



Where Children Come First

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Happy Friday everyone

We have arrived at half term already and this newsletter sums up what a successful term we have had. A massive shout-out to our children; they have been wonderful, and it has been good to have them back without closure disruption. A huge well done to our Foundation Stage children – you are already 1/6th of your way through the first year at school.

Attendance is down to 80% (today's figure) – ouchie. 38 children off sick and others taking unauthorised holiday. Fingers crossed sickness and attendance stabilises next term.

Welcome to Louise Cotter (Admin) and Alex O'Connor (TA 3 / 4) – it's great to have you on the team.

On a personal note: this term has been made even more special because of my teaching commitment in Year 6 on a Wednesday afternoon. What a treat and privilege.

A note from Mr Dixey to his rugby squad - Banbury Area Tag Rugby Champions 2021: "The year 6s participated in a Banbury area tag rugby tournament which was held at BGN School on the 14th of October. With only two weeks of practise and learning rugby skills from scratch, our Year 6s represented The Grange outstandingly and showed elite skills in all departments of the game. They were ferocious in defence, displayed slick passing to one another, and were agile on their feet in order to evade the opposition. Most importantly, they displayed some of the best teamwork that I have seen in a team for a long time. It fills me with great pride to say that we are the best Tag Rugby team in the Banbury area after playing four games which resulted in us winning three and drawing one. The Grange walked away as worthy winners and the only school in the tournament with an unbeaten record. I want to thank those who were not selected to compete at BGN. Whilst you were not there on the day, you helped prepare the team and offered encouragement when they needed it during our lunchtime sessions. If you had not committed to those lunch time sessions, the team would have not won that day – thank you.

This is the first time ever that The Grange has won the Banbury area Tag Rugby tournament, so you should be immensely proud of this achievement. Every single one of you played your part in in our victory and it is a credit to you, students of the Grange, who gave up your lunchtimes to practise, practise, and practise. I hope your interest in rugby continues to grow and if you haven't already, then please consider joining local clubs such as Banbury Rugby Club. Have a great half term."

PTFA News from Mr Duffy: I am delighted to inform you that our Autumn Celebration Day raised a whopping £700 for the school. This is great news as it means the school now has the funds to purchase additional resources for spelling - something which we thought might take a few events to raise the cash for.

I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and continued support. As I said in my previous letter, school resources are obscenely expensive and the impact your donations make is fierce. The Grange has the best kids and teaching staff going and the PTFA are determined to give them the additional tools they need to enjoy an unforgettable education. (../..)



We have started strong, but this is just the tip of the iceberg :) Next up is preparing for the The Great Grange Raffle. I have already been approached by parents who have offered up raffle prizes and vouchers, which are greatly appreciated. If you are a business owner and can offer up a prize then please let me know. The PTFA will do what we can to ensure your business is promoted through whatever channels are available.

Lastly, if you're interested in joining the PTFA then email thegrangepfta@gmail.com. We will meet again next term to plan further events (Christmas will be here soon...) and the more hands on deck the better. Santa needs his elves...

Have a restful holiday

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Cross Country: Well done to all the children who ran in the Banbury Area Cross Country yesterday. They all showed plenty of determination as they ran; resulting in some fantastic individual and team positions. Olive C, Jess N, Tiannah P, Benjamin D and Archie K all finished in the top 10 of their races. Top performance goes to Benjamin D who was so close to winning the Y5/6 boys race, he came 2nd by about 50cm! The 3/4 boys, 5/6 girls and 5/6 boys team as well as Olive from the 3/4 girls team have all qualified for the next round at Sibford School on 26th November. Good luck Team Grange! Fantastic.

Student Council Pumpkin Carving Competition: What a great day of pumpkins. Thank you to those of you who entered; You have made the school look very festive. We raised £63.00 for our charities which is a great start to our fundraising.

Winners are:

FS: Leighton D

1/2: Maisie W

3/4: Ethan W

5/6: Amelia P

Willow and Travis' mum won the parent entry - Congrats!

Battle of the Titans - Conker Tournament: After a year's hiatus the conker tournament returned to The Grange. With Sonny not here, we were down to nine conker gladiators: Maeve R; Samuel B, Harry B, Jack H, Mikey W, Lily G, Sophie P, Holly R and Jackson F. Mr Dixey refereed the bouts whilst I watched each match along with the competitors. Accuracy was key today – conker to conker contact was good and power and damage to an opponent's conker was strong in some individuals. Sophie and Lily lost their conkers to destruction whilst other bouts were literally hit and miss. Slow and steady won the race yet again in the final showdown. Holly R held her nerve against Jackson and won 3 shots to 1 in extra best of three time after a ten-hit drawn match. We think this is her 5th conker tournament win – a master, who hasn't lost her touch or nerve. Congratulations all – you were brilliant!

Read, Read, Read, Read, Read: I have been having a further look at our students' Reading Journals and feel compelled to tell you how chuffed with them we are. Your role in supporting your child with their reading and phonics is fundamental and you are really taking the task on seriously and with aplomb. Thank you, amazing. Keep at it please. If you have been asked to support with red words, green words or reading tasks please do so going forward – I hope that you are seeing progress and enjoying this special sharing texts, sounds and words.

Many Congratulations to those of you receiving your CBGs

10 CBGs: George T, Jack M, Ellis R, Nancy S, Maeve R

50 CBGs: Joseph W, Maggie W, Scarlett FH

70 CBGs: Arliyah H, Max F, Kaylum GS, Ted G, Jayden D, Harvey H, Ronnie J, Adam D

80 CBGs: Izzy H, Amelia G, Effie H, Ethan H, Tilly R, Spencer T, Reuben C-S, Faith A

Gold badge: Archie Ke, Amelia H, Zuzanna B



100 CBGs: Danila S
110 CBGs: Aysa K, Millie H
Platinum Badge: Huw P, Lara P, Aariz H, Jayden TS
130 CBGs: Ben G
140 CBGs: Benjamin T, Mia T, Theo B, Matthew A, Theo Y
150 CBGs (Book): Betsy S
160 CBGs: James G, Sarah N, Jackson F, Jonas V, Jessica W
200 CBGs: Gracie Ba
Topaz badge: Leo G, Sonny C

Parent Pupil Progress meetings: These will run virtually next term during the week of 8th November. Your booking link will be sent out to you via ParentHub on Monday.

Next term: we look forward to our whole school art week and starting our new whole school project – Expressionism.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to our Grange family. I wish you all a restful, safe and healthy holiday. We will be open for business-as-usual 1st November 2021. (Please continue to wear masks on the school site).

To my staff team, I want you to have a decent break next week – thank you for everything. That includes Mrs Sanchez who has been working remotely and exquisitely from Switzerland for this term – Merci x

Best wishes all,



Ms Boswell x

