



Grand Avenue Primary & Nursery School

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Thursday, 3rd October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have recently been asked about the use of screen time in Year One. I hope this letter will clarify the use of technology in our school and within Year One.

At Grand Avenue Primary and Nursery School, we thoughtfully integrate technology as a tool to enhance learning, ensuring it complements our educational goals and supports pupil engagement. We prioritise a balanced approach, carefully selecting digital resources that align with our curriculum and are age-appropriate for our pupils. These may include programmes that help children learn about specific concepts, such as a CBBC video about a famous historical figure, or carefully selected resource to offer movement breaks within a lesson that are fun and engage children, such as Go Noodle.

While technology is an excellent tool to enhance learning, we believe in maintaining a healthy balance. Our curriculum is designed to include a variety of learning experiences, such as hands-on activities, outdoor play, and collaborative projects, which are crucial for developing social skills, creativity, and physical health. By integrating technology thoughtfully, we aim to provide a diverse and engaging learning environment that supports the overall development of our pupils.

We also understand the importance of ensuring a safe digital environment for our pupils. We want to reassure parents that our school has a robust filtering system in place to prevent access to harmful and inappropriate content. This system is designed to block access to certain websites and applications that are not suitable for children, ensuring that pupils can only access age-appropriate resources that support their learning.

Year One pupils watch a short, educational video or programme related to their learning during dismissal time, starting from 3:00 PM. This is to ensure all children are seated safely on the carpet, ready to be collected by their parents or carers. Since it is still early in the school year, staff are familiarising themselves with which children attend clubs, who is picked up by childminders, and who is collected by their parents/guardians. We ask for your understanding, as dismissal is a particularly busy time of day and to ensure the safety of every child and a calm atmosphere, they are asked to remain seated and watch a programme. In many cases, there is only one adult present in the classroom, and a video helps manage dismissal safely. The videos shown are carefully selected by the teachers to ensure they are educational and align with the class's learning. Some of the programmes chosen include *Numberblocks*, *Come Outside*, and read-aloud stories. As the year progresses and the children become more accustomed to Year One routines, they will transition to sitting at their tables with a book during collection times.

We appreciate your continued support. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to speak with a member of the Senior Leadership team: myself, Mrs. Pitcher, Mr. McHale or Ms Fowler. We are happy to discuss this matter further with you.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Hempston
Early Years/KS1 Lead



Enjoying Learning - Exceeding Expectations