

Welcome to...Grange Federation Newsletter

October 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

Wow, how quickly term 1 has flown by. The children have settled into their new classes really well and it feels like our EYFS have always been with us. This term the value of responsibility has been embedded into school routines and behaviour around the school. A number of visitors have complimented the children on their learning behaviours. Next term we will be learning about the Value of PEACE. It is really important in this modern age that we all take time to reflect and have moments of peace and calm. Encourage your children at home to have quiet times. With our older children we will discuss the PEACE that falls after times of turmoil and war.

"Peace begins with a smile."
Mother Teresa

This term has seen some really successful charity donations. We have raised over £400 pounds through our Macmillan Coffee mornings. Our harvest festivals have helped us collect lots of boxes of produce for the Swindon foodbank. These events celebrate the community feel that both our schools have. Thank you all for your kind donations.

Safety

Please be aware of our children's safety when using our playgrounds. We have had a number of people cycling through our sites and also bringing dogs onto the playground. If you do bring a car onto site please drive slowly and carefully and remember you need a school permit if using a car to park on site. Please speak to Mrs Dance or Mrs Knight if you require a permit. With parents evening and Firework night coming up can we ask that you park considerately at these times? Our local residences must be able to access their driveways. The Birchwood Road entrance has been a particular area of concern in the last couple of weeks. Concerns have been raised that children have had to walk out into the road due to the thoughtless pavement parking of some drivers. Please help us to keep all of our children safe.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas Dinner will take place across the Federation on Thursday 14th December. Please book your dinner via school money. Contact the relevant school office if you need help.

Stay and Play



On Wednesday mornings at the Infants we have been holding Stay and Play sessions. Parents, babies and toddlers have enjoyed socialising in informal surroundings. It's a great way to meet other parents and see our Children's Champions and different staff members.

Not only do we get to meet the next generation of Grange children but we get to hear feedback from parents. Do come and join us.

There is a play session at the Junior School on Friday 13th October from 8.45 - 10.00 a.m., then again on 10th November and 1st December with the Children's Champion, Mrs Luisa Rutherford. Please come along, all are very welcome.

FOGS

At the Infant school our shelter has now been painted. We have a wonderfully vibrant celebration of our community which the children are using already in their role play games. The Butterfly Room has been set up and opened. This houses our breakfast club, after school club, Stay and Play session and nurture room. FOGs kindly donated money to help set up this invaluable resource. Look out for details about our up and coming Firework Night, this is always a huge community success.

Rainbow Room

Our children's champion, Mrs Rutherford, is in the process of transforming the upstairs space of the Junior School into our 'Rainbow Room'. If you have any brightly coloured cushions, material, drapes or soft furnishings or furniture which we could use to develop this space, please contact Mrs Rutherford via the school office or e-mail lrutherford@grangefederation.org.uk. Any donations will be most appreciated.

Year 6 Residential Course at 'Little Canada - Isle of Wight

Children in Year 6 travelled to 'Little Canada' on the Isle of Wight for their Activity Adventure residential trip. Two thirds of the Year Group accompanied by staff and volunteers took part and had a wonderful time over the five days they were away. The trip is designed to encourage children to undertake tasks and activities outside of their comfort zone in a fully safe and secure environment to help build team spirit, co-operation and confidence. PGL staff, school staff and volunteers all helped to support and encourage the children to be brave and have a go! The trip was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff and volunteers. Without their help and support these valuable trips would not be possible. I hope you have all recovered and caught up on your sleep! Thank you again for enabling our children to have this fantastic opportunity.

Year 2 Bristol Zoo

We were so proud of the year 2 children's behaviour on the trip and were thrilled with all the offers of help we received from parents.

Swimming Lessons Year 3

Class 3M (Mrs Martin's) will start a swimming course at Cricklade Leisure Centre beginning Monday 30th October. If you would like to help and have a DBS clearance we would love to hear from you.

School Meals

Our new School Meal provider 'Edwards and Ward' are now up and running cooking hot school meals for children across the Federation. Meals are freshly prepared at the Junior School Site and transported to the Infant School. Feedback from the children suggests they are enjoying the new school menu very much.

If you would like more details about hot school meals and how to access them for your child, please contact the relevant school office. The deadline for ordering meals is the Monday of the week before the meal is required.

Football Success

Congratulations to Reece and Zak in Year 6, who have been picked to play for Swindon Schools Football Team. Their shirt's were presented to them in a recent assembly by Steve Beale.

Very well done boys!

School Rules Competition

Congratulations to Jacob in Year 6 who designed the winning poster for our school rules poster. Well done Jacob on a fantastic design - we have enjoyed seeing them up around our school.

Uniform

Please be aware no trainers are to be worn as school shoes, including sports brands e.g Nike, Adidas, Puma, Vans etc. Please refer to the school uniform policy attached to this letter. Thank you.

Premier Sports After School Clubs

Dodgeball

Monday 3.20 - 4.20

Year 3 - 6

Gymnastics

Tuesday 3.20 - 4.20

Year 3 - 6

Tuesday 3-4

Year EYFS-Year 2

Archery

Thursday 3.20 - 4.20

Year 3 - 6

Multi skills and sports (book via Infant School)

Thursday 3-4

EYFS-Year 2

Please book on-line only at

www.premiersport.org

for information please contact
aturner@premier-education.com

Unavoidable absences - Please remember, if you child is absent for any reason, you **MUST** call the appropriate school office in the morning **EACH DAY** of the absence to report absence and the reason why. Please leave a clear message on the answerphone or speak to a member of the office staff. Attendance is a high priority and we are actively trying to lower our absence rate across the Federation. Good attendance is essential if you want your child to make good progress. Please help us by planning medical, dental and optician appointments outside of school time wherever possible.

I am Chair of the Grange Federation's governing body and I wanted to use this new section of the newsletter to tell you more about the role of governors. The governing body consists of 15 members – 2 governors elected from the parent population of the Federation, 1 governor supplied by the Local Authority, 8 governors Co-Opted from the local community based upon the skills and experience they bring and 1 staff governor elected by the Federation's staff (Ms Walshe). The governing body is completed by the Heads of School (Mrs Dance and Mrs Knight) and the Executive Headteacher, Mrs Seavill.

Our role is a strategic one. We help to set the Federations' aims and objectives and the policies for achieving them. A key part of our role is then monitoring and evaluating the Federation's progress.

Governors are often referred to as a 'critical friend' – we must both support and challenge the Executive Headteacher and the Heads of School. This does not mean that we are responsible for the day to day running of the Federation - the Exec Head is responsible for how to implement the aims and objectives and for the management of the Federation. We perform our role by regularly scrutinising performance data and questioning and challenging where necessary. We also have appointed link governors who go into both schools to monitor particular areas in more detail, so that we have a balanced view. As chair of governors, I meet with Mrs Seavill regularly to discuss strategic issues in more detail.

As well as this, governors are also responsible for the Federation's financial position and making sure money is well spent. As part of this element of our role, we regularly monitor expenditure and are involved in setting and approving each year's budget. This is something that gets tougher each year, as the money that schools are paid reduces in real terms. We are looking for ways to supplement our income and the new breakfast and after-school clubs are part of that plan. We thank Mrs Mills, our Business Manager, and all the staff involved in the clubs that are making them a huge success already.

I also recently attended the staff training days at the beginning of term and was really impressed with the positive attitude of all staff. Everyone came together to focus on how to ensure that the children of the Federation continue to progress and achieve their potential. We have great staff at the Federation who are focused on success - thanks to all of them for their continued hard work.

Over the course of the academic year, we will highlight some of the activities of the governing body in the newsletter but if there's anything you'd like us to cover, do let us know. And please do feel free to contact me using the **governors@grangefederation.org.uk** email address should you have any concerns or if you wish to point out some examples of fantastic staff effort.

Chris Speller

Chair of Governors



Diary Dates

Saturday 14th October - Grange Junior School Family portrait session 10 am - 2 pm
Term ends Tuesday 17th October at normal times and starts again Monday 30th October
Monday 30th October - Class 3M start Swimming Course
Wednesday 1st November - Fancy dress day at Infants and KS1 Disco 3-4 pm in the hall
Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd November - WOW mornings at both schools
Wednesday 1st November EYFS parents meeting 6pm Infant Hall
Friday 3rd November coffee morning at Infants with Mrs Dance and Mrs Parsons 8.25
Tuesday 7th November- School Tours for new starters 2018 at Infants
Wednesday 8th November - Year 5 Literacy Festival @ Kingsdown School
Wednesday 8th November - PGL Residential Trip meeting for Year 4 parents 6pm
Thursday 9th November- Fireworks 7pm Infants
Friday 10th November - Parents Coffee Morning with Mrs L Rutherford (Children's Champion)
Tuesday 14th November - Year 6 Height and Weight measurement (School Nursing Service)
Thursday 16th November Infant Music Festival at Wyvern
Friday 17th November- Children in need. Wear something spotty and bring in some pennies
Monday 20th November - Beauty and the Beast performance at Infant School
Wednesday 29th November - Flu Vaccinations at Junior School and Infants
Thursday 30th November - FOGs Christmas Shopping Event - Junior School
Friday 1st December - Parents Coffee Morning with Mrs L Rutherford (Children's Champion)
Wednesday 6th December - Year 4 Trip to Harry Potter
Wednesday 6th December- Father Christmas at Infants
Friday 8th December- coffee morning at Infants 8.25 am
Monday 11th December - Year 5 Christmas Show 6.00 pm
Tuesday 12th December- EYFS nativity 9am Infant hall
Wednesday 13th December - Year 5 Christmas Show 9.15 a.m.
Wednesday 13th December- EYFS nativity 1.30-2.30 pm Infant Hall
Thursday 14th December - Christmas Dinner across the Federation
Thursday 14th December - Christmas party day at the Infants.
Friday 15th December- Christmas jumper day - donations for charity
Friday 15th December - School Closes for Christmas Holidays

IMPORTANT

Please look out for the '**ONLINE SAFETY GUIDE**' leaflet being sent home . This document is also available to view on the schools website via the e-safety tab.



GRANGE FEDERATION SCHOOL UNIFORM & P E KIT

Girls:	Winter	Grey Pinafore/Skirt/Culottes/trousers White Polo Shirt Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan
	Summer	Red & White stripped/checked dress Or as Winter
	Outdoor	Sensible coloured coat/anorak
	Footwear	White Socks/Black or Grey tights Black shoes with low heels <u>No Boots or Trainers</u> Sensible black/white sandals with backs for summer
Boys:	Winter	Grey trousers White Polo Shirt Burgundy sweatshirt
	Summer	Grey shorts/trousers Burgundy sweatshirt White Polo Shirt
	Outdoor	Sensible coloured coat/anorak
	Footwear	Grey Socks Black shoes <u>No Boots or Trainers</u> Sensible black sandals with backs for summer
	PE Kit	White T-Shirt Black Shorts Black Plimsolls (for indoor) Warm track suit/Jogging bottoms & sweatshirt Trainers (For outdoor)

PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM IS NAMED.

Long hair should be tied back with a navy or black hair tie. No hair accessories.

Sweatshirts bearing the school logo may be purchased from outside suppliers:

Add-a-logo, Unit 7 Ergo Business Park, Kelvin Road, Greenbridge, Swindon SN3 3JW

Tel: 0179 514515 Mob: 07811 139686 www.addalogo@aol.com