

Friday 1 March 2024

Dear Parent

Supporting your child's education through voluntary donations

At Grange Park, children are given a wide range of opportunities to experience an ambitious curriculum in the classroom by taking advantage of our extensive use of technology, as well as outside the classroom in our expansive grounds that include a large playing field, forest school area, allotments, pond and fire pit. We also encourage children to experience the wider world and use our very own minibus to escort children to a range of sporting tournaments, swimming sessions and educational visits.

We are grateful that volunteers in a range of roles, fundraisers and voluntary donations for educational visits and workshops help provide some of these valuable experiences. However, our school budget is increasingly stretched, as funding for schools is significantly lower than previous years.

Our original purchase of Chromebooks, distributed in January 2021, was funded by Connect Education Trust through the maintenance grant available to academies. This year that grant has been reduced dramatically, with an ever tightening budget, the school has limited funding for IT (as well as other resources). The school budget not only has to cover devices but the infrastructure which enables connectivity such as WiFi, as well as the cost of apps and subscriptions. Daily school and home use means that many of our original devices now need to be replaced. This year our Year 1 children were given new chromebooks and today our Year 4 children's chromebooks have been replaced with brand new ones. Our aim for forthcoming years will be to replace the Chromebooks as a rolling programme for certain year groups each year but this will only be possible if funds are available.

Whilst some parents have generously offered to pay for more than just their own child's visit/workshop, other parents have suggested making regular donations to support the school to continue to provide the education our children have so far enjoyed. Parents in Early Years (reception and nursery) have made contributions towards cookery, play-dough and valuable resources this year and some have generously offered to donate more than the fixed amount. We are extremely grateful for these suggestions and welcome this additional financial support.

From today any parent wishing to make either a one off donation, a termly or monthly donation can do so through ParentMail. There is no fixed amount, donations are entirely discretionary and any

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amount is sincerely appreciated. Simply log onto Parentmail and go to 'Shop' where you will see a payment item called 'Voluntary Donations to School'.

Additionally, if parents are aware of any organisations or companies interested in sponsoring the school, please feel free to reach out and inform us if you have any leads or contacts.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the benefits of the use of 1:1 chromebooks at Grange Park. Please see the information on the next page and [Click here](#) to hear what our children say about using Chromebooks for their learning.

Best Wishes

Tijen Hassan
Headteacher

Benefits of 1:1 Chromebooks at Grange Park

In order to succeed in both their education and future employment, children will be required to understand and use technology. Incorporating technology into our everyday teaching gives children at Grange Park the skills they need to be successful in their future endeavours.

Our use of 1:1 Chromebooks across Years 1 to 6 enables ways of learning which are collaborative, creative and accessible through the use of Google Classroom, Google Workspace tools and learning apps such as Nearpod. Children use their devices for activities such as interactive presentations, whole class reading texts, retrieval questions on knowledge taught and VR field trips. Our use of quizzes, polls and collaborate boards ensure high levels of engagement and participation. Teachers are able to view children's responses, check for understanding and give immediate feedback in order to address misconceptions, reteach content and ensure progress. Home learning assignments are set in Google Classroom. This enables teachers to communicate efficiently with children, answer questions and give feedback. Parents are able to share the learning experience with their child.

All children learn differently. Chromebooks enable children to access learning in ways which are most effective for them for example by using enlarged text, coloured backgrounds, video instruction, having text read aloud and recording written work using voice-to-text. Adaptations to resources are necessary for some and useful for all. When demonstrating knowledge, children are able to present their learning creatively using a range of tools such as Google Slides, Docs and Sites.

To support the use of technology in the classroom our teachers receive high quality professional development and the majority are either Google Certified Level 1 or 2. Children are set a series of interactive Workspace Skills badges, collected in a digital passport. Alongside developing their digital literacy skills, children are regularly taught the skills needed to keep safe online.

Whilst Chromebooks are not used for every part of every lesson, they are used every day and we expect children to be responsible for looking after them, and bring them to school fully charged so that every child is ready to participate in learning.

The implementation of 1:1 Chromebooks at Grange Park has proven to be a transformative and invaluable tool which children embrace to enhance their learning experiences.

Click this [link](#) to find out more about how the Chromebooks promote autonomy.