



September 2023

Dear Children,

On Wednesday we look forward to welcoming you all to Grace Cook Primary School and Nursery! Some children for the first time and other returning for a new academic year. I'm sure you're all very excited! I know some of you will be starting Nursery (Moon Class) and children in Reception (Sun class) will be coming in gradually over the next few days. Starting big school is so wonderful and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in your uniforms. (Dash is too! Woof)



All the grown-ups in school are looking forward to seeing you and hearing about your Summer holiday and the special times you have had with your families. Perhaps you went away, or you enjoyed special days out.

You will see lots of new faces in school when you start at Grace Cook. Look out for all the new children and new staff too (Some you may already know) and their families starting school this term.

We are all part of the Grace Cook family and each member is equally important.

You will also find lots of new and exciting books and learning materials to support your learning journey and a whole big school building and grounds to explore.

I hope that you are feeling excited about returning to or starting school. You might feel a bit nervous too, but this is ok and quite normal. To help you know where to go on the first day (Wednesday 4th September for children in Reception – Sun class Children in Year 1 Mercury class and children in Year 2/3 Venus class). I will be out at the front of the main school entrance to guide you in and show you where to go. You will be entering into the classrooms via the doors on the outside of the building – this is where your grownups will collect you too.

In the term ahead I hope that you be that friend, that team member, who is always there to lend a hand and help. Remember to take time to ask others how they are doing. Stop and ask 'Hey, are you ok? How can I help you?' Be kind to all those around you, and always look around for the positives. The grownups in your classrooms will be talking to you about The Grace Cook Bes: **Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe**. This will help us all to have a fantastic school for you to be able to be the best versions of yourselves.


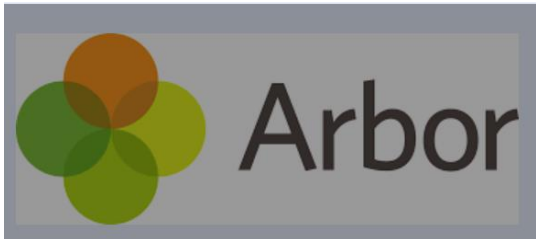
Your teachers have plenty of new learning opportunities ready for you and I am sure that you will aim high, keep trying and never give up. Bringing enthusiasm and energy to your learning and push yourself to do your best. Try and start to get back into good habits by reading at home every day. Which book is your favourite to read or for someone to read you? And why do you like this book so much?

I can't wait to see you all! The start of another amazing learning adventure at Grace Cook Primary School and Nursery

Mr Dediccoat (Headteacher)

Some additional information for Parents:
FAQs (Frequently asked questions)

Question	Response
1. Will my child get a school lunch?	Yes – all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a Universal Free School meal (Nursery children can have a school meal but this is in addition to their nursery fees. Children can bring their own packed lunch if they wish
2. Does my child need to bring anything with them next tomorrow?	Children in Sun Mercury and Venus class will need to bring a water bottle (with water only) and a spare pair of clothes (including underwear) in case they have any accidents. This will be placed on their pegs within their classrooms – please name this bag. (It could be in their PE bag if you've purchased one)
3. Will there be a snack provided?	All children will have access to fresh fruit each day in Sun and Mercury and Venus class. Nursery will have a separate menu that we will share with you.
4. Can you remind me of the uniform.?	Grace Cook Primary School - Uniform (omat.org.uk) We want all our children to look smart and be proud of being part of Grace Cook Primary. Please ensure you stick closely to the uniform guidance: This includes black shoes only At least one logoed Sweatshirt or cardigan Book bags only – not rucksacks or other bags please. Simple hair scrunches / hair ties
5. When will PE days be?	For children in Sun Class it will be on Tuesday afternoons – Starting on Tuesday 12 th September. For Mercury – it will be on Tuesday's (beginning on Tuesday 12 th September) and Thursday's. For Venus class it will be on Tuesday's and Friday's.

	On PE days children should come to school in their PE kits.
6. What time are the gates open?	<p>The gates will be open at 8.30 in the morning for the start of the school day. There are two gates that at will be accessible in the mornings.</p> <p>Gate one – Fuller Way for Sun Class Gate two – Front of school for Mercury and Venus class.</p> <p>If your child is attending Breakfast club or After School Club (Nursery children will go straight to the Nursery building) these will take place in the main school hall – look out for the door to enter here.</p> <p>The gates will be open at 3.15 at the end of the day.</p>
7. Car Park	<p>The school has grown to over double the amount of pupils we had in September 2022 so the car park will only be in use for school staff from now on. If you have to drive to school please park thoughtfully, use the drop off bays where you can or park a little further away from the school to avoid any congestion and walk.</p>
8. When do reception children come into school for full days?	Wednesday 13 th September will be the first full day as detailed on the transition letter.
9. When will Dojo be working for parents?	We aim to set up Dojo within the first week of the school term opening – this will allow teacher's to make contact with parents about learning highlights and classroom updates. You can download the ClassDojo App on your phone/ tablet
 <p>ClassDojo</p>	
10. What's Arbor and when will this be accessible for parents?	Arbor is our MIS system that holds all our contact details for the children/ parents. We will use this to communicate to you about official communications as well as helping you to pay for trips and clubs. You can download the Arbor App on phone/ tablet.
 <p>Arbor</p>	
11. Breakfast and Afterschool club – when does this start?	Breakfast and afterschool club starts this week. This needs to be pre booked at least a month ahead of your needs. The office will send out reminders of this to book for October shortly. The clubs will be taking place in Nursery this term apart from a Tuesday when it will be in the school hall.