

18th December 2023



Belong • Believe • Achieve

The Grange Times

Cedar



On Tuesday 12th December, the whole school went to church for the Christmas service. There were readings from pupils and staff and lots of

singing of our favourite Christmas carols.

Kaschan: We all walked to the church together and sat with our class. I sat next to Matthew and Ollie. I liked it when the choir all sang 'Silent Night' and used sign language.

Harry: We made a picture to feature in the story of the baby Jesus. Our picture shows Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay at the inn. I had to stand at the front and hold up our picture.

Aidan: I joined the choir on stage to sing 'Silent Night'. We have been practising at lunchtimes to sing and sign the song.

Matthew: I liked walking to the church in the sunshine with my class.

Kalen: I stayed behind with Mrs Porter and helped get the teas and coffees and mince pies ready for when the parents came to school to see the Christmas trees in the library after the service.

Ollie: There was lots of readings about the story of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. My favourite carol was about the three kings.

Ray: Cedar class would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.



Maple



Maple Class have had a class discussion about what they have enjoyed this year so far, we spoke about our different lessons and activities we have taken part in.

Riley: I enjoyed planting the winter flowers at reception.
Eva-Louise: I enjoyed taking part in our class assembly

about Children in Need.

Ugne: I enjoyed learning about the human skeleton and different parts of the body.

Luca: I enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London.

Jerome: I like all the subjects.

Seih: I enjoyed learning about addition and subtraction.

Jack: I liked learning about pigs and chickens.

Alex: I enjoyed reading to staff.

Alfie W: I liked learning about the different parts of the human body.



Choir



The choir went to sing some Christmas carols and songs at Rivermead Care Home to bring them some festive cheer. We all chose our songs and we signed along too.

Asia: I loved singing 'The Twelve Days of Christmas.'

Freddie: 'Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer' is my favourite song to sing.

Aaron: I sang really loud. It was fun!

Oak

Levi: I liked doing our Christmas cards, as it's my family member's 1st Christmas

Samuel B: I really liked the Christmas play as it went really well, it nearly made me cry with happiness.

Scarlett: I have really enjoyed the elves when they were hanging upside down on the door.

Stefano: I really enjoyed making my Christmas stocking in D.T because it was really fun to make and very festive.

Harrison: I enjoyed writing my Christmas letter to Santa.

Samuel TW: I loved helping decorate the Christmas tree. I was so happy to be a cheeky elf it was fun!

Lily-Jo: I loved being Mrs Claus in the Christmas play.

Cody: I loved it when the naughty elves put flour all over the table.

Ameila: I really liked being the Jolly Christmas Postman and also doing BSL for the Christmas songs.





Pine

Church Service Comments

Max: I liked singing and seeing the people holding the pictures. The Reverend did a really good job.

Connor: All the music in the church was quite marvellous.

Alfie: It was divine.

Ben: I liked to sing to 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' in church. It was the best thing to do.

Lucas: I took the picture of Mary and the angel to the front. I felt happy making the collage.

Emmanuel: It was beautiful and amazing.

Grange Christmas Fayre Comments

Max: At the Christmas fayre I saw Santa Claus and ate a burger.

Emmanuel: I went to Grange Christmas Fayre, it was fun. I saw Santa and he gave me a present. I'm saving it for Christmas Day!



Sycamore

Sycamore class really enjoyed their Christmas dinner this year.

We had our dinner in the classroom with our friends.

The food was lovely, we had Christmas crackers and listened to Christmas music. We especially liked the yule log that Mrs Tott had made us for dessert.

Christmas Tree Festival

Transfiguration Christmas Tree Festival

Acer Class took part in the Christmas tree festival at the Transfiguration church. Our tree had a Great Fire of London theme. We made decorations, retold the story of Toby and the Great fire of London and Marzieh drew pictures from the book. We had a great time creating the tree.

Evan: The tree was awesome! It had everything from our Great Fire of London story. I made some flames for the tree.

Aaron: We put fireballs on the Christmas tree. We put fire round the tree.

Josh: The tinsel sparkled. We put the tree on fire. It was the Great fire of London.

Harry:



Grange Academy Christmas Tree Festival

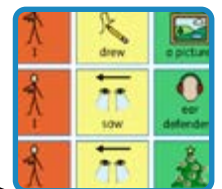
We took part in the Grange academy tree festival. The theme was 'The world around us.' We decided to create our tree with the way we see the world. We wrote about how we see the world and had ear defenders on top! We enjoyed creating our tree!

Arthur: We made shapes in PE. I drew pictures of things I play with. I wrote about Knex in my head and how they help me regulate sometimes.

Louis: I drew a fish for the tree. There were people on the tree.

Alex: I liked making shapes in PE to make decorations. We made a snowman and a snowflake shape.

Hamza:



Winners

Congratulations to the following classes for the best dressed and designed tree.

1st Place: Acer

2nd Place: Birch

3rd Place Elm



Beech



The Christmas Tree Festival themed 'The World Around Us' has been great fun. It got the class thinking about what we could do for our decorations on the tree. After lots of input from the pupil and a class vote we decide to do flags of the world as our theme. The pupils set about making hearts from air drying clay. They then chose the countries they wanted to do, researched and drew

the flag then re-created it in paint on the dried clay hearts. To finish them off they added festive sparkle and decorated our tree. Well done Beech class you did a great job.

Cayden: The trees all looked nice. I liked the one with the seasons on best.

Tulicia: It was good because it all looked nice.

Keith: It was magnificent because they all used different ideas.

Holly: They all looked very cool because they had different decorations on them.

Courtney: I liked our tree best because the flags were brilliant.

Ryan: It was good because I liked the theme and all the different decorations everyone has made.

Cameron: I loved it. I absolutely enjoyed it they were very cool I liked it.

Caoimhe: It was fun. It was cool seeing all the different designs. I did the glitter on our decorations.

Aarnav: It was colourful.

Calvin: I liked putting all the baubles on the tree. It was awesome.

Connie: I liked to see all the trees. They were all different.



Rowan

This week in Rowan Class all of the students have all been really excited about it getting closer to the Christmas holidays! There have been a lot of fun activities recently leading up to Christmas but, they have been super excited to eat Christmas dinner at Grange this year. Here are a few things that they have said about their experience eating Christmas dinner in the hall.

Ashmit: Christmas dinner was good in the hall. The chocolate cake was the best. My favourite dinner because I was with my friends in the hall.

Freddy: Christmas dinner in the hall is the best and I loved the Christmas crackers. I loved the hall because it played the best music.

Dylan: Christmas dinner in the hall was the best and I loved it. The pigs and blankets were amazing! I sat with my friends and it was really good.

Kajetan: I liked the Christmas dinner in the hall the food was so good. I liked being with all my friends and my teachers.

Kaleem: I liked the Christmas dinner in the hall because I was with my friends.

Asia: I liked being in the hall for Christmas dinner because I could sit with anyone.



3D Printing



This year ICT has been able to start offering our students the opportunity to start working with the latest in 3D printing technology.

They start by working in Tinkercad to begin to understand how the entire process begins, as this is where they start to build their first print. When the final product is completed, they get to have the finished design printed. We are looking forward to expanding this program as part of the STEM curriculum in the new year.



Primary DT

Wheels and axles!
Pupils have been investigating wheels and axles this term,

They have worked with a range of construction kits to develop their communication and problem-solving skills. They have had lots of fun making and testing a balloon powered buggy!



Hazel

On Friday 8th December, Grange Academy celebrated the Jewish festival Hanukkah by having a 'Bake off!' Classes decorated biscuits and cakes to represent Hanukkah and some students from pupil parliament helped to judge the winners. It was very tough competition! Well done to Elm class in Eagles and Walnut class in Red Kites.



Walnut Class



Elm Class

Kew Gardens Visit



On Thursday 30th December the Horticulture Options Group went on a visit to Kew Gardens in London. Kew Gardens is a botanic garden that

houses the 'largest and most diverse botanical and fungi collections in the world'. Pupils participated in the Plant Scientist workshop, learning about seed dispersal, pollination, and plant life cycles.

Scarlett: The gardens had pretty Christmas lights. In the conservatory there were lots of flowers from different countries. We took part in a workshop called Plant Scientist and it was about the lifecycle of seeds.

Alexis: I really liked seeing the different plants at Kew Gardens. There were lots of big trees that are really old. I liked walking through all the Autumn leaves on the ground.

Kyle: I saw lots of flowers in the conservatory. There was a waterfall. We did a workshop and looked at seeds with a magnifying glass.

Baron: I liked seeing all the plants. I liked spending time with Mr Richardson. We took lots of photos. We used a microscope in the Plant Scientist workshop to look at different parts of plants and seeds.

Kirsty: I liked seeing all the Christmas lights and taking part in the workshop activities.

Ray: There were lots of trees and we climbed up lots of steps to do the Tree Top Trail. It smelt of Autumn because of all the leaves on the ground.

Mariah: We saw some bright and colourful parrots at Kew Gardens.

Ben: We went to Kew Gardens to learn about horticulture and the life cycle of seeds. I went on the Tree Top Trail to see the trees and the gardens below. It was scary going up the stairs.

Tamsin: I liked it when I went to Kew Gardens because I saw all the beautiful parrots. It was very high up and very scary on the treetop walkway.



Elm

What a festive time full of fun we have been having towards the end of term! Elm class have shown an enormous amount of determination to rehearse and prepare a Christmas Performance to be proud of. We have been completing a wealth of Christmas crafts to spread cheer around the school and it has certainly paid off. The school looks fab!

Kaiden: We played a Dreidel game, the signs meant 'A Great Miracle happened there.' You got points for the sign. We made Dreidel biscuits for the competition. I was a judge it was amazing because you go all round the school to see the biscuits.

Ruby: I like my dress I wear in the performance. I am the narrator telling the story. I loved making the Christmas tree.

Tyrese: I like Hanukkah as we made biscuits and decorated them, they tasted awesome.

Nevaeha: I enjoyed the church and all the singing I stood at the front to sign the songs.

Hannah: I like putting the icing on my Hanukkah biscuits, spinning the dreidel and playing the game.

Malakai: I liked making the decorations for our Christmas tree.

Justine: I like dressing up as a snowman and doing our performance practice.

Amber: I like making the decorations for our Christmas tree and going to see everyone else.

Eva: I enjoyed having Christmas dinner, the turkey, pigs in blankets, potatoes. I like having lunch with my friends and listening to Christmas music. Making Christmas things has been fun!

Tristan: I have been doing my puzzle, it's a 1000 piece puzzle and I have been doing it for weeks of Harry Potter!



Year 11 News

From January, if you phone the school office over lunch time (12 – 1pm) you might find that the phone is answered by one of our fabulous Year 11 students. Please be patient with them and don't share anything confidential. Once they have answered the phone, they will hand you over to one of the office team who will be supervising them.

Thank you for your support while they gain these valuable skills which can help them in future employment.



Hazel

Hazel Class enjoyed their Christmas dinner in their classroom this year.

The boys designed their own table mats and decorated the classroom. The cracker jokes were met with mixed opinions and the traditional paper hat worn by a few members of the class. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all. Reece even went back for seconds at pudding time.

Everyone in Hazel Class wishes all of Grange Academy a very merry Christmas.

Our favourite cracker jokes:

What does a dentist get when they win an award?

A little Plaque

What do Santa's helpers learn at school?

The 'Elf'abet

Food Share Update



The Food Share Scheme at Grange Academy is run with the help of several Co-op and Sainsbury's stores and staff volunteers. These stores give us their 'best before' dated food which is collected by staff in the mornings, then sorted and refrigerated/frozen first thing in the morning. In the afternoons some pupils on Work

Experience help to bag up and distribute the food to over 50 different pupils across the school. In the past 4 weeks over 250 bags of food have been given out. Sometimes they contain just bread and pastries, other days they are full of fruits, veggies and ready meals – it all varies as to what comes in on the day!

This week we were very lucky to have a donation from

a regular at the Royal Oak Pub in Carlton, who very kindly donated a full turkey dinner for a family of 4! We visited the Royal Oak and collected this generous donation from the lovely Paris at the pub.

Regulars at the pub have also been working with Happy Days Charity to provide lots of toys for our Primary children, which will be distributed in the last few days of term!

The lovely staff and customers from the Co-op store in Harrold who so very generously donated lots of food to make up Christmas Goody bags for everyone on the food share scheme!



Christmas Card Competition

Pupils across the school took part in this year's Christmas Card competition using the "2Paint A Picture" tool in

Purple Mash. Above are just some of the entrants. We would like to commend all pupils who took part.

This year's winners are:

Eagles: Jerome (Maple)
Red Kites: Amy (Sycamore)

Mrs Rowley, ICT Teacher



Art News

Aboriginal Art

Pupils have been investigating the

Aboriginal Culture and Art this term as part of our topic: 'Journeys'. They have been exploring our connections with symbols and comparing our understanding of symbols with those the Aborigines use.

We have been discovering different Australian animals and created Aboriginal dot style paintings. Pupils enjoyed listening to music played on a didgeridoo. We had a relaxing and mediating time making them! **Miss Lumsden**



Creative Arts Workshop

Fermynwoods Contemporary Arts Visit us again!

Pupils took part in an exciting two day creative arts workshop with three professional artists; **Abbie Canning, Louise Beer and John Hooper** from Fermynwoods Contemporary Arts Collective this term.

Pupils explored thoughts about the environment and climate change, with the aim of creating a permanent site-specific sound sculpture for the sensory garden. The planned sculpture will have sensors which will respond to movement and will play a sound piece created by the pupils over the 2 day workshop.

Pupils took part in a range of activities included drawing, collage, photography and working with different microphones and sound equipment. Pupils enjoyed listening to natural sounds around the school site using a parabolic microphone. This microphone amplified sounds of rustling in the trees and bird song. It was also great fun listening to the chickens, goats and sheep and pigs amplified!

Looking under the microscope pupils discovered the tiny patterns and textures of natural found materials which they had collected on their walks.

Fermynwoods will be returning in the Spring term to install the sculpture and award certificates contributing to the Arts Mark Award.

Sienna: It was the best thing ever. We were whispering, passing the microphone around listening to animals and nature. They showed me how much art means to me in the world.

Aaron: We used microphones to hear the crackling sounds. We used the microscopes to see all the layers inside an ants' nest.

Megan: It was the best spirits I've ever been through. I was listening to all the things you can not hear with ears normally. I heard rustling and the birds tweeting.

