

Welcome to...Grange Federation Newsletter

Edition 54 January 2017

"Being the best I can be, learning together,
thinking for myself"

www.grangefederation.co.uk

Dear Parents, Friends and the Community of Grange Federation

Welcome back to Term 3. I do hope you have all had a peaceful, enjoyable festive period.

We have welcomed new staff, Mrs Shute, Mrs Arthur & Miss Castle to the Federation and the children in both schools have settled well upon their return to school.

Last term was very busy and the children in both schools enjoyed a variety of additional activities in the run up to Christmas.

On the 30th November Mrs Leat and Mrs Martin lead a group of children from KS1 and 2 taking part in the 'Swing into Christmas' singing festival held at the Wyvern Theatre Swindon. The Choir were joined by children from schools all over Swindon who performed in front of a packed auditorium of parents, friends and family made us all very proud.

The Rocksteady Music School visited the Junior School on December 1st. and the children enjoyed a fabulous concert!

Year 4 visited St Margaret's Church on 6th December and enjoyed the 'Christmas Unwrapped' service.

Mrs Leat walked a group of Year 6 children to Midwinter Gardens to sing to the residents on the 8th Dec. The old folk really enjoyed listening to the Christmas carols.

All the children performed brilliantly in their Christmas Concerts. Thank you to those of you who took time to share your thoughts and praise of a job well done!

Children in KS2 all enjoyed a Christmas Visit to the Cinema. Upper School watched 'Moana' and Lower school enjoyed 'Trolls'. A huge thank you to all those parent helper who walked the children to and from the Cinema, we couldn't do it without you!

And finally just before we broke up for the Christmas holidays Year 6 enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Service at St Margaret Church attended by many of their parents.

A great big thank you once again to our fabulous FOGS for the Christmas shopping evening and Visit from Santa and his Elves.

We have begun the New Year with a very busy timetable as always! Staff across the Federation undertook training with other schools in our cluster to look at Improving Transitions for our children.

Year 3 have begun their 10 week swimming course at Cricklade Pool with Mrs Martin's class (3M) in the water first! It is the first time we have used this pool for swimming lessons and feedback and travel so far have been very good.

If you have any spare Swimming Kit at home your children have grown out of, please pop them into school, we can always use spare for those who have forgotten their kit!

Year 3, who are studying the Greeks this term have already enjoyed a workshop exploring Greek Myths. Each class performed all they had learned to parents in a special assembly at the end of each day.

Our year 1 children are enjoying learning all about the North and South poles and the animals that live there.

In year 2 the children are looking forward to their trip to STEAM which supports their topic 'What makes Swindon Great?'

Last Thursday children in the Junior School had an opportunity to take part in a Google Expedition. With the aid of special goggles, pupils were able to visit the North Pole, take a trip along the Great Barrier Reef, Visit the International Space Station, explore the Solar System and look at the Aurora Borealis as well as look at Mount Everest and Greece.

Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. Our thanks to Miss Paget for arranging this fabulous opportunity.

On Friday 13th January, Mrs Carol Shute, our new SENCO welcomed parents to a coffee morning at the Junior School. This informal event in the school hall gave parents an opportunity to meet her for the first time and to discuss any concerns or issues regarding their children. If you missed this event Mrs Shute will be hosting a similar event at the Infant School on Friday 20th January. Please come along.

School Office

A huge thank you for all those parents who have successfully navigated the new on-line payment system and have successfully placed their school meal order. May I take this opportunity to encourage even more of you to do so! There have been a few teething problems but hopefully most have been resolved with the help of the school offices. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further problems. Please remember to order your child's meal at least a week before they are taken!! Don't forget to order in the last week of a term for the following term!!

Children Arriving Late to School

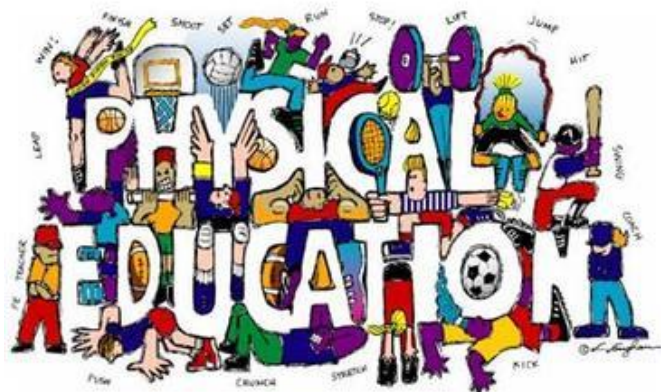
Please remember if your child arrives late to school they MUST come into school via either school office to be signed in. The number of children arriving late at the Infants has risen, so please come and speak to Mrs Dance if support is needed to get your child to school on time.

Office News

If any of your contact details have changed, please remember to let the appropriate school office know in order that staff may update your child's file.

Please be advised that the Junior school office is staffed from 8.30 am – 3.30 pm (Monday to Thursday) and 8.30 am – 1.30 pm (Friday) to help with enquiries and that the Infant school office is staffed from 8.00am - 4.00pm (Monday to Thursday) and 8.00am – 1.30pm (Friday).

It may be more helpful for you call into the school office prior to collecting your child. Many thanks.



Please can you ensure that your child has their named P.E. kit with them every day in school to ensure that they are able to take part in PE lessons.

Mobile Phones in School and Personal Belongings

Please remember mobile phones and electronic games and devices should not be brought into school under any circumstances. Please ensure your child leaves such items at home.

All that children need to bring into school is him or herself, any stationery they need for learning in school will be supplied by staff. Occasionally a teacher will ask children to bring items to school but this will be a specific request and linked to a particular piece of work. Many Thanks

Car-parking in the community

Could we again ask parents to park safely and with consideration for other road users, pedestrians and residents of our community who live near our schools.

Please help us to be good neighbours.

A polite reminder – parents should not come into the school car-parks to park or drop off their children at the beginning or end of the school day unless prior permission has been obtained from the Head of School or a child is being dropped off for Wake and Shake at the Infant School.

Please help us to keep all our children safe thanks.

Life Caravan

The Life Caravan will be making a visit to the Federation over the next couple of weeks to talk to the children on a variety of age related topics. The programme educates children about their bodies, how to keep them-selves safe and the hazards of smoking, drinking and drugs all delivered in a way that is appropriate for their age.

Federation Questionnaire

Thank you to all those parents who took time to respond to the on-line questionnaire via the school website. The most pressing concern to emerge from the responses was that of communication. We are looking to address concerns raised and will shortly be setting up a working party which will include parents, to look at enhancing our communications policy making improvements across the Federation.

School Values

Our school Value this term is RESPECT. This is an extremely important value for our children and community. We have spoken to the children about all the forms of respect that are needed in their daily lives. They are working hard to show RESPECT to others and their environment and this has had a very positive affect on the schools.

The children are focussing on their handwriting and presentation at the moment as this is a whole Federation target. We are seeing some great outcomes and the children are showing increasing pride in their work.

Parent volunteers in Schools

We would like to encourage more parent volunteers' into school. This could be to help hear readers, help with art or even gardening. If you can spare a few hours each week please contact the Heads of School to arrange a DBS check.



Diary Dates

Monday 16 January 9.45 a.m.
3M Swimming

Thursday 19 January
Year 4 – Visit to Harry Potter World
coach leaves 8.30 a.m. prompt!

Monday 23 January
Life Caravan at Juniors this week.

Monday 23 January 9.45 a.m.
3M Swimming

Friday 27 January
Chinese New Year Themed School Dinner

Monday 30 January 9.45 a.m.
3M Swimming

Infants WOW morning 1st February 8.30am
Infants WOW afternoon 2nd February 2.30pm

Juniors WOW afternoon 1st February 2.45pm
Juniors WOW morning 2nd February 8.45-9.15am

Thursday 2 February
Year 5 visiting Upper Stratton Library

Friday 3 February
Year 5 visiting Upper Stratton Library

Friday 10 February
Schools close at end of day for half term

Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February
Schools Closed - Half term

Monday 20 February
Schools re-open – term 4

Book Fair at both schools 21st February

Monday 20 February 9.45 a.m.
3M Swimming