



Where Children Come First

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Dear all,

'It's Christmaaaaaas!!!!'

It's time for a holiday and time to enjoy and relax.

What a fabulous couple of weeks we have had at The Grange. The PTFA have been instrumental in making the run up to Christmas massive fun for our children. I was so sad to have missed The Grange Christmas Party this year. The feedback from parents has been positive, with Santa being a top attraction. 48 hours later, the PTFA were at it again, trawling the roads of Lower Hardwick with the Round Table and Santa in icy and snowy conditions with good old Arthur H leading the way – wonderful!

Friday's Christmas Day was made even more special with the ice and snow. Santa was here again and the PTFA managed to give every child a selection box or equivalent – free of charge. The Christmas lunch went down well, with the girls in the kitchen working hard to deliver a delicious Christmas dinner– delicious; thank you to Beth and her team.

Thank you so much to Prosser Carpentry & Building Ltd.

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and Sutherland Home Care who donated £400 for Santa's gifts; so generous of you. I also want to thank Will and his team of helpers, the huskies, Santa Claus, Kearney's Catering, and the Roses. The PTFA have spent many weeks preparing for these events – a massive effort and great success. I cannot wait to see the profits of their fundraising. So far, our PTFA has raised £1500 from the Christmas Party – with more coming in as I type.

Congrats and enjoy: The Grange Party Raffle Winners

- Zuzanna B - £100 Cash
- Jennifer A – Staff Hamper
- Alma G – You & Yours Photography Voucher
- Max N - Sutherland Car Care Voucher

The Christmas performances have been epic this year – from Foundation Stage's 'Hey Ewe' through to 5/6's 'Do Christmas celebrations and traditions help Christians understand who Jesus was and why he was born?' It was emotional to see our Year 6s in their last Christmas performance. Having seen all the children, it has been pleasing to see their progress and the progression of skills throughout the school – not to mention great performances and stars in



the making. Having not had a face-to-face Christmas performance since 2019 has made this year extra special and more poignant, nay emotional than ever and having the KS2 gatherings at St John the Baptist's Church has been the icing on the cake. Thank you for your attendance at the performances – packed out every time.

The Christmas parties yesterday afternoon, were a rowdy, raucous and festive affair – Christmas music resonating, Christmas quizzes and The Polar Express captivating young minds. The festive treats were scoffed with yuletide abandon and anticipation for Christmas Day was tangible.

Our whole school gathering this afternoon ended the term with just the right amount of Christmas cheer. As our cohorts sang their songs to the school, I once again felt the deep privilege that I have, witnessing the annual festivities – it's priceless and the family of children are perfect; supporting and caring for each other.

Attendance: We finish the term on 95.4% against the National Average for Primary Schools at 93.8%. We have hung on to 95% by a thread with all the Strep A and Scarlet Fever cases amongst other things. Year 3 students are triumphant with 96.7% attendance! Congratulations.

Congratulations to:

10 CBGs: Lily B, Jamie-Leigh B, Finley B, Ellie W, Andrei R, Alexis B, Adnan Q, Zachary B, Tommy L, Noah BF

Bronze Badge: Alhena J

70 CBGs: Joel F, Maggie W, Noah O, Maddie B, Olivia B, Gabriel D, Arthur H, Nathaniel P, Leah W

80 CBGs: Felix V

100 CBGs: Barney N

110 CBGs: Zuzanna B, Archie K, Lirael O, Patrick M, Issy H

Platinum Badge: Grace S, Daniel S, Lily G, Jemima G, Reuben CS

130 CBGs: Yousef H, Isla B

140 CBGs: Travis S, Gracie B, Sammy C

160 CBGs: Ben G, Emilia G

170 CBGs: Benjamin T, Jacob J, Billy W

Amethyst Badge: Bronson B, Corey B

Topaz Badge: Caleb W

260 CBGs: Holly R

Showing the Grange Way outside school

Well done to:

Jacob and Theo Y participated in the Santa Fun Run last weekend and earned a Santa medal for their efforts.

Seth P took part in the Katherine House Hospice Santa Fun Run 5k with a team of friends last weekend, and they have raised over £1400 for KHH - he did so well. Seth has also recently graded in Karate and has reached his yellow belt.

Mia G has been super busy dancing in 6 sell out shows over 2 weekends with her dance school The School for Stars.

George T has passed Swimming Stage 1.

Genevieve D and Gabriel D have both achieved their Stage 3 swimming awards as well as their 15m distance certificates, they have both now graduated to yellow belts at karate and Genevieve has also been awarded her gold badge for rainbows.

Maggie W has received two awards from The Sharon Green Academy of Theatre and Dance.

Annie K has been awarded a medal for her dance with Julie Bruce Dance Academy.

Sam P has achieved his 50m swimming certificate.

Jacob J achieving a Tae Kwon Do trophy for his 'Attitude to Training'



Mikey W for clearing the snow from his elderly neighbour's driveway recently – shovels of community spirit there!

Grange Foodbank: You and other donators have been sending in lots of food and as a result, 40 of our families have received substantial food deliveries this term - people's lives will be impacted for the better at the most difficult time of year – all going to families who needed a Grange cwtch; thank you – awesome community spirit and care.

Staffing: Congratulations to Mrs Rann and her husband who have a second baby on the way – due in the late Spring. Mrs Grant's pregnancy is travelling at great pace too! Lovely news. Miss Mawby leaves us today after standing in so well for Mrs G who returns next term. Thank you, Laura, we appreciate your dedication and commitment.

As 2022 draws to a close and with another Christmas under our belts, we can look back from a school perspective and be chuffed with what we have achieved and proud of the achievements and progress of our children. Saying 'Goodbye' to our Year 6s in July seems like a lifetime ago but hearing about the successes at their secondary schools is very rewarding.

Getting back on track after the Covid disruption has been gruelling for some and its effect is ongoing. Many have lost loved ones this year and relationships have become fractured and ended. What with the added economic pressures on many, some of us will be glad to see the back of 2022. The tipping into another year means 'a new start' but does not mean that the grief, sadness and worries miraculously disappear though. Navigating one's way through times of heartache, worry, anxiety and stress is impossible on one's own – especially at this time of year.

Some links for you: Last week, one of our mams told me about the Household Support Fund that enables families and individuals who are eligible for support - by issuing vouchers for various supermarkets in the Cherwell area. This initiative is due open sometime in January.



Citizens Advice North Oxon & South Northants · Follow
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****Household Support Fund****
Household Support Fund will be available in Cherwell from early new year. Please keep an eye on www.canosn.org.uk for application details which will be posted once the fund is open.

If you are struggling in the meantime,
Call Adviceline on 0808 278 7906
or come to one of our drop-in advice sessions

****If this isn't for you PLEASE SHARE as it might be perfect for someone you know****



Coping with grief at Christmas: [Coping with grief at Christmas \(cruse.org.uk\)](http://Coping with grief at Christmas (cruse.org.uk))

Christmas and mental health: Useful contacts - Christmas and mental health - Mind

Not a day goes by without me having an overwhelming gratitude for our staff team who have been a tower of strength again since September and over the course of 2022; never



faltering, moaning or ever blind-sided by daily changes. For our new teaching and learning assistant recruits, congratulations for getting to Christmas and well done. For our Early Career Teachers, you have all made a wonderful start to your careers – keeping up with the 'oldies' and making your mark well in the most challenging and joyous of vocations, Bravo!

On behalf of the Governing Body, I wish to thank Richard Walker who has finished his term of office as Parent Governor of The Grange. Thank you, Richard - we have been very appreciative of your contribution to The Grange and its Governing Body. A warm welcome to his successor, Jasmin Shackleton who will begin her work on the Governing Body in the new year.

As I sign off, I want to thank our Governing Body for their constant support and hard work for our school – what they do voluntarily is beyond measure and their investment, time afforded working at The Grange, their scrutiny and counsel is second to none – thank you everyone. I also want to say a huge 'Well Done' to our Foundation Stagers who have proven themselves a strong foundation for our school, making a great impression and adding to our community with panache and aplomb.

Finally, my thanks go to you our parents and carers - for your ongoing and priceless support and presence this year. I wish you a very chilled, happy and healthy Christmas break. Enjoy and re-charge, but most importantly, show your children great love; they have been awesome and a complete inspiration - a credit to both you and us.

Don't forget that we start back at school on 5th January 2023.

Lots of love all, Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

Ms B x

