



# Grange Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Rebecca Benjamins  
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Assistant Headteacher: Miss Amanda Matheson  
School Business Manager: Mrs Kim Edwards

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Consultation on a Proposed Change to the Autumn Half-Term Break (from academic year 2026/2027)**

At Grange, we are always looking at ways we can better support the wellbeing and success of our children, staff and families. As part of our ongoing work to review the school calendar, we are seeking your views on a proposed change to the October half-term break from the next academic year (from the academic year 2026/2027 onwards).

**We are proposing to extend the October half-term break from one week to two weeks.**

### **Why We Are Proposing This Change**

**This proposal comes in response to two significant challenges faced by many schools across the country:**

- High levels of pupil absence during the long Autumn Term, particularly in November
- Challenges in recruiting and retaining staff, particularly in teaching and classroom support roles

**We believe that a longer break in the Autumn Term would:**

- Provide families with greater flexibility to take a break together during a less expensive time
- Support staff and pupil wellbeing by providing time to rest and recover during the busiest time of year
- Help reduce sickness-related absences in the second half of the Autumn Term
- Make roles within our schools more attractive to the very best candidates

We are also aware that some families request holidays during term time due to the high cost of travel during school holiday periods. While we continue to uphold our policy of not authorising holidays during term time, this additional week may help families plan holidays outside of term dates without disrupting children's learning.

### **What This Means for the School Day**

The school day will change from a 9.00am start, to 8.45am start (15 minutes earlier) and will finish at the normal time of 3.30pm.

There will be no other significant changes, it will simply mean that a slightly earlier start to the school day will ensure statutory teaching time for pupils across the academic year is not affected allowing for the school to be closed for two weeks during October half term.

### **We Would Value Your Feedback**

We are currently consulting with both staff and families and would be very grateful for your views. Please take a few moments to complete our short online consultation form by 9am, Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

Feedback form: <https://forms.gle/AxWHkrgoT9AakxZr7>

This link can also be found on our website: <https://www.grange.southwark.sch.uk/>

The results of this consultation will be reviewed by our governors and we aim to confirm the final decision by the beginning of September 2026.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We are proud to work in partnership with you to ensure the best outcomes for every child.

Kind regards,



Rebecca Benjamins  
Headteacher