

# Welcome to...Grange Federation Newsletter

Edition 56 March 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*

Once again both school communities have been very busy since my last newsletter. At last we are starting to see more daylight and some brighter weather.

The new term started with a visit from the 'Travelling Book Company' who hosted our annual Book Fair. Children across the Federation had the opportunity to browse and buy from a wide selection of age appropriate books. The book fair was well attended and £682.28 worth of books was sold at the Junior School from which we were able to buy a further £400 worth of books for the school. At the Infant School we sold £400.00 worth of books which enabled us to buy a further £180.00 of books. A huge thank you to all those who supported this event.

### World Book Day

The Federation celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March by encouraging all children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Costumes were fabulous thanks to the imagination, ingenuity and support of many parents, Staff and children had a wonderful time guessing who had come dressed as whom!

Ms Brown organised several fabulous competitions, to be photographed reading in the most extraordinary place and to decorate a potato as your favourite book character for the po-TATE-o gallery. Entries for both competitions were thoughtful and imaginative and judging very difficult. Congratulations to everyone who took part but especially to the winners.

At the Infant School we celebrated World Book Day with a visit from Willy Wonka! Leon Flower, a local librarian dressed as the famous book character, came to talk to the children about his passion for books. He shared some recommendations with the children and played a Roald Dahl game which involved some teachers growing beards! All the children and teachers also dressed up as their favourite Book Characters, made potato book characters and read in extreme places! Congratulations to the winners of the competitions and well done everyone for a successful day celebrating our love for reading!

### Parents Evening

Thank you to all parents who took time to attend the Spring Parent Evening sessions. The sessions were well attended and feedback on the whole was very positive. The raffle of food hampers raised in total £108 which will be used to enhance the school environments.

Please remember if you have any concerns regarding your child between parent evening appointments we are always happy to see you. Please ring the school office to make a convenient appointment.

If you are a parent who lives separately from your child and would like to receive information regarding your child e.g. school report, parent evening consultations etc. please contact the relevant school office for advice.

### **A different start to the day**

The new start to the day at the Infants is going really well. The children are settling quickly to their tasks and the number of children coming in late has diminished greatly.



**Voice in a Million**  
**KS2 - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Miss Walshe led a group of 45 Junior School children to Wembley to take part in the Voice in A Million concert.

Voice in a Million was set up in 2009; as a promoter of school / singing events, with an under-pinning message that raises awareness of the plight of children in care and the importance of Adoption and Fostering, both in the UK and worldwide.

Now celebrating its seventh year, Voice in a Million presents an opportunity of a lifetime for school children from all backgrounds throughout the UK to come together united in song and perform in front of their own family and friends and indeed members of the general public.

It was a very late night for the participants who following the concert did not arrive home until after midnight! But like Cinderella at the ball - they all had a truly wonderful time and plenty of treasured memories.

**Year 6 - Visit to STEAM Museum**  
**14<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

As part of their ongoing studies into the Second World War, Year 6 visited the STEAM museum to look at their exciting WW2 exhibition and to take part in two workshops - 'Air-raid' and 'Evacuation'.

Staff and children came to school dressed as evacuees and the workshop aimed to give them a flavor of what it was like for children living through the Blitz in the Second World War. During the 'Air-raid' experience, the ARP Warden sounded an original siren to signal an imminent air raid. Inside and outside the meticulously researched reconstruction of a public shelter, pupils looked at a superb collection of original WW2 objects and ephemera relating to the Blitz and bombing, air raid shelters, air raid precautions and the role of the ARP Warden. Pupils experienced, first-hand, the conditions inside a shelter including sleeping and personal ablutions. Year 6 considered questions such as how did people pass the time and how did they keep their morale high? After the anxiety of the raid, the Warden sounded the All Clear and pupils emerged from the shelter to reflect on their experience.

As part of the Evacuation experience pupils were able to share the anxiety and excitement pupils of WW2 felt through simulating the experience of leaving, travelling and arriving at destination as evacuees. On the station platform and inside the reconstruction of a wartime carriage, Year 6 were able to pack an evacuee's suitcase, school satchel and lunchbox and handle original WW2 objects relating in particular to gas and blackout. The session finished with a role-play as pupils were chosen or rejected by host families on arrival in the countryside.

The children all enjoyed this very interactive educational experience.

**KS1 FOREST SCHOOLS CLUB**

We have been learning lots of fantastic things in after school Forest Club this term. Children have had the chance to build dens using proper camping equipment, and we even had the opportunity to make a real camp fire which we cooked pancakes on, yum yum! We've also learned how to use all our senses in the wild, even when we were blindfolded we could still guide our friends around the forest.







### KS1 School Council

Members of the Grange Infants and Junior School Councils met with FoGs recently to discuss the 2017 May Fayre. Children were shown photos of new potential games to be held at the event and were asked to vote for their favourite.

From giant bubbles and golfing fun to unicorn puppets and miniature boat races. Watch this space!

### EYFS Trip

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March EYFS had their first school trip to Farmer Gow's. During the day, the children had the opportunity to handle chicks, feed goats and sheep, and experience a tractor and trailer ride. They also had a great time playing on the hay bales. The EYFS team and parent volunteers were delighted to hear compliments from the farm staff and members of the public about the way the children behaved on the trip; we were very proud of our Hedgehogs, Owls and Foxes!



### School Vacancy

We are seeking to appoint a Business Manager to work across the Federation. Details may be found on the school website or via e-teach.

### Football/Netball Team KS2

I am pleased to confirm that the recent inter-schools Football and Netball matches have resulted in wins for both teams. Very well done to all those involved.

### Communication Workshop

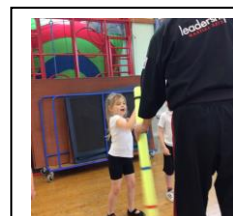
I have recently met with a group of parents to discuss Communication across the Federation. This was an issue highlighted in the last parent questionnaire. Hopefully information gathered from these meetings will enable us to write a comprehensive Communications Policy which you will be given the opportunity to comment on before it is then implemented across the Federation. Initial discussions were very informative and helpful. I will keep you informed of our progress on this important task.

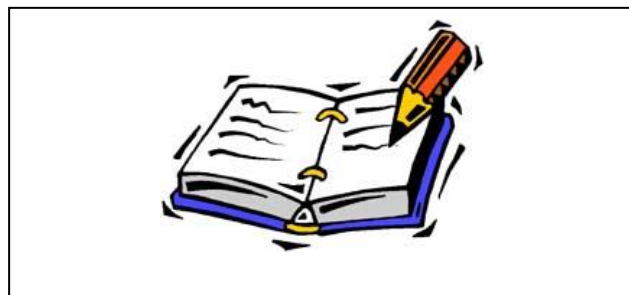
### Facebook Comments

It has come to my attention that a number of unpleasant comments regarding the Federation have been posted onto Facebook. If you have concerns about matters regarding the Federation, I would prefer parents to make an appointment to meet with me or a member of my Leadership Team with a view to resolving the issue in a more positive and constructive manner.

### Leadership Martial Arts

This term, all of the children in EYFS and KS1 have participated in a martial arts taster session with instructors from Leadership Martial Arts. They tried out some basic Tae Kwon Do moves and had a great time playing games. After Easter, the instructors will be back at the Infants to run an after school club. Please see <https://www.leadershipmartialarts.co.uk/locations/after-school-clubs/> for more information.





## Diary Dates

Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Science Week – Please ask your child what they have been learning about.

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

KS2 School Disco

Years 3 and 4 3.30 to 5.00 p.m.

Years 5 and 6 5.15 to 6.45 p.m.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

Year 5 Visiting @Bristol Science Museum

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Red Nose Day

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

KS1 School Disco (Years 1 & 2 only)

Year 1 and 2 1.15 to 2.45 p.m.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

End of Term

Easter Holidays

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Schools re-open for Term 5

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Year 5

'Good King Hal' will visit school

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

KS1 - Leadership Marshal Arts After School Club begins

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – Friday 28 April 2017

Year 4 Residential Trip to Liddington

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

KS1 Swindon town Football Club after School Club begins (infants)

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and every Thursday afternoon in Term 5 there will be parent workshops held in Grange Annexe (was the children's centre). Details will follow shortly.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Bank Holiday – School closed

Throughout May Year 2 children will be involved in SATs

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Year 1 Phonic workshops 2.30 to 3.00pm at the Infants School

Week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Year 6 SATs week

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
FoGs meeting at 6.45pm at the Juniors

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Wow morning at the Infant School for all year groups – 8.30-9.00am

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Wow morning at both the Infant and the Junior School (all year groups)-8.30-9.00am at the Infants and 8.45-9.15am at the Junior School

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Wow morning at the Junior School for all year groups – 8.45-9.15am  
Further details will follow regarding all the Wow mornings.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
May Fayre

Week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017  
Jonathan's Jungle is visiting both schools

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 – KS 1 Bedtime story day (parents will be invited in at 8.30 to share a story with their child)

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
End of Term 5

**These are the dates organised for next term but there may be other events that take place. If so we will give you as much notice as possible.**

