

Health & Safety

In order to ensure the safety of all pupils, parents/carers are not freely permitted in the school building unless invited by a member of staff. Parents/carers must only enter the school building when invited to do so by a member of staff. Any messages should be passed to staff on the playground at the start of the day or via the school office. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please book an appointment via the school office.

Bikes & Scooters: We encourage all pupils to walk, bike or scoot to school in order to reduce the congestion on the roads outside of school and to ensure a healthy start to the school day. Please can we remind everyone that bikes and scooters should not be ridden on the school grounds. It is important that everyone (children & adults) dismounts and pushes their bike/scooter to ensure the safety of everyone on the school site. Bikes and scooters can be stored in the school bike shed; however, school cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage.

Parking: Those parents/carers who are unable to walk to school, we ask that you approach the school with caution and park your vehicles responsibly to ensure the safety of all pupils. We ask that parents/carers do not park their vehicle outside the main front gates (Grampian Way) and under no circumstances should the main gates be blocked. When parking on the surrounding streets, we ask that parents/carers park responsibly and respect the residents who neighbour the school site.

Outdoor Equipment: The outdoor equipment should not be used before or after school by any child or adult. This equipment should be used under the supervision of staff only.

Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, is not permitted on the school grounds.

Dogs are not permitted on the school grounds for any reason.

As parents are already aware, Grampian are part of a multi-academy trust. Our trust, CfBT Schools Trust, have rebranded and from 1st September 2019 are now known as Anthem Schools Trust. This in no way changes any aspect of the school for pupils and parents nor does it change any of the schools current operating procedures.

Anthem is a multi-academy trust of 11 primary and five secondary schools in the East Midlands, London and the Thames Valley. From Lincolnshire down through Oxfordshire, Berkshire and London, together we create ambitious and successful schools where every child thrives. We are supported by Education Development Trust, an international education company that transforms lives by improving education around the world.

The logo for Anthem Schools Trust, featuring the word "anthem" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are multi-colored: 'a' is red, 'n' is green, 't' is blue, 'h' is red, 'e' is green, and 'm' is blue.

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Headteacher: Mrs. M. Murfin



Tuesday 10th September

Welcome Back

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break. It has been lovely to greet everyone back and hear all about the memories made over the holiday. Equally, to our new families, it has been wonderful to meet new children, and their grown-ups. I very much look forward to working with you in the weeks ahead.

The start of a new school year is always a good time to provide everyone with a few important reminders and messages to ensure that the school runs smoothly from day to day. In addition, I have been working with the staff team to refine some of our ways of working to ensure we are optimising on every opportunity for pupils, parents and staff.

I wish to extend a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who contributed to the parent survey at the end of last year. Your feedback is really important to us and we welcomed your suggestions on things you would like us to consider next. Parents may be interested to read the results of the parent survey overleaf.

On Friday each class will be sending out a welcome letter and share what the children will be learning about this half term. On Tuesday 17th September, we will be opening the school doors at the end of the day and welcoming parents and carers to a "Meet and Greet" event. You are invited to come along to meet your child's class teacher/s and visit their new classroom. Staff will be available until 5:00pm for any parents / carers who may want to call in after work.

As I mentioned in the summer term, the teaching of **reading** will be a key school improvement focus over the coming year. Reading is such an essential life skill for all children, which they use both in and beyond school. When children are confident and fluent readers, they are able to access the written world around them and it opens a wealth of experience and opportunity. However our aim is to go beyond the essential and for our children to foster a real love of reading throughout the school.

Reading is important because it exercises the brain and develops the mind. Evidence suggests that children who **read for enjoyment every day** achieve well at school as they develop a broader vocabulary, improved general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school. Therefore at home there is nothing more important than reading to and with your children, modelling a love of reading and encouraging them to find what it is they like to read.

At the end of the summer term, we purchased **£1000s** books for the children to enjoy and we are looking forward to sharing these in the year ahead. Each class will be sending home a welcome letter which explains what the reading routines are within their class this year.

With my warmest wishes for what is sure to be another exciting and successful school year,

Mrs. M. Murfin

Headteacher

Parent Survey 2019

Parent Survey

- **95%** of parents agreed their child enjoys school
- **100%** of parents agreed school keeps their child safe
- **97%** of parents agreed their child makes enough progress at school
- **100%** of parents agreed their child is taught well at this school
- **97%** of parents agreed school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour
- **97%** of parents agreed this school is well led and managed
- **95%** of parents agreed school responds to suggestions and concerns they raise
- **97%** of parents agreed they were happy with their child's experience at Grampian Primary Academy.

Start of the school day

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will continue to be met by their teachers on the Infant playground at **8:45am** each morning. When the whistle blows, each class will line up before entering the school building.

We have made the decision to change how we start the school day for Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. At **8:45am** the children will be invited to come straight into school and make their way to their classroom.

To ensure a smooth start to the morning, Year 3 and Year 4 will enter school through the Year 4 door where their teacher will be ready to meet them.

Year 5 & Year 6 will come through the main door from the Junior playground where their teachers will be waiting.

In order to reduce the congestion at the front office, the playground door will remain open, and supervised by a member of staff until 9:05am and children and parents arriving late will be directed to that playground door.

The end of the day routines remain unchanged and the children will be dismissed at **3:30pm** from the same exits at the back of school. Children should not be collected from the front office at the end of the day.

Contact Details

On Friday your child will come home with a form requesting updated contact details. It is vitally important that school have up-to-date contact details for all parents/carer/relatives who are listed on the children's personal files. Please ensure that school hold **at least two** emergency contacts for children so that we are able to make contact with you in the event of an emergency. We regularly use the school text message service to pass on important information so please ensure we have the correct mobile number for you.



We are on Twitter and Facebook. Be sure to follow us to keep up-to-date.



Download the school app to your mobile phone to give you quick access to the school calendar and newsletters. The app can be downloaded via the app store on your mobile device and search "School Jotter"

Absence

If your child is poorly and unable to attend school, you must inform the school office before the start of the school day. If we have not heard from you when the registers are closed, we will make a phone call in order to understand your child's whereabouts. This absence will be unauthorised until you have provided an explanation for your child's absence.

In the event of school being unable to make contact with a parent / carer to verify the reason for the child's absence, school will complete a home visit in order to make contact. If these visits are unsuccessful, school will refer to other agencies (education welfare, social services or police) as part of the school's safeguarding duty.

Term-time Holiday

We wish to remind all parents/carers that term-time holiday cannot be authorised. Irregular attendance will be reported to the local authority Education Welfare Officer and penalty notices issued accordingly by the local authority

School Dinners

Chef and his team will continue to offer four meal options each day (meat option, vegetarian option, jacket potato option or sandwich option) and the children will be able to choose what they would like when they come to the kitchen hatch each day. Chef will continue to produce and publish his menu in advance so that parents and carers can find out what is being offered each day. This menu can be found on the school website, via the school app, displayed in the reception area.

For children with a dietary requirement (e.g. vegetarian) or with an allergy/intolerance, it is really important that this information has been shared with the school office. Please speak to the office staff who will be happy to help.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are still entitled to universal free school meals. We encourage all parents/carers to take advantage of this great initiative. School dinners in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 -Year 6) must be paid for in advance unless you are entitled to free school meals. Parents/carers who believe they may be entitled to free school meals should contact the school office.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will re-open on Monday 16th September. Doors open at 8:30am and children, parents/carers are welcome to come and enjoy breakfast in the school hall. We will continue to offer free cereal for all pupils. In addition Chef will offer toast and juice and other items for small cost of 20p. Children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 should be accompanied by an adult/carer or other responsible adult during breakfast club.

Tuck Shop

From Monday 16th September, Chef will offer a daily tuck shop during playtime each morning offering a selection of healthy snacks. Items can be purchased from 20p each.