

13th December 2024



The Grange Times



Elm

This term's topic has been Medieval Mayhem, so what better way to top of the topic than a trip to Warwick Castle.

Elm class had an amazing day, from climbing the Tower to learning about the Kingmaker, to going into a Dungeon and trying not to get lost in the Horrible Histories maze. They also tried to make flour, learn about medicine in Medieval times and parading through the Grand Hall.



Luca: I got put to work making flour.

Lewis: I liked climbing the tower.

Martin: I like Warwick Castle, I enjoyed the tower.

Zach: we got to see a bird show and run around a maze.

Samuel: I enjoyed the maze the most, trying to find the stamps for our Horrible Histories passport.



I just want to say what a pleasure it has been teaching the boys this term. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Mr Kilcoyne

Pine



Pine Class have been reflecting on what they have been doing this term.

Marcus: This week I have been learning about a mean, mean man from the Victorian Era called 'Scrooge'. Scrooge was a greedy, heartless old

man who hated Christmas! He was the Grinch of the Victorian Era. He saw his old dead friend Jacob Marley as a ghost, and he was told that he will be visited by three ghosts who will change his life for the better.

Aishah: I have been creating Christmas cards for the stores that have helped Grange Academy food share scheme. I think it is a kind thing that they do to help my friends.

Lucas: I went to Manchester to celebrate my 16th birthday with mum. We went on the tram to the Christmas market. There were lots of hot food stands there. I bought a new tracksuit, some trainers, a T shirt and trainers.

Emmanuel: It is great to have the school gym back after the storm had damaged it. I like all the equipment but the rowing machine best because it is good for my heart.

Aaron: I went to chestnut glass for a game's afternoon. I played Guess Who? And Connect 4 and I won! I had popcorn and juice. I enjoyed my afternoon.

Rowan: We have been learning about the story 'A Christmas Carol'; it is a ghost story written by Charles Dickens. The main characters are Scrooge and his dead business partner Jacob Marley. Jacob visits Scrooge and tries to make him like Christmas and to be nice to people.

The message of this story is to be kind to everyone all the time.

Connor: In drama I played the ghost of Jacob Marley, and my mission was to get Scrooge to change his wicked mind. I gave him warnings about what will happen to his spirit if he doesn't change his ways; his spirit will be forever in purgatory, suffering with chains all around him.

Max: This week in forest school I went searching for squirrels and I found two! I also saw an airbus in the sky.



Horse Riding Party

The Robins team all had a very enjoyable morning at the BDHRA's (horse riding centre) Christmas party. Some pupils took part in a nativity story and then we played some party games. It was very exciting to see Santa arrive on a horse and deliver some presents for us. We also enjoyed the party food!



Acer



Last week we had a new member of Acer Class join us, Nibbles the guinea pig. We were all very excited and happy to have Nibbles in our classroom. We also went to Pets at Home to buy him some new things. We wrote a list of wanted we wanted to buy and made some good choices in the shop. We know Nibbles will be very happy with us in Acer Class.

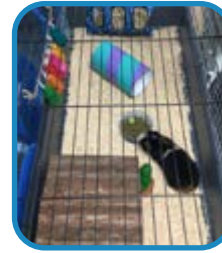


Alex: I loved getting things for Nibbles. We got him a cottage, Christmas decorations a chew tree and a chew tunnel. He liked them a lot and squeaked with happiness.

Louis: Nibbles is very cute. He is smaller than Bubble and Squeak. We got him a food bowl with his name on.

Jack: I love guinea pigs. Nibbles is very cute. Bubble and Squeak are also very sweet. I am very happy that

Nibbles is in our class.



Acer Class finished their Medieval Magic trip with a visit to Warwick Castle. We found out about castle life, climbed to the top of the tower, and held a sword. We also enjoyed watching the birds of prey show.

Lewis: We went to Warwick Castle. I held a sword. I had a birthday cake at the castle.

Harrison: I climbed to the top of the mound. I felt scared being very high. I looked at lots of dates at the castle.

Hamza: _____



Redwood

This term we have been learning all about different types of castles; their geographical locations and the features they may have. Our topic lessons have taken a fun turn as we have been able to design and build our very own castles! To top it off the Eagles classes; Redwood, Elm and Rowan visited Warwick Castle! We all had a wonderful time pointing out all of the parts of a castle, climbing to the top of the towers and imagining what life would be like as a knight, nobleman or peasant in the medieval times.

Freddie: I liked to climb the stairs, up the tower to see out at the top!

Ugne: I like seeing the clothes and dresses. I liked the great dining hall. I liked the bird show.

Hope: I enjoyed going to the top of the tower to see the views. I also found it interesting to learn all the things and especially about the ways they defended the castle.

Jack: I loved going to the top of the castle! I liked the dungeon too.

Noah: I liked it when the lady told us about medieval medicine and when they used to throw boiling wee and poo on people to protect the castle.

Eva-Louise: I loved it! I'm proud that I climbed up the tower and watched the bird show!

Nevaeha: I loved that we got to see the real castle, it was big and high. It was fun that we got to see people acting and giving us information about the castle.



ICT News



Summer started her journey into programming with the Microbit which is a miniature computer developed by the BBC to introduce children to programming.

Summer excelled at this so Mr Richardson introduced her to MakerBlock and mBlock programming where she could build and programme a robot.



She named her completed robot Winter. Summer has received a Headteachers award for this achievement.



The students in Hazel class have been working extremely hard this

Autumn term to learn what is expected of them in their day-to-day routine, and some have even been able to go above and beyond in their lessons to ensure they excel and achieve the best outcomes they are capable of. Hazel class have recently welcomed Jack to the class. Many new friendships have been made among pupils in the class, and they are learning how to encourage their friends and champion others.

On Wednesday, Hazel class enjoyed a Christmas themed DT lesson with Miss Lumsden, making Christmas cards using a finger-painting technique, to take home and give to someone.

Tyrese: I have enjoyed maths because Miss Treble is giving me hard work! But it's a little bit easy. Also making the cookies with Miss Cherry on the 'fun' day. I have been making new food in food tech, and the Asian pasta that I made the other week was something that you hadn't tried before.

Amber: My favourite thing was going to Bedford town with Beech and Walnut class. We looked at different buildings and doors, and we had to draw what the buildings looked like. I enjoyed going on the bus, and being outside of school.

Ruby: My favourite activity is Animal Care. My favourite animal is the goats, because I like the name of their breed, Golden Guernsey. I enjoyed music, especially the music quiz and making a soundtrack using different instruments on BandLab.

Tristan: I have enjoyed making friends with Dylan in Hazel, and I have enjoyed learning new things in

Hazel

maths about angles.

Dylan: I liked going to the pantomime this week! There were very funny moments, we had lots of snacks and chilling with my friends. Very enjoyable, 10/10 I would love to do it again! I've enjoyed meeting new people, like everyone in Hazel class.

Eva: My favourite thing has been when we were on the bus and we went out to sketch the buildings in Bedford. I liked it when I sketched The Vue. The best thing I saw was the church. It

Emilia: I have enjoyed making new friends, Megan, Naomi, Anna, Jasmine. I have also enjoyed making food from all over the world in food tech. Also we have done hockey, badminton and netball in PE and I like going outside for fresh air.

Hannah: I liked going to Bedford town to have a look at all the buildings and doing sketching, it was really fun. I also really enjoyed netball, I like to catch the ball and mark the person. I like doing food tech and doing the icing on the biscuit. I like doing fun activities and fun lessons in Hazel class.

Justine: I have enjoyed maths lessons and learning about fractions and putting things into groups. I loved making lots of new friends in Hazel class and in other classes.

Umar: Lesson I really enjoyed is that I have fun in Math or English, I Also my friends and my classmates in P.E. and it was a fun day.

Jack: I've enjoyed maths lessons, and I enjoy learning Macbeth. I enjoyed football at lunch times with people from other classes. I have made friends with Eva, Hannah, Tyrese, Tristan, Ruby, Justine and Amber. Everyone in Hazel class is my friend.



Christmas Lunch

Grange Academy pupils and staff enjoyed their Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 11th December 2024. Some classes chose to remain in their classrooms and have their lunch as a group with their teachers. Some classes came into the hall and were joined by staff and outside visitors.

A massive thank you to Bev, Nicki and Sandra for preparing and serving a delicious lunch.



Food Share

A massive thank you to Coop Harold, Coop Marston, Coop Cranfield, Coop Kempston, Sainsbury's Great Denham and Sainsbury's Kempston who have supported Grange with our Food Share initiative.

We have given out 730 to families since September 2024.

Food For Life Toolkit

Click on the link below for recipes, celebration and craft ideas to do as a family over the festive period.

[Festive Food for Life Toolkit](#)



Christmas Fayre



Friends of Grange recently held a Christmas fayre for families, friends, and the local community.

It was a very busy couple of hours, and everyone had

lots of fun. We are very pleased to announce we raised over £1200 from the fayre.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support.

Kestrels enterprise team have been very lucky to have received lots of donated handmade crocheted items made by Mrs Coles mum (Lilliane) The items have been beautiful and varied including blankets hats, scarfs, toys, scrunchies, bags etc. They are all beautiful items and proved very popular with customers. We also got handmade gift tags, glass bottle ornaments and Paddington toys donated which we were able to sell at our Fayre. Thank you so much to all of your for donating items to help us raise funds for our Sunshine Garden and Enterprise projects like the Easter Fete

coming in March.

The pupils volunteered their own time to come along and help Mrs Didlick on the day. They were excellent role models for the school, worked very hard, socialised beautifully with the customers and used their maths and social skills. Well done all of you. Kestrels team are really proud of you.

Ryan: I really enjoyed it because I could socialise with my friends and the customers that came to our stall.

Arron: I wanted to help at the Christmas fete because it is a good experience to do. I enjoyed it because I got to help people who couldn't see the prices properly.

Sienna: I enjoyed the Christmas fete because it was really fun, and I loved helping out. It was a pleasure getting to help. I helped to give customers their change.

Bradley: I enjoyed the Christmas fete because I got to experience what it is like to do a job for when I grow up later in life. It helped me with my money and social skills. It was good to socialise.

Maple

Maple class are starting to feel 'Christmassy', they have started to take part in some Christmas themed activities in their lessons and have really been enjoying it, one of their favourites so far was there yule log 'competition' in food tech, where each child decorated a yule log with chocolate buttercream and the decorations they liked. They all took part, helped their friends and had lots of fun.

Riley: I enjoyed decorating it.

Jack: I spread my buttercream and put marshmallows on the top and on each side.

Alfie: I enjoyed decorating mine it was really tasty and lovely to make.

Alex: I liked decorating the yule log, yule logs are a Christmas tradition.

Seth: I tried my hardest and came 2nd, I had fun decorating mine.

Jeffrey: I took mine home and shared it with my brother.

Aneesa: I put sprinkles all over mine.

Jerome: It was a fun activity, I gave mine to mum and dad.

Summer: I loved it because it was a fun activity to do and I came 1st.



Rowan



Rowan Class have had so many wonderful moments and memories this term. One of the most exciting

highlights was their visit to Warwick Castle. Here are some of their favourite moments from the day.

Kai: I have learnt lots of things, the most interesting fact was in the medieval times. People used to drink their wee to see if they had diabetes. They also used to eat mint for a nice breath.

Asia: We explored the castle; I enjoyed exploring the queens bedroom it was beautiful.

Kajetan: I liked the bird show.

Toby: I like the birds and the owl William.

Kayden: I enjoyed looking at the medieval weapons and landscape around the castle.

Max: I loved the falcon and walking around seeing the castle. It was fun ticking things off our tick list.

Freddy: I loved walking around the peacocks. The dungeons were really cool too.

Stephen: The bird show was my favourite part. I loved the falcon because it flew so high in the sky and zoomed down like a rocket.

Lucy: I liked the Christmassy decorations in the castle.

Piotr: I loved the bird show, the hawk called Charlie was my favourite. Also, going up the castle to the tower was crazy fun.



Willow



Last week we went to Warwick Castle. It was a fantastic day where we explored the castle and got to experience the Christmas festivities.

We learnt all about the castle and the history surrounding it. We saw some of the famous monarchs, went in the horrible histories maze and played in the Zog playground.

Robert: I liked when we went to the play ground and looking at the Christmas decorations.

Jordan: I liked seeing all the Christmas trees and the castle was so big.

Jake: I liked the maze and getting the horrible history stamps.

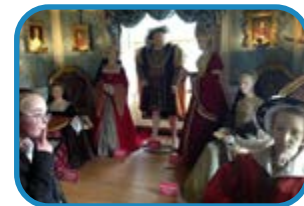
Robin: I loved the maze, I liked learning about the castle, I saw the armour and I held a sword.

Teddy: I loved everything. My most favourite part was the maze and I liked learning about the weapons. I always wanted to hold them.

Keyaan: I liked the Christmas trees. There was lots!

Dejon: I liked learning about the knights. It was fun and I got to hold a sword and try armour on.

Phoebe: I felt like a princess in the castle and the costumes were pretty!



Beech class have enjoyed a variety of activities and opportunities in their lessons and extra curricular. They have worked really hard to do their best in their tests. They are showing growing independence with their work as they move through their entry levels and begin thinking about options they might want to choose next year.



Oliver: I enjoy using the Prodigy math's app and have been top of my class this term.

Courtney: I like doing animal care and seeing the pony.

Connie: I have enjoyed animal care because we

have a cheeky pony. I love holding the guinea pigs and helping move the rabbits around with Tulicia.

Aarnav: I have enjoyed animal care.

Ryan: I like animal care because I enjoy moving the rabbits and feeding all the animals.

Cayden: I enjoy animal care most with the horse.

Tulicia: I enjoy hockey in PE and like being competitive. I like seeing my friend Connie.

Holly: I have enjoyed doing hockey in PE. I liked doing the Gladiator activities in social skills too as well as fractions in maths.

Cameron: This term I have enjoyed working with my favourite teachers.



Cedar



Cedar class have been using their ICT and design skills to create digital Christmas thank you cards for everyone who has supported the Share shack programme. This has meant editing photos, creating and manipulating shapes in PowerPoint and thinking carefully about how they ensure it is Christmas based for this time of year.

Ray: I am thankful for all

the food they give to us and others.

Ollie: It has really helped by feeding my family and others.

Rodney: I'm thankful for the free food and happy others can enjoy it too.

Reece: I like all the option you can have and there are so many tasty things

Ryan: We try to help by sort the food into the bags and deliver them around the school.



ICT Art Skills

This week, Lee Robinson, Chair of the Governors, visited the school, and he joined an ICT lesson with Hazel class.

During it, and other lessons this week, pupils have been creating Christmas Vector art on the computers – this involves using shapes to create simple designs.

Below is a collection of some of the work from across the school – as you can see, we have some very creative pupils at Grange.



Transfiguration Festival

Acer and Kestrels entered trees into the tree competition at the Transfiguration church at the end of November. Members of the public were able to vote for their favourite trees.

Grange Academy came 3rd in the competition! Thank you to everyone that voted for our trees.



Purple Mash Competition

2Simple have once again held their exciting, annual Festive Card Competition where children around the world use the award-winning platform, Purple Mash, to submit a festive card summarising what the festive period means to them.

Children used the 2Paint a Picture tool to create and submit their designs for the 2024 Festive Card Competition.

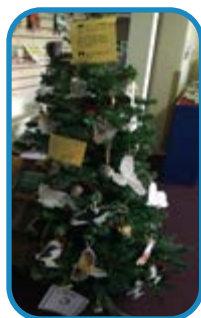
Congratulations to Jeffrey in Willow Class who was a runner up. Each runner up won a giftbag full of 2Simple merchandise.

Grange Christmas Tree Festival

Classes were given the task of decorating Christmas trees with the theme 'All creatures great and small'. Mrs Timms and Mrs Foster judged the trees and picked some winners. They both commented on how hard it was to pick the winning trees. The results are as follows:



1st



2nd



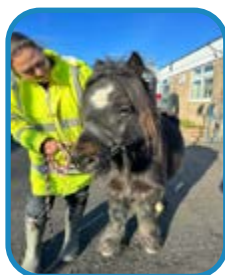
3rd

1st Place: tree number 5 - Redwood

2nd Place: tree number 3 - Pine

3rd place: tree number 14 - Acer Class

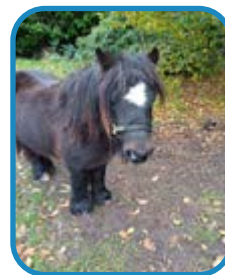
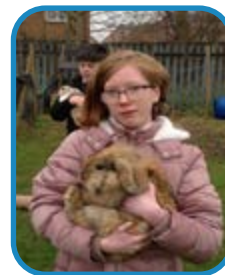
Well done to all classes for their hard work.



Grange Farm

The farm has welcomed a new addition. Nutmeg is a 5 year old Shetland Pony.

He is extremely cheeky and wants to go to all the classes with the children! He particularly likes Forest School!



To have a look at all our animals on click the link here on our website.
<https://grange.beds.sch.uk/grange-academy-community-farm/>

Diary Dates

Tuesday 17th December 2024 - Christmas Service at Kempston East Methodist Church @ 10 am

Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 1 pm - End of Term

Thursday 19th December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025 - Christmas Holidays

Monday 6th January 2025 - Pupils Return