



Where Children Come First

Ms Beverley Boswell
Headteacher (BEd Hons) NPQH

The Grange Community Primary School
Avocet Way
Banbury
OXFORDSHIRE
OX16 9YA

T: 01295 257861
E: office.2058@grange.oxon.sch.uk



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Dear all,

HO! HO! HO! It's Christmaaaaas!!!!'

At last it's holiday time and now it is time to enjoy and relax.

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding term, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on our achievements as a school community and to send you all warm wishes for a peaceful and joyous Christmas time.

The festive spirit has been alive and well at The Grange! This term, the children have filled our halls with laughter, music, and creativity, from the enchanting Nativity performances by our younger pupils, the Years 3/4 epic Christmas Carol to the uplifting Year 6 Christmas Concert at Church on Wednesday evening. Congratulations children; you were brilliant. A heartfelt thank you to all families who came along to celebrate these magical moments—it's always a joy to share them with you.

To our PTFA – Hayley and the team, on behalf of the entire school community, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the amazing Christmas events you've organised this year. Your dedication, hard work, and creativity have brought so much joy and festive cheer to The Grange and our local community. From the magical XmasFest to the cosy and fun Movie Night, and the unforgettable Christmas Day at The Grange, every event was brilliantly planned and brought smiles to children, parents, and staff alike.

And what a way to end the festivities—with Santa's float lighting up our local community last night! The effort and care you put into these events was clear for all to see, and it truly made this Christmas special for everyone involved.

We're thrilled to announce that, thanks to your efforts and the generosity of our families, we've raised significant funds that will go toward purchasing iPads for our LKS2 students—a fantastic resource that will benefit the learning and development of our pupils for years to come.

Thank you once again for everything you do for our school. Your energy, enthusiasm, and commitment are so appreciated, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful PTFA team.



Festive Fun: The week before last, OUR Grange guitarists performed 7 Christmas songs in front of the school. They have worked very hard over the past few weeks and dazzled the audience with a Christmas singalong. A great way to start our Christmas celebrations.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas lunch and Christmas Day at The Grange this week! It was lovely to see their excitement as they were visited by Santa, ate their special lunch and enjoyed some well-deserved fun after a term of hard work. Thank you to Beth and the ladies in the kitchen – you put in a lot of hard work there and it was as brilliant as ever!

Katharine House Fun Run: Well done to all the children for giving it their all at our Katherine House Santa Fun Run on 2nd December. As well as showing loads of determination to do as many laps as they could for their Houses, they had lots of fun along the way jumping over straw bales, dodging giant snowballs and finding their way through the finsel town maze. The sports leaders worked tirelessly all morning getting the course ready and then making sure it all ran smoothly, thank you team...you are all amazing! Well done to the Limes who did 295 laps in total, very closely followed by the Horse Chestnuts who did 293, then the Sycamores who did 252 and then the Walnuts who did 236. We raised £329.85 for the Katherine House Hospice; thank you to all who donated.

Learning and Growth: Beyond the festivities, the children have continued to show great enthusiasm and progress in their learning. This term, we've seen progress in reading comprehension and fluency, writing, spelling, x tables, topic work, and teamwork in classrooms across the school – success across the board.

Y3/4 Dodgeball Teams went to Wykham Park Academy last Thursday to take part in a School Games Dodgeball Festival. The children had a great time throwing, dodging and catching and played lots of friendly matches against the 6 other schools that were there. The focus was on Teamwork and Honesty and 4 of our children were awarded special Honesty Awards at the end of the festival! Well done to everyone...you were awesome!

North Oxfordshire School Games Cross Country Finals: Our runners went to Sibford School on Friday to compete in the North Oxfordshire School Games Cross Country Finals along with all the other top runners from across the region. The races were jam-packed with over 100 runners in each category. The Y3/4s had an extremely successful morning with the boys winning their category to become North Oxfordshire U9 Cross Country Champions and the girls coming an amazing second in theirs. The Y5/6 girls also did well and finished in a respectable 7th place. The Y5/6 boys had some strong individual performances but were down a few runners so didn't do so well this time in the team competition. Well done to all the children who ran, you showed resilience and determination in very fast-paced races. Special mentions must go to Maggie who came 3rd and Lily who came 14th in the Y3/4 girls' race, Joseph who came 4th, Milan who came 6th and Noah who came 11th in the Y3/4 boys' race and Evie who came 12th in the Y5/6 girls' race.... incredible.

School Games Lunchtime Bench Ball Competition: 100 of our KS2 children signed up to take part in our School Games Lunchtime Bench ball Competition this term. They were all assigned a team and played round-robins with the 5 other teams in their category. Well done to all the children for taking part and showing commitment and good teamwork throughout. Congratulations to the Y3/4 Green Team, the Y5 Green Team and the Y6 Blue Team who won their categories. Thank you to the KS2 Sports Reps. and House Captains who sorted out all the equipment and umpired the matches, you did a great job!

Congratulations to:

10 CBGS: Heidi G, William M, Alexander P, Riley B, Kane H-S, Lottie H, Hadassah A, Rose M, Ella R-H, Remy B, Stan B-T, Jack W, Brooke S, Luna H-O, Leo P

40 CBGS: Isla K, Rafferty B, Elyssia P, Bow O-E, Willow O, Aisha S

50 CBGS: Bleri B, Teddy M, Seb L, Aaniya Z, Archer B



70 CBGS: Lexi S, Makaylah B, Euan T, Zachary B
80 CBGS: Kye O, Oskar D, Jessica H, Preston C
Gold Badge: Oliver H
100 CBGS: Joey N, Jack M, Zachary H, Maeve R
110 CBGS: Maisie W, Ivy W
Platinum Badge: Holly W, Olivia B, Phoebe W, Alicia D
130 CBGs: Noah O, Laurel B, Elektra A
140 CBGs: Betsy G, Genevieve D, Felix V, Chayten Q, Zuzanna B, Charlotte-Rose B, Madeline B, Maggie W
150 CBGs (Book): Sam B, Logan S, Madison B, Arliyah H
160 CBGs: Milly L, Joshua D
170 CBGs: Angel T, Samuel P, Henry C, Elliot K-L, Faith A
Amethyst Badge: Fern B-T, Lirael O
190 CBGs: Jemima G, Summer H, Harry B, Leo K, Willow C, Lirael O
200 CBGS Barney N
Topaz Badge: Adam D, Isabella H, Isla B, Sophie W
220 CBGS Evie H, Olive D-F
230 CBGS: James W, Lara P
Ruby Badge: Anthony E, Levi V

Showing the Grange Way outside school

Well done to:

- Maeve R who raised £770.00 by taking part in the Katherine House Hospice Santa Fun with her family.
- Olive C who raised nearly £200.00 by taking part in the Katherine House Hospice Santa Fun with her family. Olive will also be taking part in "Nativity" with Avocet Theatre Company, and she will be dancing in Tudor Hall's Dance Showcase.
- Alice M who has achieved Level 3 in swimming.
- Jacob Y who took part in the Katherine House Santa Fun Run and raised over £170.00.
- Sophia K who has earned a medal from the City of Oxford Swimming Club for swimming 100 Metres.
- Perry and Sonny S who have been graded red belt in Karate.
- Samuel P who has earned blue stripe in Karate Intermediate Level.
- Anthony E who has achieved Level 6 in swimming.
- Ellie W who got her first belt in Freestyle Martial Arts.
- Seth P who has been graded his purple belt in Karate.
- Ethan P who has achieved Level 3 in swimming.
- Arthur S who has earned a Blue Peter Sport badge.
- Elliot K-L who has achieved his 25 metres in swimming and been awarded a trophy for his efforts in football.

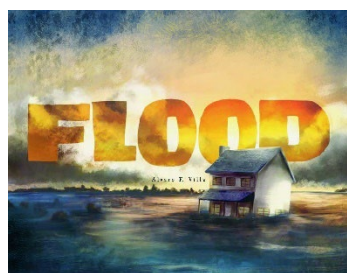
Attendance: 96% against 94% National Average – brilliant; thank you and well done!

Looking Ahead to 2025: As we approach the new year, we're excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. In the Spring Term, we will launch our whole school writing project – watch this space, as well as continue our commitment to supporting every child to reach their full potential.



Dates: Term 3 2025 (so far)

6 th Jan	Term 3 begins
15 th Jan	3 /4 Whipsnade Zoo
22 nd Year 6	I.M.P.S.
29 th Jan	KS1 NSPCC PANTS Assembly
30 th Jan	Year 6 Junior Citizens Year 5 Police Talk
3 rd Feb 2pm – 3pm	Reception Stay and Play for parents
7 th Feb	NSPCC Whole School Number Day 2pm – 3pm: Y1 -Y6 Open Afternoon
13 th Feb 3.15 – 5pm	PTFA St Valentine's Disco Y1-Y6 (WAC still on)



FLOOD by Alvaro Villa: We are excited to share that next term all our children will be taking part in an inspiring whole-school writing project based on the stunning picture book, Flood by Alvaro F. Villa. This beautifully illustrated and thought-provoking book tells the story of a family affected by a flood, exploring themes of resilience, hope, and recovery. It provides a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to develop their skills in story writing while fostering creativity, imagination, and empathy.

Throughout the term, children in all year groups will:

Explore the book's rich visual storytelling,

- Learn to craft vivid descriptions and narratives,
- Create their own stories inspired by the book, and
- Share and celebrate their writing across the school community.

This project will encourage all pupils to grow as storytellers and writers, building their confidence and enthusiasm for creative writing.

We hope you will join us in supporting this exciting project by asking your children about the book, their ideas, and their stories. We look forward to sharing the wonderful work produced by our pupils as we celebrate their achievements throughout the term. Thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to see where their imaginations will take us!

Thank You: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you—our parents and families—for your ongoing support and partnership. Whether it's attending school events, helping with homework, or simply being there to cheer your children on, your involvement makes such a difference to their experience at school. On behalf of the team, I would like to express our gratitude for the lovely cards and gifts that you have given us all this year; incredibly generous and much appreciated – many thanks.

Governors: Thank you for your hard work, commitment, counsel, scrutiny and support; we could not do it without you.

A **special thank** you also goes to our incredible staff here at The Grange, who have worked tirelessly to provide the very best education and care for our children. Their dedication and passion are truly inspiring – you really are the best.

Reception Classes: Well done children, you have been immense. I know that you are very tired poppets but my, how you have nailed your first two terms – ending with a very successful trip to St John the Baptist Church in Bodicote where some of your parents were married and where you were christened! You walked to and from Bodicote with not even a whimper and showed The Grange Way for the whole morning.



Support: While Christmas is a time of joy and celebration for many, we also know it can be a difficult time for others. Some families in our school community are facing huge challenges, whether through illness, loneliness, financial pressures, or the loss of a loved one.

At The Grange, we are here to support you, not just as a school but as a community. Please know that you are not alone and that we care. If you feel we can help in any way—whether it's through a conversation, practical support, or connecting you to local resources—please don't hesitate to reach out.

This season reminds us of the importance of kindness, understanding, and compassion. Let us continue to look out for one another, offering comfort and care to those who may find this time of year challenging.

The Warmest Christmas Wishes to you all: Finally, on behalf of everyone at The Grange, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your Christmas be filled with love, cwatches, kind words and actions, laughter, and special memories with your loved ones.

Keep the Friday 5 going for us please:

- Read, Read, Read, Read, Read,
- Show The Grange Way,
- Keep Active
- Stay Safe
- Tell someone close to you that you love and adore them and that you are grateful

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday, 6th January 2025**, rested and ready to chew up the world and spit it out and for another exciting term of learning and growing.

Lots of love all, Nadolig Llawen.

Ms B xxx



PS: I am so excited for the last ever episode of Gavin and Stacey – my big toe is almost bursting out of my boot!

