous version, you can link up the account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. You'll need an Android account, however, you need to set up the device. Then, go to Settings > Family Link and add your child's account. Then, add your child's account details (for create a new account), your child can then sign in, and you can monitor what they're up to and only do.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time app. You'll need to set up the device with your own account before you can set up the child's account. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account. Then, edit their profile – see the screen time options to place any boundaries on apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and who they can't).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on that TV, you can control the content available to your child. In the settings menu, under Restricted Mode, you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however; some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Beatboxing Message

A Message From Danny The Beat Boxing Teacher

I wanted to say thanks for having me back in to deliver another 6 week project with your year 6 students. It was a huge success with each group getting deep into their creative selves and learning about the hidden capabilities of their voices.

I've created a brand new online platform for 5-12yr olds to help further their learning. It's called 'The Beat Hub'. It went live to the public on 28th November but we are currently running a soft-launch and would love if you could extend an invite to the parents of students I've worked with.

The usual cost for membership very low-cost at £27 per year and up until 31st December there is a 25% discount using the code 'GRANGE25'. The hub has a new video lesson each week plus beatbox challenges, vocal exercises, learning about beatbox history and culture and prizes to be won.

Here is the link with all info about 'The Beat Hub' -
<https://www.schoolofbeatbox.com/the-beat-hub-signup>

I hope to be back again at The Grange School soon for another project soon.

Have a lovely Christmas

Danny

DID YOU KNOW?



CAN INCLUDE:

HOUSEHOLD BILLS
(SUCH AS GAS AND ELECTRICITY)

RENT

COUNCIL TAX

HELP WITH BUYING FOOD

CHILDCARE COSTS

AS WELL AS OTHER
IMPORTANT DAILY ESSENTIALS

THERE ARE PEOPLE ON HAND TO SUPPORT AND
ADVISE YOU, **SO PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TODAY.**



For more information on cost of living support,
visit: westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living
call 0300 126 7000*

*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm



For advice on
cost of living support

Visit:
westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living

call:
0300 126 7000*

*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

or scan:



mind Northamptonshire

For support with your mental health

call for free (open 24hrs a day):

0800 448 0828

