



**THE WHITEOAK ACADEMIES,
HANNAH MORE INFANTS AND GROVE JUNIORS**
WHITEOAK WAY, NAILSEA BS48 4YZ
Tel: 01275 851127
Web Address: www.hannahmoreandgrove.co.uk
Headteacher: Mr Duncan Cook, BSc Hons



"Planting Dreams. Nurturing Hearts. Growing Minds."

Tuesday 4th September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Family and Friends of the Whiteoak Academies,

I hope that you and the children have all had a wonderful summer and that the children are looking forward to their return to school tomorrow. The whole staff team have enjoyed a couple of successful INSET days together and we are excited to welcome the children and you back to school. It will be lovely to see all the smiling faces tomorrow morning.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces must be vacated.

As an Academy Trust, the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP), have been working with the DfE to identify any schools with RAAC. We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings, and therefore, we **have not** been asked to close any areas of the school.

Should there be any change in the circumstances we will let you know immediately and we will always take decisions that prioritise the safety of our children, staff and community. Thank you for your understanding.

Website

As part of a Trust wide project, we will be moving to a new website provider on Monday 11th September. This will mean that our website will look and feel quite different; although, our web address will remain the same. Although a significant amount of work has already gone into the transition, please do bear with us as we transfer and update all information. I have asked staff to prioritise Class Pages so that year group information is immediately available to all parents and families from Monday. I must say a big thank you to Miss Bridson and the whole staff team for the significant amount of work that has gone into this change.

Drop-off and collection arrangements for the start of term

For all children in Years 1 to 6, we will start the day in exactly the same way as before with all children able to go straight into their classrooms for morning work at 8.45am.

Please note: For the first few weeks of September, children in Reception will be following their own induction programme.

Morning drop-off Arrangements

8.40am – Both front playgrounds open (children and parents are welcome to wait on the playground together).

8.45am to 8.55am – Hannah More Playground

Year 1 & 2 – Children can go straight to their classrooms from 8.45am. Teachers will be on the classroom doors to meet and greet them.



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Grove Playground

As with the Hannah More playground, the Grove playground will be open and supervised from 8.40am. Parents are welcome to wait on the playground with their children or can leave them from 8.40am at the gate as they will be supervised.

8.45am to 8.55am

All children in Years 3 to 6 can go straight to their classrooms from 8.45am where teachers will be on the door to meet and greet them.

8.55am – Registers open for all classes

Please note that the school gates will be closed at 8.55am and all children arriving after this time are considered late for the start of their school day. Should children be late due to unforeseen circumstances, and arrive after 8.55am, please go to the School Office and a member of staff will deliver them to their class from there.

Collection Arrangements

All collection times and arrangements remain the same as last year.

Please see the table below:

Year Group	Collection time	Collection Point
Year 1	3.15pm	Outside Year 1 Classrooms
Year 2	3.15pm	Outside Year 2 Classrooms
Year 3	3.20pm	Outside Year 3 Classrooms
Year 4	3.20pm	Front Grove Playground
Year 5	3.20pm	Front Grove Playground
Year 6	3.20pm	Front Grove Playground

Walking home from school – Children in Years 5 & 6

All children in Years 5 & 6 will be issued with walking home from school permission slips this week. If you have decided that children in Years 5 and 6 are safe and responsible enough to walk home by themselves, please make sure you have returned your written permission to school for them to do so by Friday 15th September. Until then, we will continue permissions the same as last year. Should there be any changes in circumstances or concerns, please do Dojo the Class Teacher or telephone the School Office. Thank you.

Mobile Phones

As a school, we recognise that there may be rare circumstances where older children may need access to a mobile phone. For example, if they walk to school unaccompanied or if they are being collected by a different carer. Therefore, this year, we will be issuing a mobile phone agreement for all children in Years 5 and 6 which will need to be discussed with the children and returned to school by Friday 15th September. Permission to bring a mobile phone may or may not be granted depending on individual circumstances. As children do not need a mobile phone during school, all phones must be given to the class teacher for the day and will be kept in a lockable box. This also supports our online safety policy and safeguarding duties. Thank you for your support.

Class Dojo Messaging

Once again this year, we will continue to use Class Dojo to help support strong and effective home-school communication. This service should be up and running immediately.

As a family of schools, we use Dojo primarily to ensure that key information and reminders relating to class information and school life is shared as quickly and as effectively as possible. Teachers will aim to read and respond to any messages from parents and carers between the hours of 8.30am and 4.00pm during working days. If a message is sent after this time, it is likely that it will be responded to during the next working day. However, please be aware that due to different working patterns, staff meetings etc. this may not always be possible and it may take up to 72 hours to receive a response.

Should a message be urgent during the school day e.g. a change in collection arrangements, please telephone the school office as teachers are asked not to check and read messages during lessons.

Where concerns or questions require a more detailed conversation, teachers and families are asked to arrange a phone call or meeting at a mutually convenient time in school. Thank you for your support.

School uniform and PE Kit

We ask that all families support our full school uniform policy from the start of term. This was sent home at the end of last term and details can also be found on our website using this link:

<https://www.hannahmoreandgrove.co.uk/school-uniform-1/>

Embroidered uniform can be purchased from School Togs, Nailsea.

Please mark all items of clothing and footwear with your child's name. If they are not named, it is very difficult to trace lost items!

I hope that you all enjoy a wonderful evening and we all look forward to seeing you and the children bright and early tomorrow.

With very best wishes for the new school year,

Mr Duncan Cook
Executive Headteacher