



Where Children Come First

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Happy Friday everyone!

It's been a bonza first week to term I must say. Seeing the whole school in the hall in Monday's assembly was shocking – the children have shot up so much and so smart. They look ready for next academic year; they are 'on it; engaged, enthusiastic, happy and purposeful.

A lot has happened since Monday:

Football: The Y6 boys smashed it at their first Banbury Schools U11 Boys Football League match on Monday against St. Mary's. They showed amazing teamwork and skill to come away with a 14 - 0 victory. Man of the match went to James for outstanding ball control and goal scoring (he scored 4 goals) and Alfie was awarded goal of the match with an incredible header into the top corner. What an amazing start! Good luck with the rest of your matches boys.



Youth Sports Trust Award: Over Easter, we were awarded the Sports Youth Trust Gold Quality Mark.

The assessor reported - *'I have really enjoyed reading your case study and looking through your curriculum mapping, PE Premium evidencing as well as your sample surveys for staff and pupils. PESSPA is obviously really embedded within the school and is a major part of your school life.'*

The leadership of Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity by Lucie S-C is outstanding and the evidence and paperwork that she put together for this award was magnificent and very comprehensive. The commitment of staff to deliver the curriculum effectively is noteworthy too – inspired by LSC at every turn. Congratulations gang.

Exotic Animal Encounter: Another cultural capital opportunity for our 5/6 students who were buzzing after seeing so many unusual animals first hand and very close up: Hufflepuff the impressive Burmese Python, Charlotte the Chilean Rose Tarantula, Toby the Giant Tortoise, a Lesser tenrec from Madagascar, Meerkat babies - the cutest of all the animals we met - even



our catering staff came to see them! Ludo the armadillo was by far the funniest of all of the animals our students met and Vesper the owl, swooped and dived through the hall tickling noses as he flew over the children – a priceless experience.

The Y2 multi skills festival proved a fabulous opportunity for our students to experience a NOSSP event at Wykham Park and to develop their agility, balance and coordination skills. Year 2 students had a great morning – staff saying that their attitudes and behaviour were outstanding. They loved seeing our ex-students from Wykham Park who were leaders of the activities – still showing The Grange Way!

Writing Moderation: Our staff meeting this week focused on Writing across the curriculum and across the school from Foundation Stage to Year 6. The standard is looking very good. What strikes me is the improved vocabulary, composition and effect of our writers. I am still nagging about the quality of handwriting; however, I could not fail to be impressed by what I saw – The writing has undoubtedly improved because of the improvement in reading amongst our students across the school. Reading Journal continue to impress and enthusiasm for literature is tangible. Foundation Stage may be the strongest gang of aged 4/5 writers I have seen for many years. It's all down to the hard work from you, our children and staff – well done.

Upstairs: Teaching Year 6 continues to be on my timetable, and I love it with every fibre in my body. With end of KS2 SATs just a week away, I am looking for them all to step up to the plate, show their mettle and chew up their learning and spit it out. Their writing is top-notch and the progress in maths – particularly arithmetic – is impressive. It's the final push kids – COME ON!

Attendance: Overall, from September shows a slight increase to 93% but this week, we are on fire at 97.6% - please keep working at it.

The reputation of The Grange remains strong with 144 applications for 45 places – such a shame that so many families are disappointed at being declined a place for their child.

School Improvement 2022-2023: It's that time of year when we reflect, evaluate and plan ahead to ensure high standards in the **Quality of Education, Behaviour & Attitudes, Personal Development and Leadership & Management** at The Grange. When the new plan is written, I will share the new priorities and targets with you.

This term's whole school curriculum project and common thread is 'Life' where all of children will learn about the Natural World and the life within it. Geography and Science are at the core of our learning this term with environmental issues at the core of our study. Our children will learn how we can all help protect the environment and the steps we could take to protect it. They will know that humans affect the environment in positive and negative ways and that there are many different things we can do to help the planet.

Student Council: Student Council met on Tuesday, Mrs Barratt says they are incredible - talking about all they have achieved, highlighting Health and Safety concerns around the school and organising their own games club. A delightful group to work with. They have a copy of their action plan highlighted in green, showing what they have achieved so far. They also looked at their page on The Grange website – giving ideas for improvement and additions.

They are running a school games club during lunchtimes and have been busy organising that. To date, they have raised **£2389.73** for their chosen charities – awesome work.

Pitter patter of tiny feet coming! I am delighted to tell you that Mrs Duffy (CAFO) is expecting a baby in September. Congratulations to Donna and Alex. She will be going on maternity



leave in September, so we are frantically trying to recruit a maternity cover for her - spread the word please. Those are massive boots to fill!

Recruitment: is very tricky, the job market is odd right now. We have vacancies advertised for Mrs Duffy's maternity cover, Teaching Assistants, HLTAs and teachers for September – if you know of anyone looking, please pass on the message – the adverts are on the County Council website.

Summer Club: 2 weeks of holiday club will be running the first two weeks of the summer holiday. Please fill out the online form that was sent out this week as we need an idea of potential bookings and numbers so that we can plan the provision.

Congratulations to...

Bronze Badge: Ellis R, Isla D

110 CBGs: Macie S

130 CBGs: Fateh K

140 CBGs: Annie B, Georgia S

150 CBGs (Book): Harry D, Jacob J, Finley M

170 CBGs: Mia T, Alfie Y, Bronson B

Ruby Badge: Jessica S

Showing the Grange Way outside school

Well done to:

Before Easter, Amelie and Evie have raised an amazing **£250** for a refugee Easter programme over the Easter holidays by doing a sponsored cycle ride – an amazing achievement girls– very proud of you.

Lucy W climbed Mount Snowdon with her dad during the Easter holidays what an achievement.

Tiannah P, Nathan B, Samuel B, Vicky Do C & Patryk M have been helping out at the Ukrainian Distribution Centre in town. They have been volunteering and helping to sort and pack vital essentials and clothes which have been going to Ukraine for the families who have lost everything and the soldiers on the frontline. Great work all.

Nathan B has achieved swimming stage 6 certificate which includes 25m.

Ivy W has achieved her stage 1 swimming certificate.

PTFA : It's going to be the biggest one yet! Keep your diaries free for 17th June, 6pm-9pm more details coming soon...





Have a wonderful extended weekend everyone – don't forget the Bank holiday on Monday 2nd May. School will be open on Tuesday 3rd May at 0830.

Happy weekend all

Take care all.

Ms Boswell

