

Dear Families



I am delighted to be writing to you to introduce myself as your new Executive Headteacher at Grange Moor Primary School. Taking up the role from September 2024, it is a position I cannot wait to begin and one I feel incredibly honoured to do.

I will be in school on a weekly basis over this Summer Half Term as my induction and handover begins and have already started planning for September ahead and the beginning of what I hope is going to be a brilliant partnership, a partnership between Grange Moor and Birdsedge as two very similar schools and a partnership between yourselves as families and me as Headteacher.

Before I share with you some of my plans for moving forward together, I thought it would be helpful to share a little about me first....I got my first teaching role at twenty and worked for the majority of the first decade in my career in Primary Schools in Barnsley, mainly in the Kendray and Worsbrough areas. During

this time I also taught for a couple of years at Farnley Tyas First School, which is where I fell in love with small schools and became an advocate for making sure that small schools really do hold their place on the map. In more recent years, I have been the Substantive Headteacher at Birdsedge First School since September 2020, holding an Executive Role for the past 12 months due to my school to school support work. It is true to say that small schools have such a **HUGE** part of my heart. **Small but mighty is our motto** and good things really do come in small packages...a little bit like me I've always liked to think!

Birdsedge has been on a very similar journey to Grange Moor I feel, it has weathered the same challenges in terms of receiving a Requires Improvement judgement from OFSTED, reducing pupil numbers and the financial impact this can have and changes in leadership/staffing. These are challenges that we have not just weathered but completely overcome and come out of the other side shining and proud!

Throughout my career in education, I have always held a very strong ethos that all children and families I work with deserve the greatest of everything. My own experience in primary school massively shaped my decisions and opportunities in later life. Therefore, it has always been my wish and absolute goal that I can teach, inspire and influence young people now, to help make their future and their contribution to our world the best it can be. This will be no different for the work I aim to do at Grange Moor. The partnership between home and school is one that cannot be undervalued and I believe this link is key in making sure all children can be their best self and reach their full potential. Building up these links with you all is something I will be working hard to do in September.

Until then, inside this booklet are some updates that I hope will be helpful in reassuring you around some of the plans to come. Once you have had time to read it, please do not hesitate to contact me, ask any questions or share any thoughts.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Miss D Barker
Executive Headteacher

I know that Grange Moor is a wonderful, family orientated school with strong vision and values for pupils. It was one of the things that attracted me so much to this post. I also know though, that there have been some challenges for the school over recent times and with this perhaps some unsettlement has been brought for some pupils and families.



I wanted to assure you that my plans for Grange Moor in September are focused on bringing what I'm going to call 'Grange Moor Glitter' back to the school. Grange Moor IS GREAT and we will be making sure that it sparkles. Above is an image capturing some of the development areas I will be focusing on. Each one a broad heading for lots of elements of school life that you will hopefully see grow over the year. For now though, here is a little overview of the focus and direction for next academic year.



Greatness

in all we achieve

you that we have been busy working in the background over the last couple of weeks on recruitments for September and I wanted to share with you how this will look:

Executive Headteacher: Miss Donna Barker

Class 1: Mrs Maggie Whittaker

Class 2: Mrs Rachel Maundrill

Class 3: Mrs Vicki Feeny and Mrs Gail Degan (Job Share)

We welcome Gail in September who will be making up half of the teaching team in Class 3 but will be in school full time, providing added Senior Leadership capacity as Assistant Headteacher. Gail has worked at Grange Moor a number of years ago and is delighted to be returning. Gail is an experienced teacher and leader, currently teaching at Scissett Middle School.



Responsible

citizens

bring to Grange Moor that will develop the whole school opportunities in this. Over the coming weeks I will be finding out from children what is important to them in this area and be shaping plans for September with these contributions at the heart.

It has always been really important to me that a curriculum prepares and equips children for the wider world in which they live. PSHE has always been a subject area of leadership for me and I hope there are some things I can



Ambition

for all learners

making sure I foster strong links with outside agencies, other professionals and seek advice when a school needs it. I look forward to and welcome any opportunity to get to know those families of children with a SEND and building links in working together. I of course, will be working closely with Mrs Whittaker over the next few weeks to get to know children too 😊

Inclusion is something I am incredibly passionate about for ALL children and something we have worked really hard to get right at Birdsedge First. I have been a SENDCo for over 10 years and feel I have a full toolbox of skills and experience I bring to this area. That being said though, there is always something to learn and I am very outward facing in



Excellence

in our Education

before I do that though, that Outdoor Education will be one of them – I LOVE the outdoors and will be relishing in any opportunities to take learning outside at Grange Moor.

Greatness is something all our children and families deserve and our staff do too. Over the few weeks ahead I aim to build a collaborative plan of Continued Professional Development for the year ahead with staff, so we can focus on the areas of curriculum we want to strengthen. I know



Trust

in each other

onsite at Grange Moor, on the days that I am not Mrs Degan will have capacity to lead school under my direction. My time will be flexible though and will always be suited to the needs of the school at the time. I will always be reachable though and will always want to be involved.

Everything we do at Grange Moor will only be the greatest if it is built on Trust and strong partnerships of working. A lot of what we do with children in school we hope will build trust – between both pupils and adults. It is also important that we build trust in what we do with you as families too. As Executive Headteacher, I will have quite consistent days where I will be



Your Voice Matters



One thing that will really help me being new to Grange Moor is to get to know a little about you as parents and carers and your thoughts/ideas.

It would be really appreciated if you could find some time to complete a short survey, this will be anonymous and is just about me finding out as much as I can about the School before the new school year begins.

Use the website address below or scan the QR code to be taken to an online survey that shouldn't take too long to complete.

<https://forms.office.com/e/3NJLAXV8GU>

Parent and Carer Survey



This will be open from now until the end of the Summer Holidays.

Thank you in advance for the time you can spare to complete it 😊