

THE GRANGE TIMES

5th February 2026

Elm



This term Elm class have been learning about all things space, so if you love Star Trek or Star Wars then this is the topic for you.

Elm have learnt about the Solar System, the planets that make up it, how many planets there are in our Solar System and certain features about each planet.



The Topic covers Geography, History, Commando Jo and Scrapbook where each lesson is about space. Elm have created their own planets, made moons out of paper plates, are designing a book all about the planets in the Solar system and created rockets which are flying in our classroom Solar System.

Elm will also be learning about the space race and the famous astronauts that have stepped foot on the Moon. This was all topped off by a day at the National Space Centre in Leicester.



Owen: I love being able to learn about the different planets, my favourite thing is that there may be different live form out there.

Robert: I like the fact that I can learn about my favourite planet Saturn.

Jeffery: I like the fact that if I was an Astronaut I could just float about all day.

Robin: I like how the Astronauts can float about on Space.

Riyaaz: I like learning about Gravity and the fact that when you are in Space there is none.

Luca: I like learning about the different planets.



Hazel

  
The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty.

Hazel Class have enthusiastically leapt into their new English text this term: "The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty" by David Calcutt. The play is packed with drama, mystery, and plenty of surprises, and pupils have had a brilliant time bringing the characters to life—complete with expressive voices and dramatic performances! The biggest shock so far? One of the main characters meets a very unexpected end on page two... cue gasps all round!

We've also been busy entertaining our parents by filming our acting and sharing the videos on ClassDojo. They've absolutely loved seeing our star performances—and we've loved showing off just how fabulous our drama skills are!



Marcus: I am enjoying the book. I want to find out if they get into more trouble.

Piotr: Our story is good because it tells us a good story.

Ryan: I liked it because it allowed me to become the character and answer the questions as if I was him. I think that the story has a great plot and I am looking forward to

seeing what happens in it.

Jack: I felt nervous when I sat at the front of the classroom as Stubbs.

Umar: I read Pete's parts in the scene; I add cheeky adlibs which throws Miss Treble off track!

Max: I read Kay's parts in the scenes. I like doing this as it's easy to read and interesting.

Samuel: I liked being Sammy and answering the questions about my character in the story. I think Sammy's friendship with Terry is not that great as he just let his friend die by letting his friend climb the pylon.

Tyrese: I don't like the book because someone has died in it and it is sad and terrible.

Kai: I liked the first scene of the book because it was a dramatic start to the story.

Noah: I think the story is exhilarating so far because I like the roles of the Gangstas!

Kairhys: I volunteered to be in the hot seat as Stubbs, but I was a bit nervous. I am enjoying the book, but I was shocked that Jimmy died so quickly.

Kajetan: _____



  
I like the story.

Willow



This term in PE, we've been getting seriously good at **throwing and catching** — and the progress has been brilliant to see! We've focused on building **hand-eye coordination**, quick reactions, and teamwork through lots of active (and very fun!) practice.



The class have learned a range of throwing techniques, including the **underarm throw**, **overarm throw**, and the **chest pass**. We've used these skills in different drills and challenges each week, giving everyone plenty of chances to practise accuracy, control, and catching safely and confidently — even while moving.



To finish each lesson, we've kept the energy high with a class favourite: **dodgeball** or **Foxes and Rabbits**! These games have been a great way to put our new skills into action, while also encouraging communication, sportsmanship, and a positive team spirit. Safe to say... there have been lots of smiles, lots of laughs, and some impressively quick catches!



Jordan: My favourite lesson is PE and I also like PE games.

Jessica: PE has been okay this term.

Jake: PE is okay.

Redwood



Redwood class have been reflecting on their term so far, what they are enjoying and recognising their progress and achievements.

Larissa: I like earning points to go to Grange. In art I like

to paint. I enjoy my intervention because I get to do things just for me.

Jason: In English we read a book called the Space Detectives and it went really well because the space detectives named Connor and Ethan they tried to capture a Tuffed Grotznobler but they were unsuccessful. Stay tuned to find out more!

Freddy: This term I learned about Mercury, it is the smallest planet in our solar system and is hot because it is close to the sun. I learned that Venus is the same size as earth and it is a hot planet. Mars is the second smallest planet. My favourite planet though is Neptune! We also got to go to the National Space Centre, it was great! We learnt a lot of facts about space and about Einstein; he invented the cat flap and discovered gravity. It was awesome!

Bryony: I really enjoyed reading flat Stanley because it was funny and his mum was really kind and funny. Stanley look like a pancake because he was flat but his brother was jealous of him. Later on in Flat Stanley, he helped the police to catch art thieves. His mum and dad were shocked and proud.

Martin: I like food tech because we cook anything like food. I like art because we do anything that is very arty and interesting. Yesterday we went to the National Space Centre, now I know how scientists got Laika into space and how they regret it. They will never put a dog there again.

Freddie: I go to the dodgeball club it is at the hall. I really like and enjoy it. I am good at dodgeball. I can dodge and throw and catch. I know the rules in dodgeball. Yesterday we went to the National Space Centre we learnt about the rocket tower. The rocket tower had a moon, and it had

craters.

Zach: I like PE because I do like hockey. I do like being a team. My teammates help me and we won 2-0. Yesterday we went to the National Space Centre I saw Mercury.

Ugne: I love forest school because it is very fun and it is very interesting. You can cook on the fire and you have to put one knee up and one leg down, it is called the respect position. I really like it and I love helping teachers and taking more responsibility.

Jacob: This term I love history. I have learned about Lika the space dog in the 1950s. The first satellite was made called Sputnik and it was the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth. We even got to make our own rockets! Yesterday we went to the National Space Centre, I liked how the rocket was named Thor!

Samuel: We went to the National Space Centre I liked looking at the giant rocket called Thor. We went all the way to the top of it and had a look around. The rocket was towering over everyone.

Sophia: I really love caring with animals it is lovely to hold them, food, water and more. Its so lovely that the animals are protected and safe and that we get to see them everyday. In the future I want to work with animals. Animals are really interesting. I have an African Land Snail named Gary!

Jerome: We went to the National Space Centre I liked the workshop because it was science. In the workshop we learnt about rocket science and saw how rockets are fuelled. There was a loud pop from one of the experiments.

Summer: Yesterday we went to the National Space Centre, I loved the planetarium, they had reclining seats that went back. The film was about astronauts and rocked in space. I think it would be hard to be an astronaut. We talked about why you need special suits for it.



Palm



Palm class have had a great start to the New Year. The pupils have been busy both in the classroom and outside on Grange farm. A few of our pupils have also taken part in work experience within the community, where they are gaining valuable life skills.

Ryan: I have enjoyed food tech this term. We made brownies, they tasted so nice and we used real chocolate to make them. I have also had fun in PE lessons, I'm really good at hockey and dodgeball.

Bradley: For my options I am doing D of E on a Friday and D.T on Thursday. In D of E, we learn about camping and how to treat life threatening injuries. In D.T I am doing a project which is to make a pin ball machine made from cardboard.

Aarnav: I have really enjoyed work experience in the gardening club, which I do every Tuesday morning. I have been sowing seeds in the soil and picking the vegetables. We worked in the allotment at the back of the field, and I am waiting for my vegetables to grow.

Kyle: I do animal care for my work experience. I clean up after the animals, this gives me more exposure and experience and will help when I get a job.

Rowan: A few weeks ago, I did out of schoolwork experience at a church cafe for Grange. I served food and drinks and took orders. I communicated with the public and learned catering skills. It was a community scheme for anybody but mostly older people. It was great to interact with them, and I learnt a trade that could be useful in life.

Calvin: So last week Tuesday I started my work experience at Kempston East Methodist Church, I really enjoyed it. Ben, Miss Pendall and I had to

socialise with some of the older people and they were very quiet. We did very relaxing yoga with them. I will be going every Tuesday and I am looking forward to it

Alex: This term I have really enjoyed working with the big animals on a Friday afternoon. I do all the mucking out and feed them. My favourite animal is the baby goat Gertie because she is so cute and friendly.

Scarlett: I am going to be in the talent show soon. I have been practising a lot, and I think I'm ready for it. I'm singing Roar by Kate Perry in front of everyone. It's not going to be easy but I'm brave enough to do it. I know that my parents are coming to see me and so is my Auntie I will get to see them at the talent show.

Holly: In palm class we have been reading a book called 'Race to the Frozen North'. It is about a boy who was abused by his mother. He has two sisters, but he is the one who gets in trouble the most, so he decides to leave the house to find a better life and a job, but he is still very young.

Alfie: I have been doing GCSE English preparation work and it's been hard; I've been trying as hard as I can to do my GCSE work. I have just done my writing test, and I've got a grade 6 but I don't know if that's good or bad. I'm continuing to do my GCSE and hope to get grade 9.

Ashton: In D.T I am making a ping pong machine. I like D.T because it feels like I'm in a workshop. On Friday I do animal care as an option, taking care of the small animals. On Friday I do animal care as an option lesson, taking care of the small animals. I enjoy working with the small animal because they are easy to handle.



Ash

Over the last two weeks, our lovely pupils in Ash have been diving deep into the world of partitioning. It has been wonderful to see the children using a hands-on approach to explore how whole numbers are broken down into parts.

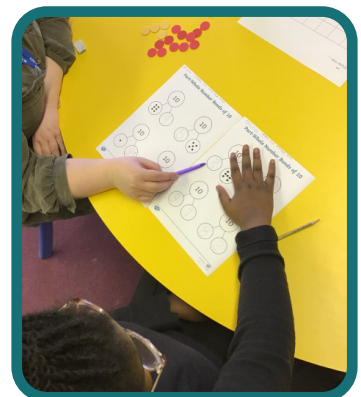
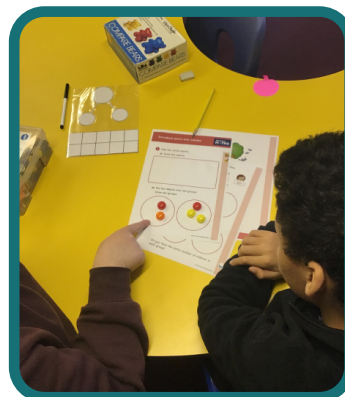
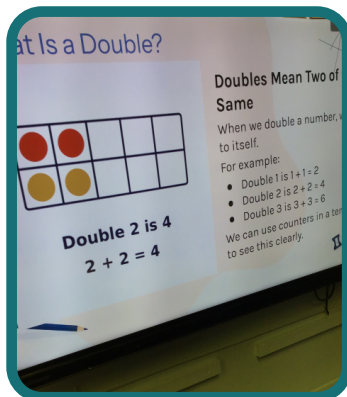
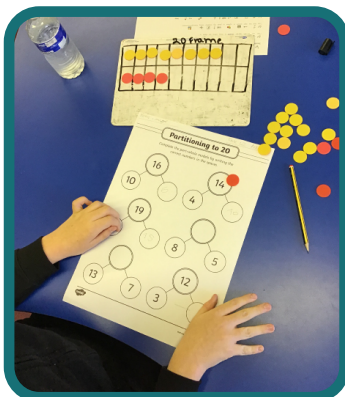
From using counters and toys to sketching their workings on whiteboards, our learners have been incredibly busy!

We are especially proud of how they've used their mathematical vocabulary to explain their thinking. Fantastic effort, **Ash class!**

Alex: 5 small bears and 7 big bears

Thabo: 3 is a part and 2 is a part!

Olivia: 8 and 2, equals 10!





Cedar

Cedar have been reflecting on this half term in a wide variety of subjects and what progress they have made.

Arron: On my reading paper I scored 23 out of 24 and I am very proud of myself for this.

Sienna: Animal care is going really well. My favourite animals to work with are the guinea pigs.

Skye: I am proud of my handwriting. I have improved a lot and tried very hard to make it better.

Connie: In animal care I have loved spending time with the animals. I really love being with the Guinea Pigs.

Amna: I have been joining in P.E. a lot more and in D.T. I am making a pinball machine which is fun.

Naomi: I have been enjoying badminton, hockey and dodgeball in P.E.

Keith: I have enjoyed P.E., careers and food tech. We made chicken burritos in food tech, and I also enjoyed making brownies.

Ben: I have really enjoyed P.E. I managed to get my teacher out in dodgeball.

Adam: In animal care I have really liked working with the sheep and the horses.

Ryan: I am happy about my test results especially my functional skills.

Megan: I am really enjoying childcare lessons, and I had to look after the robotic baby overnight.



Oak

We have been exploring toys of the past and present, thinking about what they look like, how they are made and how they are different from the toys and technology of today.

What kinds of toys did we make?

Lilly-Jo: I made a frog! Its tongue comes out.

Phoebe: I made a cup and ball. Green!

Ayaan: I made a ball and a cup game. Blue cup game!

Halle: When you pull the string it spins around and the colours change. It's so cool.

Henry: Making.

Alfie: Make a cup and ball.



Mental Health Champion Award

I am delighted to share some lovely news that one of our fantastic Mental Health Champions, Sienna has won an award for being Mental Health Champion of the Term.

Grange Academy launched All Stars Youth Club in June 2025 based on the need of our pupils and young people

in the wider community needing somewhere to go to be social and make friends. The ethos of the Youth Club – called All Stars, was to create a safe space for young people with SEN to just be themselves and build their confidence and social skills.

Having run for six months, All Stars has become very popular – but mainly with boys. We were approached by a parent of a young female called Alice who wants to come to All Stars Youth Club and also to Grange Academy. Alice is currently in Year 10 in a mainstream school and has Down Syndrome.

The headteacher and myself, a mental health first aider who leads the Mental Health Champions, discussed it with some of the female mental health champions as to what barriers there are to Alice attending the Youth Club. One particular mental health champion, Sienna, recommended that Alice would benefit from a mentor to come with her to Youth Club. We decided that this was a great idea and contacted Alice's mum to see if she thought Alice

would like to come to Youth Club with a mentor.

We chose Sienna as her mentor as it was her idea. Sienna is a proud Mental Health Champion who makes a positive difference within the school with her happy and positive attitude. She wears her MHC lanyard and looks out for other students well-being. We contacted Sienna's mum who was very touched that Sienna had been recognised as a positive ambassador of the school and chosen as a mentor for Alice.

Alice came along to Youth Club. She was immediately made to feel welcome and calm and valued as her and Sienna chatted and played games together and enjoyed their time at All Stars.

By empowering Sienna as a role model and mentor, this has had a positive impact on her own well-being, making her feel confident and proud. This experience had a positive impact on the wider community as Alice is attending another school but was made to feel welcome, valued and a part of the Grange family.

Well-being is important at Grange Academy where the Mental Health Champions really shine. We have celebrated events such as Children's Mental Health Week, Wear It Green Day, Odd Sock Day and Anti-bullying week.

Sienna has been given a fabulous Mental Health Champions t-shirt to celebrate her award.

Careers

Work Experience

Our Internal Work Experience has been moving on successfully with 25 pupils attending work experience this half term going into the next half term. This has been successful in those currently supporting in Topic areas and within our Share Shack at School.

Community Work Experience

We have had 4 Young people on Community Work experience at the Transfig Church in our local community helping at Mikey's Café. They are Independently getting them to and from this placement by themselves, developing on their Independent Skills.

These are the comments feed back from our students starting and before starting their Community Work Experience. It is wonderful to hear the excitement from our pupils when they get selected to attend and after they have started. Thank you for all the parents and Carers for supporting these opportunities for your children.



Tyrese: It was fun and I enjoyed meeting different people.
Naomi: I liked talking to different people outside of school.
Connor: I'm looking forward to starting my community Work Experience.

Our Horticulture Group will be starting their community work by helping with the maintenance of the grounds at the Transfig Church and their ECO Garden.

Two pupils have been showing their support with a Dementia Group at the Kempston East Church. They have been supporting the clients with Chair



Yoga and playing board games. Serving tea and coffee and talking with them.



Assembly

Colin from Network rail came in on the 30th January and presented to our Year 10's and 11's about What Network Rail do and jobs within Network Rail. This ranged from different jobs on the rail lines and the different maintenance jobs that keep the trains running safely to jobs monitoring the rail line and jobs in the offices, like Human Resources and payroll.

Network Rail offer an amazing Apprenticeship Scheme where they are trained on the job with a good pay. This includes hands on experience with structured learning and national recognised qualifications. If your child is coming up to and thinking about a Career in this area, it could be worth looking at this with them.

Please look at the below website to find out what the top employers for apprenticeships are with your child if they are interested.

It can help you as a family to think about what the young person might need to achieve their goals. It was fun to hear about how the train works and the dangers with regard to volts.

<https://www.top-apprenticeshipemployers.co.uk/2025-winners>

Kyle: I would possibly like to get a job with Network Rail.

Connor: I liked to hear about the automated Volts (25,000) and Direct current (750). The lowest being the most dangerous as you stick to the line.



Preparing for Adulthood

Preparing for Adulthood is going ahead this year. Please see the flyer on the next page on the events that are happening locally

Please let the school know if you are taking your child to one of these events. They will still be marked as attending as long as the school are made aware. Please take the time to read the flyer.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME IF YOU CAN TO LOOK OUT FOR OPPORTUNITIES WHERE YOUR CHILD CAN ACCESS WORK EXPERIENCES AND SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH ME on email: sandra.williams@biltt.org

Preparing for Adulthood Festival

FREE ENTRY



Being Independent



Education, Employment and Post 16 Training



Your local community



Being Healthy



Moving into adult services

Get ready for three exciting Preparing for Adulthood events this March, designed to empower young people with SEND and support their families.

Let's Talk Preparing for Adulthood

Tuesday 3rd March, 9:30am - 12:00pm, at the Addison Centre

Join BBPCF for a supportive, relaxed conversation about preparing for adulthood. Preparing for adulthood can feel overwhelming for young people and for families. BBPCF want to hear directly from parent carers about what's working, what's challenging, and what support is needed. The session is an opportunity to share lived experience, take part in open discussions, and help shape what support looks like locally — and what could be even better.

Preparing for Adulthood Festival

Wednesday 4th March, 9:30am - 2:30pm, at the University of Bedfordshire

An event for young people aged 14+ to explore future education, employment, and independence options through workshops and information stands.

Online Information Sessions for Parents and Carers

Thursday 5th March

A series of online workshops offering practical guidance to help families confidently navigate the journey into adulthood.



More information can be found on the Local Offer. Scan the QR code, or go to:
<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk>



Diary Dates

Friday 13th February 2026 - Last Day of Term

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026 - Half Term

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Pupils Return to School