

# Welcome to...Grange Federation Newsletter

Edition 55 February 2017

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

[www.grangefederation.co.uk](http://www.grangefederation.co.uk)

*Dear Parents, Friends and the Community of Grange Federation*

I cannot believe we are already at the end of Term 3! Once again it has been a very busy term, and I have plenty of news to share with you of the activities undertaken across the Federation.

### Online Learning Journals

The EYFS Team would like to thank everyone who has offered feedback about our new Online Learning Journals. We have really enjoyed seeing the comments and photos from home that have been submitted and we are looking forward to seeing the journals grow over the course of the year. If you haven't logged on to have a look yet, please go to [EEExAT.com](http://EEExAT.com) and enter the log-in details that were sent home. If you have any questions please talk to a member of the EYFS Team.

### Year 5 Visit to Stratton Library

Last week each class in Year 5 walked to the Upper Stratton Library as part of their Literacy studies. As with many of the local libraries in communities all over the country, Upper Stratton Library is endangered of closure due to financial cuts. Year 5 wanted to show support by visiting the library and making the most of this free valuable resource in our community. Year 5 are working hard to develop their love of reading across all genres. We hope you will help us by sharing all sorts of reading materials with your child at home, books, magazines, comics, newspapers or e-readers. A huge thank you to those parents who gave their time to walk with us to the library.

### Year 5 Stargazer Project

As part of their space project Year 5 were given a homework project to design and make a capsule to protect an egg dropped from a height using air-bag technology. The ideas and models generated from this task were awesome and it was obvious the children had put a great deal of thought and effort into their craft. They all enjoyed a fabulous testing session – some crafts more successful than others! Many thanks for your support.

### Year 2 visit to Steam

This term Year 2 have been learning about the history of Brunel and why he is so significant to Swindon's history. The children learnt about the timeline of trains and how they have changed over time. As part of the topic the children went to STEAM museum to look at the different trains, they experienced a workshop about the life of Brunel and explored the trains.



### Catering Provision

As you will be aware, school meals have been provided by Grange Leisure for some time across the Federation. I am sorry to advise you that from next September, Grange Leisure will no longer provide our catering services and we are currently in the process of inviting tenders for this provision. We would very much welcome your thoughts and comments as part of this process. What sort of provision would you like to see? Do you have a preference for what sort of food you would like to see on the menu? This is your opportunity to engage with us with a view to securing a catering provision across the Federation that all are happy with. We look forward to receiving your comments which may be e-mailed to the school office at [office@grangefederation.org.uk](mailto:office@grangefederation.org.uk) or handed to the school office at either site. Please mark e-mails or letters CATERING PROVISION.

### 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.

### WOW Sessions

Thank you to all those parents who came into school to take part in the WOW sessions across the Federation last week. All of the sessions were very busy and well attended. Feedback from parents was very positive and we hope you enjoyed the opportunity to come in to see what your child has been learning in school since your last visit.



Please could we remind parents that they should not use the children's toilets during these sessions or walk around the school unattended.

### TRUST

Our school value next term will be TRUST. Teachers will be leading assemblies throughout the term exploring and considering what 'Trust' means. You can help your child by asking them to think about who they depend on in times of need and what is meant by being trustworthy.

### MDSA

We are trying to set up a bank of people who would be willing to cover a Midday Supervisory Assistant role at short notice to cover staff absence. If you are interested in helping out on an ad-hoc basis, please contact Michelle Croydon on 822405 or [bursar@grangefederation.org.uk](mailto:bursar@grangefederation.org.uk) for further details

### **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.

### Parent Consultations March 2017

Please remember to book your appointment to see your child's class teacher for a parent consultation meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February or Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Letters have been sent to all parents via pupils and further details are on the school website. There will be an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for several food hampers in each school. Tickets will be just £1.00 per strip, money raised will be used to enhance the outside areas of both schools.

### Young Carers Award

We are in the first stages of applying for the 'Young Carers Award'. We will keep you updated of developments.

If you think your child may be a carer and would benefit from support, please contact Mr Russell or Mrs Murray via the school offices.

### 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.

### World Book Day and Book Fair

The book fair will be visiting school on 21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, after school, next term. The fair will take place in the school library area at the Juniors and in the hall at the Infants. Please come along and support. Each book sold earns the school commission which can be turned into more reading books for the children.

To celebrate World Book Day children may come to school dressed as their favourite book character. There is no charge for this event, but there will be a prize for the best dressed character.

Miss Brown and Miss Savage will also be running a Potato Book Character competition to decorate a potato as your favourite Book Character. Spuds should be brought into school on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and placed on the Po-TATE-to Gallery in both school halls. There will be a prize for each year group.

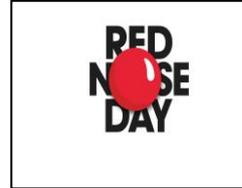
A letter giving further details about these events will be sent home and a copy will be on the school website.



### 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.

### Red Nose Day



Friday 24 March 2017

We will again be supporting 'Red Nose Day' charity on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Children may dress as their favourite Red Nose Character to in any red clothing. We would ask children to make a minimum £1.00 donation to take part.

The Crazy Cookie Makers in Year 6 will be making cookies for sale at break-time for 30p each, two for 50p or three for 75p.

Red Noses will be available to buy on a first come first served basis!

Last Year we raised a massive £317.00. We would like to do even better this year.

### THANK YOU

Can I just say a huge thank you to all the parents, helpers and volunteers to have worked along-side us this term. Without your help and support we could not run trips and visits, enjoy additional support in the classroom or encourage children with their homework and extra-curricular activities. We really do appreciate your help and support – THANK YOU.

### Science week across the Federation

Science week is week beginning Monday 20th March. This week promises to be very exciting, please are planning a week of investigation and experiments. Volunteers to help are very welcome and even more so if you come from a scientific background and have something of interest you would like to share with your child's class or maybe the whole school. Please get in touch.

## Start of the day at the Infant School

There is a change to the start of the day at the Infants school. Door will open from 8.25-8.40 and children can go directly into class instead of queuing. We hope this will reduce the number of children arriving late to school, coming in through the school office. A letter explaining fully has been sent home and is available to view on the school website.

## Forest School Club at the Infants

Forest School club was a huge success so will again this term and is now open to all year groups. Neil from 'Wild and Inspired' will again be leading a range of fun outdoor activities.

## Travelling Light at the Infant School

Please can we ask parents to not send huge backpacks into school with their children. We don't have cloakrooms at the infants and we find that the large bags are not staying on the coat pegs and are cluttering up the corridors. Please encourage your child to travel light!!

## Internet Safety

Internet safety- with lots of children getting new technology for Christmas please can we remind parents that our website contains information about being safe online.

## Year 2 SATs meeting

We had a great turn out at the year 2 SATs meeting. Thank you for your support. We will discuss children individual targets during parent evenings. Do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions around SATs.

Enjoy the half term break and see you in Term 4.

Best Wishes

Louise Seavill and the Team at Grange



## Diary Dates

Monday 20th February  
Schools re-open – Term 4

Book Fair at both schools 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Monday 20th February 9.45 a.m.  
3M Swimming

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Phonics workshop for year 1 parents at 3pm in the hall.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
3M Swimming

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
Infant and Junior Parents Evening 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm  
Infant Parent Evening will be in the hall.

Wednesday 1st March  
Infant and Junior Parents Evening 3.30 pm – 6.30pm  
Infant Parent Evening will be in the hall.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 6.45 p.m.  
FOG's meeting at Junior School

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
3D Swimming

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 a.m.  
Voice in a Million Trip to Wembley

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March  
Swimming 3D

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Year 6 Visit STEAM museum

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Junior Voice Festival  
Rehearsal 5.50 p.m.  
Performance 7.30 p.m.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March  
Swimming 3D

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 5.30pm-6.30pm  
Year 6 SATs meeting

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
Class photographs at the Infant School

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
Make a noise- singing performance at the platform for children in EYFS