

# Grange Junior School

## Governors' report to parents

### 2020-21

#### Chairs' Welcome

As we reflect on the passing of another school year, it must figure as one of the strangest ever! This period of time has presented each and every one of us with individual challenges and we have had to find our own way through. Some children have embraced the opportunity for a more independent style of learning and have thrived. Others have really missed the companionship and support that school life offers. I would like to pay tribute to parents, pupils and staff who have forged a strong team spirit within the school, supporting each other and with a common objective of doing their very best for the children at Grange. A big thank you is owed to the staff at Grange for going that extra mile and to all of you who have worked so constructively with them.

The whole school trip to Kidzania in early July gave us a taste of 'normal'. Let us hope that after the summer break we can return to that pre pandemic world and certainly I think that we might appreciate it a bit more! Have a good summer and hopefully with some decent weather. Stay safe and well.

With best wishes

Terri Willcocks

#### Farewell



This summer it is with real regret that we are saying good bye to Steve Smith who has been a governor at Grange Community Junior School for 15 years. His contribution to life at Grange has been immense and he has always had a genuine interest in the life of the school. In that time he has been in the school each week to listen to children read, attended every

production and even played that special role of Santa at the Christmas fayre! He brought vast experience to his role as a governor and a good knowledge of the local area. He has spent much of his adult life in Farnborough, served as a councillor with Rushmoor for many years and brought the experience of his work place to bear when we have been making important investment decisions for the school. Steve's listening ear, clear vision and willingness to voice his views have been invaluable. Above all he has brought a geniality and approachability to the job which we have all appreciated. He has fulfilled the governor's role of 'critical friend' to perfection! I am pleased that Steve will continue as a volunteer as the school would be a poorer place without him. Thank you for all that you have done not only for Grange, but also the wider community. Our best wishes go with you.

#### What have been our successes in 2020-21?

- During the summer holidays school was able to host the Connect4summer activities which many families enjoyed
- School invested a lot of time and money in ensuring that it was a safe place to be during a national pandemic
- School staff were able to get staff, parents and pupils trained in the use of Google Classroom
- During the Spring term 2021 staff were able to adapt teaching and learning to provide for pupils at home and in school simultaneously
- Despite a national lockdown school still managed to find ways for pupils to mark some events such as Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day, Halloween, Christmas, Safer Internet Day, Shrove Tuesday and World Book Day (even if it was remotely)
- Where possible some planned enrichment activities still took place such as Year 6 cycling proficiency training, Year 5 Eco Coding event and the Year 6 residential.





## How were our KS2 SATs results in 2021?

Following the decision to cancel public examinations this summer due to the coronavirus pandemic and school closures, there will be no published Key Stage 2 SATs.

The children at Grange Junior School achieve well when compared to all schools nationally. Trends over time show attainment to be either in line with or above the national average in all subjects.

## How are we making sure we are meeting the learning needs of individual pupils?

This year has been exceptionally different in terms of meeting pupil need. There has been a focus upon providing support for pupils' emotional and mental health and well-being and to help them re-engage with learning after lots of time out of school.

School planned additional weekly Personal Health Social Emotional (PHSE) lessons to help support the stress and anxiety pupils have experienced.

To mitigate the lost learning involved, understanding the impact of school closure and putting in place rapid interventions to fix this through an analysis of the gaps in pupils' learning. At the same time, school continued delivering the routine, broad and balanced curriculum.

The school staff have used a combination of explicit teaching and flexible grouping to support this. In addition, governors have ensured:

- Training our teachers to ensure that they are providing a level of challenge for all pupils.
- Continuous tracking of children's progress reinforced by regular Governor monitoring
- We employ a number of support staff who work with groups and individuals on an assortment of programs to help children quickly catch up if they are falling behind.
- We are inclusive to all pupils, and uniquely run Falcon class which supports pupils building blocks in the foundations of Maths, Reading and writing.

## How have we spent the Pupil Premium Grant? (Money received for your child if they have ever been in receipt of free school meals, or a parent is in the armed forces).

Governors have ensured that money has been spent in ways which will enhance learning opportunities for pupils. These have included:

- Funding additional adults to teach pupils.
- Ensuring that our staff are well trained to best support children.
- Funding pastoral support for pupils (school councillor, ELSA)
- Resources, for example books to encourage reading.

## How have we spent the Sports Grant?

The governors have spent the sports grant to encourage fitness in pupils.

- Employing specialist PE coaches to lead clubs and support with additional sports at lunchtimes.
- The purchase and maintenance of PE equipment to ensure that pupils are remaining engaged in being fit and active.
- The purchase of teaching resources to ensure pupils are getting quality PE teaching



## How do we make sure our pupils are healthy and safe?

Governors ensure that there are effective systems in place for:

### Security

- Gated perimeter
- Controlled admittance into the school building
- Constant monitoring through CCTV and the central alarm system
- Vetting all adults who work or volunteer in the school

### Health and safety

- Controlled movement around the school car park



- Regular site inspections of the school grounds
- Regular risk assessments are undertaken
- Regular monitoring of all necessary H & S paperwork
- Monitoring accidents
- Lessons for pupils about keeping healthy and being safe.
- We ensure that staff are appropriately trained to meet first aid needs and safety needs of pupils.



## How are we working with parents and the community?

School aims to build community pride in our local area and forge links. Where possible we work with local organisations for example Gracewell Old people's home, Church of the Good Shepherd and Morrisons Southwood. During periods pre and post pandemic school enjoy working with a variety of organisations such as Mayfield Community project, the police, the Nepalese Community and local schools.

Full partnership between home and school is encouraged. This through formal (parent consultations) and informal (open door) opportunities, as well as through newsletters, events and specific information meetings.

We aim to provide as many working together experiences for parents as possible including attending special assemblies, sharing lunch with the children, attending class assemblies, events and productions.

We provide before and after school care for children through the running of the breakfast club at school and afterschool club as well as many other after school activities and clubs.

## What are we trying to improve?

Governors work alongside staff to produce a School Improvement Plan, which next year will focus on:

- Continuing to close gaps in missed education
- Continuing to develop the school curriculum and in particular English

### The governing body 2020-21

Co-opted	Mrs Teresa Willcocks (Chair) Mr Les Taylor (Vice Chair) Mrs Barbara Simpson Mrs Jane Armstrong Mrs Anne Lyster Ms Sian Thorne Mrs Angela Floyd Ms Kate Bettison
Parents	Mrs Emma Constable Mr Rohit Gurung
Staff	Mrs Lyn Williams Ms Paola Burgess
Associate	Mr Stephen Smith Mr Paul Williams Mrs Betty Hammond Mr Paul Hammond Mrs Amanda Hall

## Healthy lifestyles

- School hold cookery classes across the school to support pupils understanding of food and nutrition as well as kitchen safety and how to cook for themselves
- School ensure that the curriculum allows for 2 hours a week of physical activity and the issues, which relate to Personal, Health, Social, Education and citizenship (PHSCE)
- School encourage walking, cycling, and scootering to school.
- School promote healthy lifestyles through school initiatives such as the TV screen in the playground, active boards, bikability, after school clubs and working with outside agencies such as the school nurse.
- School continue to support freshly produced lunches cooked on site which are varied and nutritionally balanced according to government guidelines.

## What activities are available to pupils?

Grange Junior School provides a rich curriculum, enhanced by the use of extra curricular clubs, off site visits and visitors to school. This year has been very limited in what we have been able to do:

### Trips

- Virtual trip to the Hawk conservancy
- Residential trip to Osmington Bay
- Runways End centre
- Trip to Southampton
- Kidzania

### Visitors

- Fire brigade (virtually)
- Vicar of church of the good shepherd (virtually)
- Cycle training

### Clubs

- Football
- Dance
- Yoga/keep fit