



Where Children Come First

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Dear all,

In the words of the genius Noddy Holder: **'It's Christmaaaaaas!!!!'**

What a couple of weeks we have all had eh? Thankfully, Covid has not hit us for a couple of days, so I am hoping that we can go into Christmas in good shape.

We have missed the many children who have not been here the past 10 days – it's been quiet here and very unsettling; knowing that children and families are/have been poorly. I hope that you are all on the mend. It was lovely to see some of you at home during assembly today; I hope you're ok.

We finish term in a positive mindset. Our Year 2s have done us proud achieving well in their phonics national test – 89% achieving the expected standard. Brilliant news – down to the hard work of children, staff and mams and dads supporting so much at home – well done and thank you all.

What a fabulous day yesterday...Christmas certainly did arrive at The Grange with Santa bringing every child a selection box; Christmas dinner; games, panto, music and movie night – what a great day had by all albeit very strange not to all be together to eat in the hall. The dinners were great – thanks to the girls in the kitchen – delicious! Thank you so much to Kearney's Catering for donating the Selection boxes; so generous of you. I also want to thank Will and his team (PTFA) for the last couple days – Santa's wrapping elf: bravo!

Foundation Stage's 'A Little Bird Told Me' and KS1's 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw' - I hope that you have all had an opportunity to see our Christmas shows on FB. Call me cheeky but we have lost A LOT of Christmas show ticket revenue again this year. If you wish to make a donation via our JustGiving page towards school funds, please do so at [The Grange CP School PTFA - JustGiving](#). I want to order more reading books and any cash help would be much appreciated. Many thanks.

Attendance: We finish the term on 93.35% with today's at 74.36% - a reflection of the COVID situation. I just hope we can all be back at full capacity in January.

COVID CASES OVER CHRISTMAS: If you are blighted by Covid, we do not need to know as Track and Trace will deal will contact tracing – please fill out Track and Trace details online for any contacts though – really important.

Congratulations to:

50 CBGs: Fern B, Callie M, Samuel M, Sienna S, Holly W, Elektra A, Olivia B, Felix B, George B

70 CBGs: Logan S

Gold Badge: Olive C, Tilly R, Cheyten Q, Lily G, Madison B, Willow C, Vicky DC, Jack C, Spencer T, Sam P

100 CBGs: Olive DF, Amelia P, James W, Grace S, Macie S

110 CBGs: Alani F, Yousef H, Peter B

Platinum Badge: Sammy C

130 CBGs: Emily G, Jayden TS, Georgia S, Aariz H, Ellis F

140 CBGs: Lilly S, Reuben P, Harry D, Lucie T

160 CBGs: Theo Y



170 CBGs: Jessica W, Jackson F

Amethyst Badge: Archie K, Jonas V, Sophie S,

200 CBGs: Alfie G, Ned O, Abdou D

Topaz Badge: Jessica G, Gracie B

230 CBGs: Jessica S

Showing the Grange Way outside of school

Daisy S over the last 2 weekends has taken part in 5 sell out shows for the Julie Bruce dance academy. Dancing in ballet, tap, freestyle, cheerleading, acro and also being invited to join the competition team for a dance medley. Daisy has worked really hard the last couple of months for these routines, practicing at every free moment and even when isolating with covid.

Also, to Lucie T, another talented dancer, who has worked hard over the last few months

PTFA: It has been a busy time of year for the PTFA! We are pleased to say that we have managed to navigate yet another tricky term and pull off some great fundraising events for the school.

First off, this month was our joint event with the Banbury Round Table. A group of very athletic volunteers followed Santa as his sleigh made its way up and down the Easington estate: knocking on doors, tin shaking and generally spreading festive cheer! The profits from this event are split between the Grange and the Round Table, with the PTFA receiving £451. We are hoping to make this an annual event on our calendar - fingers crossed we might get the Cherwell Heights route next year...

Next up was our raffle. I can't thank the people who came forward with prizes enough; it is still a difficult time for small businesses, and we massively appreciate your support. Below are the businesses who donated, please take the time to visit their shops, websites etc and see what they have to offer:

- Danielle Croft @ Banbury Acupuncture & Massage Clinic
- Sutherland Car Care
- You & Yours Photography and Videography
- Upton House & Gardens
- Happylicious Cakes by Elissa

The total raised from the raffle was £550 so far. Congratulations to the winners:

Cash prize: Liam B

Photo shoot: Harry B

Sutherland Care: Sonny C

Upton House tickets: Ivy W

Banbury Acupuncture & Massage Clinic massage voucher: Faith Auld (Granny & Pops)

Luxury Hamper: Josephine Fagbemi

Beautiful and wondrous Christmas Cake: Phoebe W

The last event for this term was the ever-so-festive 'Christmas Day at The Grange'. What a brilliant day it was. Santa made his way from the North Pole, bright and early, to greet children as they made their way into school and then proceeded off to his little grotto to talk all things Christmas with children throughout the school day. All 301 children were given a selection box of treats from Santa, which was most generously paid for by local caterer Kearney's. After school, we then went into the Christmas Movie Night, where children were



lucky enough to have their classes turned into little cinemas - complete with popcorn and a big screen. The ticket sales from the Christmas Movie night generated a further £650 for the school.

We have raised £1923 altogether, £693 Halloween £650 Christmas Day and £580 Cherwell Lottery, Just Giving and Rags to Riches . Thank you to every one of you for your continued support; we are now looking forward to hopefully (fingers crossed!) putting on some bigger events in 2022 and ending the year with a banger of a GrangeFest. Merry Christmas everyone x

Grange Foodbank: You have been sending in lots of food and because of you, people's lives will be impacted for the better at the most difficult time of year - it has all gone to families who needed a Grange cwtch; thank you.

In every one of my last newsletters before Christmas, I always have a little word about how important it is to think about others, to not over-do it on spending and enjoy one's family. We have another period of uncertainty in our lives going forward but we also have many certainties also. You are all so lucky to have such wonderful children for a start – you have their unconditional love, and they need you more than you'll ever know.

I have mentioned previously what another rubbish year a lot of people have endured – uncertainty, loss of jobs, lack of cash, lack of food, mortgage and rent worries, health problems, cars breaking down, mental and emotional health issues, paralysing bereavement and COVID in general. Our school community has been touched by profound grief this year and not a day goes by when we do not feel Jude and Mark's agony, torment and profound sadness and pain; with this time of year being tortuous for them. We love you, Jude; thank you for showing us that life is a spectrum of possibilities x - it' so good to have you back kid...more than you'll ever know.



There are almost certainly going to be things we would like to do this Christmas that we cannot, as well as still having to do some things that we do not. That has been true of the last couple of years. I hope that you can take time this Christmas to pause for breath and think about what makes us and our loved ones happy. We have got to have a positive outlook in this sea of COVID knowing that 2022 may well be another bumpy ride. I wholeheartedly hope that you are able to celebrate the festive break together while recognising that the risks of transmission remain very real.

Not a day goes by without me having an overwhelming gratitude for our staff team who have been a tower of strength; never faltering, moaning or ever blind-sided by daily changes, covid cases - which make them vulnerable- whilst trying to raise progress and attainment. You have all been utterly awesome. Please have the quiet, event-free and restful Christmas that you so deserve.

Many thanks to our governing body and PTFA also, having your support is invaluable. It has been great to welcome Richard Peirson and Alex Duffy onto the governing body recently – we have a strong team helping me lead the school. Today we say 'Goodbye' to Mrs Orford, Mrs Bradley and Mrs Dyer – however, as all three are mams, we will see them about the place still!

Jodie has been an utterly dedicated teacher here for 6 years. Throughout that time, she has been a very popular with all children and staff and has been committed to doing her utmost best for our children; inspiring many, particularly in Modern Foreign languages and English.



She has worked many long hours to ensure that the children in her care reached their full potential and she has been a sage on many teaching matters. Her love and care of our children has never faltered, top drawer. We wish you well Mrs Orford. Good luck on your new journey; enjoy, enjoy, enjoy, you will be greatly missed. Thank you, Jodie.

Clair our Bursar has not only kept the books in order with a jeweller's eyeglass for 6 years but has been a massive support to the inner workings of our school; working on all aspects especially HR matters. She has been creative, forensic, knowledgeable, skilled – an asset. Working closely with Clair has been a joy, with never a dull day. I shall miss her covert way of passing on invoices for approval and I shall miss her counsel. The governing body Finance Committee will miss her finance reports and budget setting and monitoring papers for sure. Good luck Clair and Thank you.

After two terms at The Grange, Mrs Dyer is leaving to spend more time with her family. We wish you well Adele – good luck in your new ventures.

As I sign off then, I want to personally and from the deepest chambers of my heart, thank you all for your support, dedication, and hard work these last two terms – it has been brutal. I wish you a very chilled, meaningful, and stress-free Christmas break where we endeavour to keep ourselves and others safe and well. Enjoy and re-charge but most importantly, show your pups great love; they have been awesome and a complete inspiration to us since September and have been a credit to both you and us. Congratulations to our Foundation stagers, 1/3 of the year done already.... we're utterly proud of you.

We wish our old chums near and far a wonderful Christmas; never forgotten.

Don't forget that we start back at school on 4th January 2022 – fingers crossed business as usual.

Lots of love all and please stay safe.
Merry Christmas!

Ms B x

