

10th May 2024

Dear Parents

Summer Fayre

It's that time of year again! Our Summer Fayre will be held this year on 20th June from 5pm - 7pm. Further details will follow, but we would love you to come and join us - please save the date!

Online Safety

You may have heard in the media this week about the Online Safety Act and the increasing responsibility and accountability asked from tech companies by Ofcom.

All primary school age children are officially too young to have access to any social media account. Games such as Call of Duty and Fortnite also have age limits set, and again these are above the age of primary children.

The reality is very different. Many of our children are accessing social media and have accounts themselves. While the benefits of social interaction and communication are clear, we are having to deal with an increase in complaints about messages sent and received via on-line gaming and social media out of school hours, at home. Some of this behaviour is serious. Children say things online that they would not say face to face. It causes disruption to teaching and learning in school and is detrimental to their mental health and wellbeing.

Our curriculum is structured in a way that maximises learning about these issues. All year groups participate in a digital literacy unit as part of our Computing curriculum. We address this again in our PSHE units. We have a parent workshop in Year 5 and have held several whole school days to raise the profile of online safety. Children are taught and encouraged to report their concerns. However, parents have a responsibility to ensure that these issues don't happen in the first place and, if they do, to step in to prevent them from escalating. Please be mindful of what your children are saying and doing online and remove apps or games (or consoles & phones) if necessary.

Parking and Road Safety

Despite the amazing video that children made on our whole school day earlier in the year, their voices have gone unheard, and Grendon Road continues to be unsafe for families and residents before and after school. We continue to explore all avenues with Birmingham City Council to improve things further.

As I always say, I cannot do this by myself. Junior Leaders have used the money raised on Road Safety Day to purchase signs which will be outside school from next week to remind you again to park safely, further away from school and complete the last leg of your journey to school on foot. Thank you again to all of our Junior Leaders for their hard work to attempt to improve this issue.

SATs Tests

Although SATs tests in Year 2 are not statutory this year, our Year 6 children will be taking their tests next week. We would like to wish you good luck, although we know you don't need it because of your hard work and effort not just this year, but across your whole time with us at Grendon. Be calm, be confident and use your WE CAN attitude. You are ready for anything! Anusha, our Junior Journalist has written a message to you all:

We know that all of you will be getting ready for the Year 6 SATs that are due on Monday 13th May. You've worked hard all year and I know you are ready for it. Don't worry Year 6! It's okay to be nervous but remember to have a good night's sleep and to eat your breakfast in the morning. That way you will be prepared for the day ahead. 'we can' do this and good luck!

Attendance

As I have said previously, thank you for your commitment to working with us to ensure that your child attends school every day and on time. We have had so many attendance HEROS this year! Now that the Summer term is here, can I just remind you that:

- Children should not be taken out of school for holidays in term time. This leave is very unlikely to be authorised and further action may be taken by the local authority.
- Medical appointments count as an absence. Although we may be able to authorise this appointment, your child is not in school and is therefore absent. This will affect their attendance percentage which is why we ask that all routine appointments are made in the 175 days that children are not in school each year.

If you are worried about your child's attendance, please come and talk to us. We will be able to help.

Thank you everybody for your continued support for Grendon.

Best wishes
Mrs Ridley