

11th December 2025



The Grange Times



Redwood

Redwood raised a whopping £84 towards their garden; this means the class can buy new plants and games. Every student got involved with the planning, preparation and delivering of the event. Students had such a good time at the games afternoon that it will be making a come back for Easter.

Sophia: I had fun playing the games I played the puzzle and headbands games. There was cake and loads of games tables.

Bryony: For our games afternoon we had about 6 different classes join us. We had games such as Twister and Uno. We had fizzy drinks and juice. We sold yummy cupcakes/cakes.

Summer: What I liked about the game afternoon was doing the food and drink. The people came to it and paid to come. Lots of us helped Miss Williams to set up the tables and chairs. Jerome helped me with the food and drink. I love the game afternoon!

Jerome: Thank you everybody for coming to the drinks table it was a pleasure serving you have the best Christmas! I liked to say thank you to Summer for helping me on the table.

Freddy: I played lots of games with a lot of people. We sold lots of cakes and soda. I played Doble to.

Samuel: I hosted a table which had uno cards and a few other games. I managed the games to make sure no-one was cheating. I enjoyed it and because I hosted a table I got a free drink.

Ugne: I was playing twister with my friends, and it was fun. There were lots of drinks and cakes. I worked on the sensory station. I felt very happy and excited.

Jason: I made a poster all about Redwood's game afternoon. The afternoon had cakes, drinks, uno, bucket pong, twister and monopoly. We set up the tables, and we had a good time.

Martin: I was playing Monopoly in the Redwood games afternoon. We set up the games, and everyone was having fun. We got a lot of money.

Jacob: I liked the Christmas music in the background. We set up lots of tables for games.

Zach: I was on the colouring table.

Freddie: I helped make posters for the Redwood games afternoon.



Cedar

Cedar class have had a very exciting end to the year. We have been to the cinema and the NEC careers fair!

In school we have had a lovely Christmas dinner, made Christmas tree decorations from recycled bottle tops, seen the M&M pantomime, decorated yule logs. We also were visited by the Lord Lieutenant of Bedford!

Whilst celebrating this festive time of year we have also been working hard towards their Entry Level 3 English qualification.

Cayden: I like the new goat, Gertie, she is very cute!

Skye: I have really enjoyed seeing the new goat!

Naomi: I liked going to the cinema, I enjoyed the movie!

Ben: I enjoyed the Christmas dinner as I liked spending time with the class.

Adam: I enjoyed the NEC careers day as it was nice to see different jobs I can do.

Connie: The pantomime was fun and made me laugh.

Arron: I have enjoyed forest school and making a full English breakfast.

Amna: I enjoyed eating the Christmas lunch with everyone.

Sienna: I loved going to the panto and having Christmas dinner altogether.

Ryan: I enjoyed the pantomime, it was funny.

Keith: The pantomime was great and my favourite character was Peter Pan.

Megan: I liked how we had Christmas dinner together.



Acer

Acer class have had a very busy couple of weeks. We started our Christmas celebrations by going to the cinema in Milton Keynes to see 'How to Train Your Dragon' and went to see the Christmas lights in the Centre MK. We also decorated a Christmas tree for the Transfiguration Church festival. We decorated our tree with the theme of the 80th anniversary of VE day. We ate our Christmas dinner in our class with our friends, and we have been practicing for our Christmas Nativity with the rest of Falcons.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas with your family and friends.
Acer Class x

Alex: There was huge and pretty Christmas in the shopping hall in Milton Keynes. We tossed coins into the wishing fountain. The money raised went to people with cancer. I really enjoyed going through the big, light up mushroom.

Aneyk: I went to the cinema. I watched the film. We looked at the lights. We didn't go in the shops. I saw the pantomime show.

Lewis: I have enjoyed practicing the songs for the Christmas play. I helped put the decorations on the Christmas tree. I put an aircraft on the tree.

Harrison: I have been practising for the Christmas play. I am Caesar and I tell everyone that they need to go back to their hometown. I like singing the songs.

Louis: I helped decorate the tree at the church. I helped Alex put the lights on the tree. I liked the World War 2 theme.

Gabriel: I liked seeing the Christmas lights. I enjoyed the cinema and the pantomime. I helped with the Christmas fayre and decorating the tree at the church.

Jack: I liked the movie. We watched How to train a dragon. I liked all of it. We went to see the lights. I didn't really like them that much.

Carter:



Willow

Willow Class went to the cinema in Milton Keynes to watch 'How to train a dragon' with Acer and Maple Class. They sat nicely and enjoyed some snacks whilst they watched it. After the film we went across to the shopping centre and looked at their Christmas village area, there was lots of bits to walk through.

Willow class had a really good day, and it was the perfect start to the Christmas season.

Scarlett: I liked the Christmas lights because they were pretty.

Jake: I liked the movie; there was some sad bits in it.

Jessica: I liked the movie, it was fun.

Phoebe: The lights were good, they were colourful

Jordan: I like Christmas lights.



Oak

This half term we have been learning about Glittering Glaciers! We have explored the Arctic, the Antarctic, where people live in the Polar regions and what it's like to go to school in the Arctic. What have we learned?

Alfie: Polar bear and narwhal.

Ayaan: What is a glacier? A glacier is a slow-moving river of ice.

Halle: Polar bears live in the Arctic. Penguins live in the Antarctic.

Henry: Arctic, cold.

Keyaan: Snow in the Arctic.

Lilly-Jo: Glaciers are in the Arctic where it is very, very cold - brrrrr!

Phoebe: Arctic, polar bear and whale. Snow, cold.





Elm

Elm class have had a great half-term and are looking forward to the Christmas break.

They have created a Superhero reading corner, learnt about the Victorians including Queen Victoria and Nellie Bly.

They have enhanced their Gymnastic and Basketball skills in P.E., improved their reading with Flat Stanley and polished up on their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in Maths.

They have made Music, had fun in Forest school, went to church took part in Remembrance Day celebrations, embraced the Grange Mile and Santa run, enjoyed a Christmas dinner and made new friends.

Some class members have been part of the Grange Academy football team, representing the school and scoring goals.

We have elected a new class Member of the Grange Parliament and have two budding Eco warriors.

As a class we are looking forward to the New Year and the chance to experience new things and make new friends and memories.

Thank you, Elm class, for producing some amazing work, making me and Miss Ali laugh and working together to make Elm class great.

Palm

Palm Class have had a great term so far. They had their first trip as class into town where they were able to practice using their bus passes. They also visited a local café, where they had the opportunity to order independently and use their money handling skills. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from M&M theatre productions, who performed 'A Christmas Carol' for us.

Holly: Me and my classmates went into town and we found a café to buy some food. I had 10 pounds to spend and managed to get quite a lot for my budget. We did this as a part of our life skills to learn about handling money. Recently we watched a pantomime in the school hall which I really enjoyed and there was a plot twist at the end.

Calvin: I went to town with Palm class. We travelled on a bus, and I used my bus pass to get on the bus. We went to a café in Bedford, and I had a hot chocolate, it was so nice! We also went to the library to return my book then we came back to school.

Ryan: I walked with Palm class to the bus stop to catch the bus into town. It didn't take long to get there. When we were in Bedford town, we decided to eat in a café and I bought a breakfast. We finished the food, and we decided to go back to school.

Aarnav: We walked to a bus stop in Kempston to catch the bus into the town centre and visit a café. I bought a soft drink with a £5 note to see what change I would get. I got to use my bus pass which allows me travel for free.

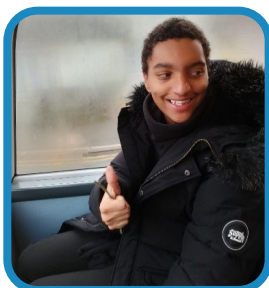
Bradley: I went to Bedford town on the bus it was okay. We went to the library, and we also went to go and eat some food in a café I bought a sandwich and then we came back to school. I really enjoyed the day out.

In December we also watched a pantomime in the hall. I found it very entertaining and I loved how Scrooge came out from a screen.

Alfie: I went to Bedford town recently in November and it was not as cool as last time because we only went to 2 places as we didn't have much time. In town I went to the library and got 4 books. We also went to the café, but I didn't buy anything because I thought it was overpriced.

Matthew: Recently, on Wednesdays, I have been doing external work experience at the church café. I have been helping by giving drinks and setting up the table. I do the work experience with another pupil in my class, and we take it in turns to ask what the customers would like. We take the things they request to them.

Rowan: Recently me and my class went on a trip to town. We took a bus there which was fun as I'm somebody who often likes going on buses all the time. We went into Bedford library and looked around, and I got a new book. Afterwards we went into café that we had never been to before. I bought a hot chocolate which was nice, but Gregg would have been better! We then waited 20 minutes for the bus to take us back to school overall it was a good trip.





Ash

This week, our students in ash have had a wonderful time when we visited Riverfree Free school for our sensory session in the Immersion room.



It's been wonderful to see how much beneficial this multi-sensory experience is for our kids providing interactive experiences that stimulate multiple senses. They also had a lovely time during our Christmas dinner with their friends and the staff!

Alex: "I see, yellow and purple!"
Michael: "My shadow! On the wall!"
Olivia: "Pink!"



Comicon Trip

On Friday 28th November, our class went to Comicon in Birmingham. I came to school in my Ghostface outfit. We drove for 1 hour and 30 minutes. When we arrived, there were lots of people dressed up in cosplay. My favourite cosplay that I saw was Angel Dust from Hazbin Hotel. I took a picture with her. We walked for a long time looking at all the stalls. I enjoyed it a lot.

Jake: When we went to Comic-Con it was really fun to see what people can come up with for their costumes. My favourite costumes were the massive Jack Skeleton and an emo Deku. It was really fun, but the stalls were just quite expensive.

Tulicia: At Comicon it was fun. I saw someone dressed as the Grinch and his dog Max. I also saw Jack Skellington from The Nightmare Before Christmas. It was really cool. We had the opportunity to draw with some 'Posca' pens. They are like paint pens, and they can draw on most surfaces.



ICT News



Pupils across the school participated in the annual Purple Mash Festive Card Competition, creating images with the application to express what the festive season means to them.

This year, the competition received over 8000 entries from around the world – 103 of those came from Grange Academy! Pupils embraced the challenge and, as always, produced some fantastic designs.

The school and I are proud to announce that Aishah from Pine Class won first place in the 13 and over category with her festive picture created using the 2Paint a Picture tool. Her design is now available on the Purple Mash site for all users to download and is being used by the company as one of their official cards this year. Well done, Aishah, on this outstanding achievement.

To view the official Purple Mash press release and YouTube video featuring all winners, please visit <https://www.2simple.com/blog/festive-card-competition-winners-and-runners-up/>



Christmas Fayre Update

On Saturday 29th November, Friends of Grange held their annual Christmas Fayre. We had games, local sellers selling their crafts and a visit from Father Christmas.

We raised a fantastic **£1300**. Thank you to everyone who donated things to sell, helped set up or volunteered at the event. Without this support, events like this would not happen. The money raised will go towards supporting pupils at Grange Academy.

May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your support with the Christmas fayre and our other events this year. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. From the Friends of Grange Team

Careers

This term we have had the pleasure of the Road Safety Team come in to talk with our year 10's and 11 pupils to talk about the variety of jobs that are in this field. Also, about the danger's around our roads.

- * The DWP have been in guiding some of our year 10's and 11's around the world of work. This included skills they have that can be transferred into different types of employment. They have also been trying their hand at creating CV's, preparing for interviews and carrying out mock interviews.
- We have had the pleasure of Carole from Barclays who has introduced our pupils to their Life skills programme. They are working their way through some of the learning opportunities. They are free to work on this at home as well as in school. Carole has been going through things they will see on a payslip and what they mean. What the difference between a debit

card and a credit card is. Skills for life within the world of money and safety with it.

- Year 11 pupils have had the opportunity to work with a team from Red Bull and Formula 1. They learned about the different jobs and were able to have a go at change the wheels on the front of a model car and programme machines to go across a track that was built in the hall. Design their own helmets and cars.
- For those that are wanting to be budding actors and actresses, we have had the Panto crew come in and perform coming up to Christmas. Please see flyer for those interested in performing.
- Emily our local Police officer came in and did careers talk to our year 10 and 11 pupils in October. This was about the many different jobs within the Police force. Emily shared how she started many years ago to becoming a police officer and now within her role working mainly within schools.

- Forty-five pupils from year 10 and 11 visited the Careers Fayre at the NEC in Birmingham. They got to talk and explore some of the opportunities available in the world of work. The uniform forces were present with some hands on activities they could explore. Employers were also present who talked about apprenticeships that they offered in their companies.
- Acer class visited the Careers fayre in Houghton Regis. They got to explore some of the services that work with SEND young people. Services that they could be used to support them in the future. Activities for budding actresses.
- Lots of the classes have been working on individual enterprises raising money for things for their classes and trips.

Well done to Sycamore class for raising the money to have a day out to ComiCon.



Art Workshop

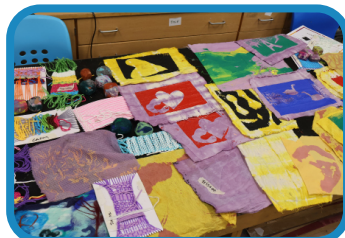
The art department had a visit from Create Charity. The artist Renata Minoldo led a four day workshop for pupils from Red Kites. It was a textile workshop which explored a number of different techniques from around the world. They created artwork using Japanese tie-dye called Shiboro, weaving, wet felt making and went foraging for natural ingredients that they could use to make their own dye for their projects.

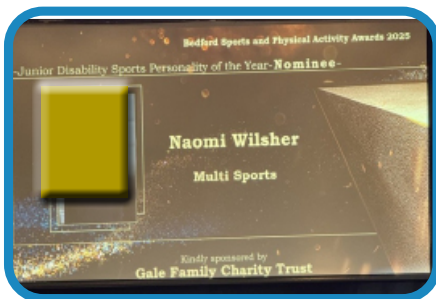
Betsy: The workshop made me feel happy. I enjoyed making the felt soap.

Tristan: The workshop was fun. It made me feel excited and artistic. I enjoyed doing the Shibori and making a felt wall hanging.

A: I really enjoyed using the citric acid and soda ash to change the colour of the fabric and create a design.

Eva: I really enjoyed doing the Shibori which is Japanese tie-dye. It was fun making the felt exfoliating soap. At the end of the 4 days, I felt proud of my achievements and being able to show my work to my mum and nan.





NW Sports Award Pupil Nomination

An amazing achievement for Naomi, nominated for the Junior Disability Sports Personality of the Year, selected for the event which was held at the Corn Exchange in Bedford on Monday 8th December.

Below is her write-up for her nomination:

Naomi has become a role model to younger pupils at the Grange Academy School with her willingness and determination to succeed in all areas of PE, she has shown that she can work with her peers and has overcome the barrier of being the only girl in the school football team. Her passion for sport shines through and encourages other to try and develop their own skills. Naomi has dedicated her own time to improving her sporting skills, she will practice outside in all weathers to finely tune her skills be that in football, gymnastics or running, she encourages others to join in and helps them to develop their own skills, leading by example in lessons and practice. Naomi has joined a football team outside of school and is thriving in that team. She is also a House Captain at Grange Academy.

Massive congratulations on your Nomination Naomi.



Mental Health Bronze Award

I am pleased and proud to share that the Mental Health Champions have achieved the Bronze School Award. This has been awarded in recognition of Grange Academy's commitment to training and supporting pupils to lead as Mental Health Champions.

The Mental Health Champions have been amazing - particularly with the support they have offered for Wear it Green Day, Pride Parade and Anti-Bullying Week.

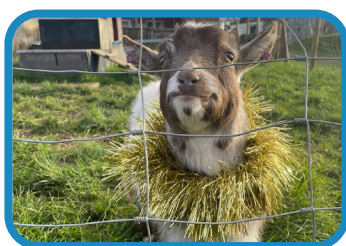
Today we have started to discuss Children's Mental Health Week which take place in February. Please look out for an email about that coming soon.

New Addition to the Farm

Grange Community Farm has a new edition.

Gertie, a 5 month old pygmy goat arrived at Grange last week. She came from a local farm where she was very much loved. She has already made herself at home and is very friendly and likes to sit on laps!

She was a hit at our recent Saturday morning open day.



Farm Donation



Grange had a surprise visit from former Head of Primary at Grange Academy. Despite it being 10 years since he retired, Brian Hardman is still in contact with the school.

On his visit today he presented a cheque for £25 from Kempston Rovers Walking Football. This donation will be a welcome contribution to the running of the school farm.



He had a personal thank you from Andrea Foster, Animal Care Lead and a cuddle from our new addition to the farm, Gertie the goat.

ALL STARS YOUTH CLUB

Looking for a fun inclusive space to relax, make friends and try new activities? All Stars is the perfect space for you!

From January 6th and 7th, All Stars Youth Club will be running on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 4:30pm- 5:30pm.

What can you expect at All Stars?

A warm and friendly welcome, the opportunity to chat and mix with your peers & different weekly activities.

To find out more, please speak to Ms Charnock or Miss Frith



Other Notices

Bedford Blues Rugby Club have launched a new initiative called 'Ability Blues', offering sessions every Saturday morning.

The programme has been designed for those with physical or learning disabilities, using a variety of sports and activities to develop fundamental movements such as agility, balance and co-ordination, as well as giving participants a safe, fun environment to get healthy.

Please see the link for further information

<https://www.bluesfoundation.org.uk/ability-blues>



Diary Dates

Monday 15th December 2025 - Christmas Service at East Methodist Church

Wednesday 17th December 2025 - Last Day of Term 1 pm Finish

Thursday 18th December 2025 - Christmas Holidays

Monday 5th January 2026 - Pupils Return to School

