

3rd February 2023

Dear Parents,

It is lovely to have our children all back under one roof! I repeat my thanks to you all in supporting the slightly unusual start to the year.

I would also like to thank our kitchen staff who are being incredibly creative and are managing to provide at least one hot choice option on a daily basis - quite an achievement given the numbers of children involved and the lack of gas! My apologies for cancelling assemblies with us all gathering, for the time being. The hall is a large space and is still quite cold early in the morning. We aim to begin these again after half term, temperature permitting. You will have seen that we still have generators powering temporary heating in school. The work on our gas pipes is yet to start. I will keep you updated on this.

Parents Evening

I am pleased to let you know that, as per our school calendar, our next parent's evening is coming up soon. For all classes **EXCEPT 1H**, this will be on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th of February. For 1H it will be on Wednesday 1st March and Thursday 2nd March. All days will run between 3.35pm - 5.35pm.

To cut down further on the use of paper, and to improve efficiency for both us and yourselves, you will need to book your appointments online.

Please use the link below. You will need your name and email address exactly as you have provided it for our records. You will also be asked to enter your child's name and date of birth. This will take you to the home page. Please click the blue "make/edit my own booking" option and simply click the time that is convenient. Remember to scroll down the page to see both days. You will then get an email confirmation of this time. If for any reason you need to cancel, please log back in and cancel your appointment. This will free that time for other parents to select.

We will use the same structure as for our previous parents evening. You will get academic and pastoral information, including attendance print outs and details of any additional interventions that your child is involved in.

Please use the link below to book an appointment. Please let the office know if you have any issues logging in.

www.parents-booking.co.uk/grendon

E Safety

We know that many of you are concerned about what your children are able to access online, with other children and through social media on their own devices at home.

We address e-safety in school through a variety of ways, most directly as part of both our PSHE and Computing curricula. Year 5 parents will also be aware that we offered an e-safety workshop to parents this term.

To highlight the importance of e-safety further, our next Whole School Day as detailed on the 'enrichment' section on the curriculum tab on our website, will take place on Wednesday 8th February. It will be an Online Safety Day. All children will participate, taking part in age appropriate activities and learning designed to address issues relevant to them. There is no charge for this day and children need to be in uniform as usual.

Homework

You may remember from previous letters that we said we would review our homework policy this year in light of feedback from Parent Questionnaires last year. This is not an easy issue to solve, with some parents feeling there is not enough homework and some feeling that there is too much! It is difficult to agree a policy that will satisfy all. Before we discuss any changes, we would obviously like to hear your views. Please take 5 minutes to click on the link below and complete the short survey. We will collect children's voice about homework in school, so please complete this from your view point only - I realise this may differ from your child's!

<https://forms.office.com/e/OJsYPXjk5H>

Before and After School Provision

After an already difficult start to 2023, I'm afraid I have further disappointing news. The provider that we had been working with in order to begin our before and after school provision has had to withdraw at this late stage. While I totally understand their reasons which are not related to Grendon, nobody is more disappointed than me by this news.

I believe that this provision is vital as part of our offer to you. I now have to go back some steps to work with the local authority on another route to this provision. As part of this, I would like to again collect your views on whether you feel that this is still the right direction for us to move in. We started this process pre-covid. I need to ensure that, given the changes in working patterns over the last few years, this provision is still needed by our community.

Please click the link below to give me your views on this.

<https://forms.office.com/e/VWDQzWhDUZ>

Best wishes

Mrs Ridley