DECEMBER 2018



# HRISTMAS NEWSLETT

# Headteacher's letter

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I am honoured to be writing this, my first headteacher's letter since my substantive appointment in November. I am looking forward to working with all our families and carers to ensure pupils receive the highest standards of education and opportunity. I lead the school at an exciting time with our recent successful Autism Accreditation inspection by the National Autistic Society. Our aim is to work towards enhanced status.



I am delighted that we have successfully appointed Mark Cleave as Deputy Head Teacher at our Wrotham site and welcome Abigail Rodreigo as new member of staff at our new Key Stage 2 Stansted Satellite. It is of course with great sadness we say a fond farewell to Robert Wyatt as he leaves us to enjoy his retirement. I have been fortunate to have worked closely with Robert for a number of years and have learnt a great deal from him during this time. He will certainly be missed by pupils, families, governors and staff and I am sure you join me in wishing him all the very best for the future. His considerable contribution to our school will not be forgotten.

This has been a very busy first term with so many great moments to share and therefore an action packed newsletter. Firstly, I would like to commend the pupils and staff involved in Shakespeare for Schools. A breath taking performance and I am so proud of them, it's not easy standing on a stage in front of large audience and performing a Shakespeare play. For those of you who have visited the school recently, I am sure you will join me in thanking pupils for the beautiful display of clay poppies in reception. I have received such lovely comments from parents and visitors, a truly spectacular sight.

The pupils have made a significant contribution to our chosen charities this year. They have raised £1288.30 so far, really showcasing their ability to think of others.

This term we have been focusing on views and opinions of pupils and for the first time we have appointed Regan as Head Boy, Ami as Head Girl, Reuben as Deputy Head Boy and Maria as Deputy Head Girl. These pupils from year 11 and Key Stage 5 will be helping shape our school for the future and taking additional responsibility. They were excellent in assisting in the Deputy Headteacher interviews this week.

In the forthcoming months the school will be reviewing communication with parents. Although effective, we would welcome any feedback from parents as to how we can improve. If you would like to be involved in this review, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas service on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Wrotham St Georges followed by our farewell to Robert at school. If I don't see you in person, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very peaceful and restful Christmas holiday. I look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

POATION

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Wednesday 19th December—Christmas Carol Service at St George's Church, Wrotham
Wednesday 19th December—End of Term at the Wrotham Site (school closes at 1.30pm)
Thursday 3rd January and Friday 4th January 2019—INSET Days at Wrotham Site (no pupils in school)
Monday 7th January 2019—First day of Term for Pupils at Wrotham Site

# Message from the Chairman of Governors

Dear All

It was with sadness that governors accepted Robert Wyatt's resignation as Headteacher back in the summer and his circumstances meant it was apparent we should accept one month's notice rather than the usual six months. However following rigorous interviews, the arrival of Renukah Atwell as our new Headteacher in November is an appointment all governors are delighted with. Perhaps no more than myself, as over the past year I have been able to work closely with her as our Acting Headteacher and I like her style.

I am also pleased to welcome Gillian Buisson as our second Parent Governor and by the end of term we should also have filled the Community Governor vacancy, bringing us a full complement of governors for the first time in quite a while.



Elsewhere in the Newsletter a report on Autism Accreditation is featured. I would like to say "Thank you" to Hannah Mellor, Speech & Language Therapist, for the huge amount of preparation she put in to make the Accreditation visit such a successful one.

The roof! Well what can I say other than the leaks continue, sometimes in new places, other times where it's been repaired. Finally, an independent Structural Engineer has been appointed to investigate and so we're looking forward to reading his report. Meanwhile we will keep the buckets handy and congratulate our pupils on calmly dealing with the aftermath of a leak. I would further confirm that although the roof leaks, the assurance remains that it is sound and no danger to either pupils or staff.

Our new Key Stage 2, *Grange Park @ Stansted*, is being made ready for our first pupils to start with us in April 2019. One primary teacher has so far been appointed and will start with us in January learning 'The Grange Park Way' in time to welcome our new intake, initially from Years 4 and 5. When the satellite is fully up and running, we will have 36 pupils overall in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Grange Park pupils and students are always doing something and it is a pleasure to come into school any time and also to attend events that they have helped plan. Schools are vibrant communities and I am indeed a very fortunate Chairman of Governors – although it has been rather more action packed than usual over the last twelve months, I hope to sail through calmer waters in the New Year!

Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Sue Murray,

Chairman of Governors

# PS from Mr Wyatt

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of Grange Park,

It would be understandable to think of this time as a sad occasion, saying goodbye to you all after more years than the fingers on both hands will let me count. However, all good things come to an end and to have been part of a school where so many children have grown and developed into more confident independent young adults has certainly been a "good thing".

I welcome this chance to thank you for your commitment in supporting the school, for your kindness and, above all, your trust.

Robert

# Lest we forget

To commemorate Remembrance Day, KS3 and 4 made ceramic poppies which they glazed and decorated with military buttons. The whole school was invited to add a poppy to the banner by using their thumb prints.









#### Stansted War Exhibition – Year 9

To celebrate 100 years since the end of World War One, a local church in Stansted created an exhibition about the war and soldiers who were from the area. Grange Park were invited to attend the exhibition, and as they had been learning about the war, year 9 were keen to go. At the exhibition, pupils enjoyed looking at the copies of handwritten letters from the war, records showing family history and speaking to the volunteers. The pupils also got to try some trench cake that was sent to soldiers during the war. This was a great opportunity for pupils to extend their learning and interact with the local community.







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#### Harvest Festival

Grange Park held its annual Harvest Festival at St George's Church on October 17<sup>th</sup> this year. We were overwhelmed by the amount of generous food donations sent in by you all. Year 8 had the job of decorating and packing the food boxes in their World Citizens lesson.

The volunteers who read at the Church were brilliant and it was great to have some of our new year 7 pupils volunteering. I am always very proud of the pupils for finding the confidence to deliver a reading to so many pupils and adults. After the service, Key Stage 5 students did an excellent job of serving hot drinks to those who were able to join us.

Well done to all pupils who helped out, and thank you once again for the kind donations.



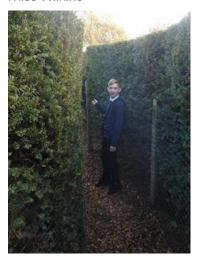




## History Trip to Hever Castle

Year 8 have been learning about The Tudors in terms 1 and 2 and to help them extend their learning about King Henry VIII and his family, we visited Hever Castle. The pupils had a guided tour of the castle, where they showed off their knowledge of the topic and asked interesting questions. After the tour, we enjoyed a walk around the beautiful gardens and finding our way through the maze! It was a very enjoyable trip with excellent behaviour from all pupils.













# **Shakespeare Schools Foundation**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 10 of our pupils performed in Othello at the Woodville Halls in Gravesend. The pupils had all worked very hard, some of them since September to understand the plot and practice the abridged version of the play that had been written for them.

The dedication shown by the pupils was incredible, as was their performance (as can be seen from the pictures below). It takes a great deal of courage and determination to stand on a stage in front of hundreds of people and put on such an impressive show.

The pupils from other schools at the festival, along with our own staff members and parents who were in the audience were delighted with the performance. As a school, we are very proud of all of those who took part – YOU ARE ALL STARS!













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# **Duke of Edinburgh**

Once again Grange Park School are running the Bronze DofE award. This is a nationally recognised award which shows students have commitment, dedication, and resilience. There are 6 students from Key Stage 5 participating in it this year and so far they have been working hard on their voluntary section. The students have been going to Fort Amherst, a Heritage Trust site, on a weekly basis to help maintain the grounds. As well as helping to keep the site a nice place for the public to walk around they have also been constructing a bug hotel! So far all students are doing a brilliant job!









#### **Football Tournament**

Well done to the Grange Park Football Team for taking part in the Kent Disability League fixtures on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. It was a wet and windy day but the boys put in some excellent performances and scored some fantastic team goals. There is a foundation of ability and hard work to build upon and this group will no doubt keep getting better throughout the academic year.

Thanks to all of them for making it a successful and most importantly, enjoyable day!

## **Comedy Club**

This term, Miss Briley has been running Comedy Club on Friday break times. It has been well attended and pupils have had us in stiches with their imaginative jokes and sketches! Our comedians of the week have been:

Nathan (Year 9): Knock, knock. Who's there? Dwayne. Dwayne who? Can someone Dwayne the bath

tub, I'm drowning!

Max (Year 11): What do you call James Bond having a bubble bath? Bubble 07! Reuben (Year 11): What's a pig's best karaoke song? Don't go bacon my heart!

Paul (Year 7): Cemeteries are the most popular places on earth... People are just dying to get

therel

Victoria (Year 8): What do elves learn at school? The elf-abet!

We look forward to hearing all of those Christmas cracker jokes in January!

#### **Enrichment**

Grange Park has introduced an enrichment programme to the timetable this year to enable pupils to experience different activities, develop social and communication skills outside of the school setting and help to reduce anxiety.

Pupils were able to select from a range of enrichment opportunities which they participate in every Wednesday afternoon. The activities on offer are swimming, karate, golf, archaeology, ice skating and cycling with the Year 7's participating in a number of different activities such as go karting, board games and gardening projects. Pupils seem to be enjoying their enrichment programme and will once again have the opportunity to select another option for Term 3 in the upcoming weeks.













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# No Pens Wednesday

Grange Park celebrated 'No Pens Wednesday' again this year on 3rd October.

'No Pens Wednesday' is an initiative from the Communication Trust which encourages pupils and staff to put down their pens for a day of speaking and listening activities. This year, teachers came up with a range of inspiring activities for pupils to participate in, from news reporting on the Tudors and World War One in history lessons to shop-keeping in maths.





34 pupils said that they enjoyed the day, with 32 saying that they would like to do it again next year. Two pupils enjoyed the day so much that they thought we should have them more often!

What pupils had to say about the day:

"There are different ways to learn besides writing!"

"You did something different in lessons"

Mrs Mellor, SALT

## Maths Escape Room



In September, the whole school took art in a maths themed escape room. Pupils all displayed excellent teamwork and showed logic and mathematical reasoning to unlock their boxes. Everyone managed to unlock their box and had a fun time doing so!

# Highlights from the French Residential Trip



















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# Take One Picture Art Project

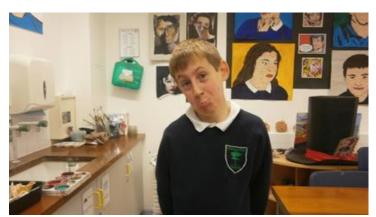


JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY -AN EXPERIMENT ON A BIRD IN THE AIR PUMP

Terms 1 & 2 saw the final stages of the project Year 8 and 9 had been working on since the summer. As part of the Take One Picture programme run by the National Gallery, pupils responded to the themes of the painting in a variety of creative ways. It has been a pleasure working with all of the pupils from Year 8 and 9 and seeing how they have investigated the painting.

They shared their thoughts and opinions about "The Experiment" and learned about it's relevance to today's society. They enjoyed exploring themes such as light, emotions, distorted images, science and birds. If you want to know more about the painting, ask any member of Year 8 or 9 and I'm sure they will have something interesting to tell you!

Their hard work has been submitted to the National Gallery to be considered for display in an exhibition during June 2019. So, fingers crossed their work will get selected!









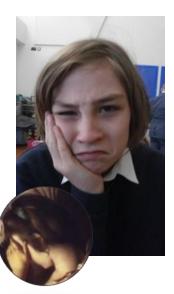
# Take One Picture Art Project

















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# Wear it Pink Day for Breast Cancer

Last term on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Year 11s and I organised the charity event: Wear it Pink Day, in our citizenship lessons. We all took part by some of us making posters, others making the assembly and the rest planning activities for pupils against teachers.

I also had an idea to wax my legs which in some ways I regret as it really hurt and after a while it really itched, but I'm really proud of myself and the Year 11s as we really worked hard to organise this day. I alone raised £237 and all together as a school we raised £556.52. It was a fantastic day, everyone enjoyed themselves and we as school like to thank everyone who participated and donated money to breast cancer awareness.

RS, Head Boy













#### **School Council**

The new school council have had a very successful term. All the representatives have shown their maturity and enthusiasm in discussing a range of issues raised by their classmates. As a direct result of the work of the school council, the following changes have been made for January;

- We have a new set of school rules that the school council put together. These have been added to the pupils' contact books and will be displayed in all classrooms as a reminder for staff and pupils.
- A new rota of lunchtime clubs has been agreed after the representatives held votes in their form groups to find out which clubs would be most popular. There will now be multiple clubs on offer each lunch time, including Lego, life skills and board game clubs.
- Changes have been made to the tick sheets so that pupils will record which Zone they are in each lesson, rather than traffic light, to give staff and parents a clearer understanding of how they are coping throughout the week.

The school council also proposed an early finish on the last day of term, which was agreed almost unanimously in the class votes. They discussed new equipment that was needed at school, which has been ordered, and gave their feedback about current and future enrichment activities.

Thank you to all of our school council representatives; Jamie (Year 7), Alfie S (8a), Israel (8b), Daniel (Year 9), Owen (Year 10), Regan (Year 11) and Ross (KS5). You have all shown great initiative and commitment to the school council this term.

#### **Christmas Card Competition**

Earlier this year Key Stage 5 students arranged a Christmas card competition. Their task was to organise a competition with clear guidelines, a set time and people to judge the winner. The hardest part was selecting the best card from the high quality entries. This proved to be impossible so three cards were chosen for printing and several others were highly commended.

The winning cards have been sent out to friends of the school as the official Grange Park Christmas Card and parents and staff have also been able to buy them to send to family and friends.







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# Children in Need 2018

For Children in Need this year, we ran a Blue Peter Bring and Buy sale with pupils, staff and parents all taking part. There were lots of things to buy including DVDs, clothes and toys! In addition, each year group ran a with activities such as 'Name the bear' and 'Guess the number of sweets in a jar'.

The pupils managed to raise an amazing £400! Thank you for all your support and donations!









#### **KS5** Enterprise

As part of the KS5 curriculum, students have been taking part in an Enterprise scheme. The term began with some activities designed to get students communicating and working together in a fun way.

These included the 'Paper Cup Challenge', 'Paper Towers', the '£10 Challenge' and the 'Bin Bag Challenge.' The students had to make a cup which could hold water for the longest and try to build the biggest tower with newspaper. The '£10 Challenge' got students thinking about ideas to make money. The best was to start an enterprise for upcycling furniture and selling for a profit.

The last activity was the 'Bin Bag Challenge' which was a huge success. Students had to make a product that they could market and sell, using only a bin bag. The winner was a very smart headband and all participants demonstrated excellent sales and marketing skills.

In addition to this, KS5 organised a Christmas Card competition for the whole school. Pupils put in their entries and the winning cards have been printed for sale in in school.







#### KS5 Work Experience

Work Experience is an important part of the KS5 curriculum as it allows students to find about the world of work and also to gain the skills necessary for moving into employment when they leave education. All KS5 students complete a programme of Work Experience where they will learn about working in different sectors.

One of our KS5 students is currently completing a job placement in McDonalds and this is what she has to say:

"I love going to McDonalds. I can do all the jobs now without being asked and I know where everything is. I have so much more confidence now and talk to the customers. The manager has said I'm doing so well that I can apply for a weekend job when I feel ready."

Other job placements currently include: Holiday Inn, Borough Green Primary School (working as Teaching Assistants), Animal Care, McDonalds and Coronation Garage with more placements to be added to the list after Christmas.

Thank you to all those local companies who have offered up placements for our students.



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### Floristry Work Experience



Inside the flower shop at Flowers of Borough Green



Inside the classroom preparing to produce an arrangement. From this!

Two of our Year 10 pupils have started studying a new Floristry course. They have both been working exceptionally well in lessons in school and when out on work experience.

We have made links with the local flower shop in Borough Green. The owner of the shop, Fiona, is very friendly and is amazing with our pupils and we cannot thank her enough for agreeing to take two of our pupils.

Amongst many other things, the pupils are learning how to condition the flowers and how to abide by health and safety in the working environment. We value work experience placements like these so much as it builds pupil's confidence and teaches them about the real world of work.

I am very proud of the two pupils for displaying good manners and showing great enthusiasm. They are a credit to our school.

Mrs Brooks



To these!



To this!



And wrapped for the customer for the perfect presentation.

#### **Autism Accreditation**

In September Grange Park achieved renewed accreditation from the National Autistic Society. The Autism Accreditation team reviewed our website, our paperwork and our teaching to see whether we are meeting the autism needs of our pupils and students. We are! Particular strengths are: the well managed transition processes for new pupils and those who are moving on, the meeting of pupils' sensory needs and the positive relationships between pupils and staff. One comment stood out: "The behaviour of students is fantastic..."

Grange Park School has now been accredited since 2000. Thank you to all those parents and carers who provided feedback.

#### **College Partnerships**

#### My first weeks at college

To be honest my first week at this strange new place I was a bit shy, scared and nervous in the room I was placed in. But as the days went by I started to feel calm, safe and relaxed with the new people that I grew a strong bond to.

The second week at this college was much better. I did so much more. Once again I met some new people and a new room to learn in, and so much more to do.

In my third week at this college nothing new happened, but I am really looking forward to what this college has in store for me but what I must always remember is this:

No matter what I go through in this college and don't not know what my future holds for me. The only thing I can make sure of is I have to keep on smiling.

Now I am in my third month and am still enjoying the experience of college each day. Now doing Catering as my pathway instead of Sport and it is all great.

By WJ

During our time at Mid Kent College we have had the opportunity to go to the Hair and Beauty Department to have our hair washed and blow dried. We enjoy it very much and it helps the students to carry out assessments for their course. It gives them experience and opportunities to work with real people and deal with them in the appropriate way.

When we are there, they ask us questions about our coursework and they like to know about us and what we like. It is good for us as well as we get to have conversations with a different student each week. They also give us advice on what shampoo to use for our hair.

These are pictures of us having our hair done.

By GB and KT





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## **College Partnerships**

#### **Hadlow College**

Hadlow college has been one of the best places I've been to. At first I was a bit worried about if I would make any friends but as time moved on, I have. I have to pick up faeces, clean the accommodations, prepare the food for the animals we have at the college. Yes, it is a bit laborious but in the end, it's worth it.

You can go to the common room during your free periods where there is a huge smart TV where you can watch Netflix and play pool with your mates. There is a canteen which has a variety of food you can eat. Unfortunately, I have to do English but I will pass it this year hopefully. The lessons are very informative; you have to write notes down which can be used in your homework (which are called assignments) but you have plenty of time in your free periods so you don't need to do anything at home.

Every Friday, we go to a place called The Hop Farm for work experience and it is really fun. You can go in with the ferrets which are really fun to watch. I have made friends with Zach the Llama, at least I tried to, or you can hear the donkeys sing for attention. In our breaks, we have delicious hot chocolate.

At The Hop Farm we also have to do work cleaning out all the animals, making enrichment and grooming the ponies and donkeys.

By HS



#### **College Partnerships**

#### **Performing Arts**

I am "ABSOLUTELY" loving my chosen course!!

This is because all of the activities, games, practical work etc, that we have been doing, they have all (well... most of them) contributed & matched my talents (except for singing!).

Some of the activities that we do in class includes dancing, acting in improvisations, mimicking voices and being creative in the "show-biz" and performing side. I've been told that I'm already very talented in those areas of performing arts which is what I have been told by my performing arts tutor as well as the theatre technician – he's an absolute legend!

It has been amazing and brilliant making so many brand new friends and best mates, because moving to college was like going to "a whole new world" and a massive game changer for me: particularly that it is a completely different environment and world compared to Grange Park.

Also speaking of a "big game changer" while in the college we have a Pantomime going on this Christmas (Cinderella) and all the Level 3s are performing in it (I've watched the rehearsal and they were hilarious) while the Level 1s (which I'm in "whoop whoop") and the Level 2s are in charge of the props and scenery making for the show. Not only that, we are also doing some work experience by either being an usher, technician, snack bar/ticket booth person or a security guard in the dressing rooms etc. Also my friend and I (Level 1s) are going to be the voice overs/narrators for this year's pantomime.

Also the good news doesn't stop there, my friend and I have got a "LIVE" tribute concert to the legendary "King of Pop" A.K.A Michael Jackson on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019! The show is going to be called "Michael Jackson: Live & Alive" and it going to blow everyone away!

By LF

#### My trip to The Guardian Centre

I arrived on the bus at 7.15am at Mid Kent College, Maidstone and took a 3 hour journey to arrive to London.

When I first arrived, I was introduced to the teacher Mena and she gave me and my partner a task involving writing a news report for the 4th June 1913 about the suffragettes and women not being able to vote.

At 12.00pm I went to the cafeteria for my lunch break, 30 minutes later I went back to the classroom to create our newspaper documents involving events in 1913.

When we finished, we printed off out newspaper reports about the stories and put a picture with me and my partner at the bottom to symbolise that we had worked together on this news report. Finally we headed back on the bus to college to go home.

E F-V



#### Severe Snow/Ice Plan

#### How will we let you know that school (Wrotham site) is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Miss Atwell may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website.

To determine whether Grange Park School is open or closed, please visit <a href="www.kentclosures.co.uk">www.kentclosures.co.uk</a>. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries.

We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Grange Park School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

We will also endeavour to inform you via our text messaging service (Parentmail), so please ensure we have your current mobile number.

#### How will we let you know if the college is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions:-

Parents can directly contact Mandie Conington - White on **07591852944** or Jean Moule on **07840506638** Parents and students should follow the guidance from the college site that their son/daughter is currently attending.

Due to the varied locations of each campus, the college may make a decision to close, one site or all sites, or remain open, dependent on the severity of the weather at each campus.

Parents and students should go to Google, log on to the main MKC or Hadlow home page, the college will provide information should it be open or closed, this is usually highlighted in yellow, at the top of the page. The college will update the information on a daily basis.

Tutors will email students with set work to be completed at home for each snow day.

Partnership students will not be requested to travel or work at the School site, if the college is closed and the school is open.

#### What can you do to help?

Please visit <u>www.kent.gov.uk/winter</u> for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.

If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up or early arrival of your child at home, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the college. If your child travels by taxi, then we will inform you that the college will be closing early to ensure you are fully aware that your child will be arriving home early. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

# Grange Park School Term Dates 2018-2019

Please note that the term dates for Grange Park @ MKC and Grange Park @ Hadlow may differ slightly from the above. Term dates for the partnership colleges can be found on the Grange Park website.

Wednesday 19th December 2018 End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.30pm)

Monday 7th January 2019 Start of Term 3 for pupils

Friday 15th February 2019 End of Term 3

Monday 25th February 2019 Start of Term 4

Friday 5th April 2019 End of Term 4

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 Start of Term 5 for pupils

Monday 6th May 2019 Bank Holiday
Friday 24th May 2019 End of Term 5

Monday 3rd June 2019 Start of Term 6
Friday 19th July 2019 End of Term 6



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Grange Park School

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