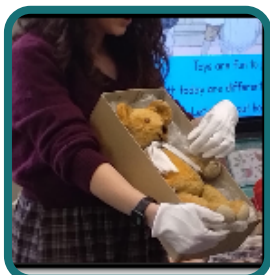


THE GRANGE TIMES

5th March 2026



Birch



As part of our recent Toys and Technology topic, the children enjoyed an exciting visit to The Higgins Museum to learn more about the history of toys. We explored how toys have changed over time, including differences in how they were made, the materials used, and how they were powered.

The children then had lots of fun investigating a range of old-fashioned toys. They used their imaginations and creativity to work out how each toy worked and what it was designed to do!

Amelia: I liked dressing up as a maid. Peg dolls are made from pegs!

Sidney: My favourite toy was the spinning top because I like it when it spins really fast. I knew that the old dolls heads were made out of wax.

Shaan: I liked the spinning top with the handle. You had to push it down to make it go really fast. It was the best day ever!

Arya: I like the spinning around toy, people dancing (Zoetrope) I like to see the glitter Kaleidoscope.

Orla: I liked the Jack in the Box because I loved it when it gave me a jump!

Alexis: I liked the yoyo, you put your finger through the string, you hold the yoyo to go up and down, I liked practising it!

Tawfeeq: I played with the yoyo and pull along toy.

Lexi: I liked all of it. I liked playing with all the different old toys and I liked hearing about the old teddy bear. It had glass eyes because plastic wasn't created then.



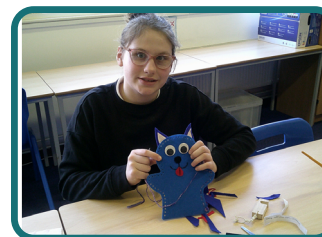
Children's Mental Health Week



Children's Mental Health Week – including Magic Show, Do Something Different Afternoon and Grange Academy Talent Show 2026

On February 9th – 13th we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. This is to raise awareness about young people's mental wellbeing. It focuses on empowering children, reducing stigma, and encouraging supportive environments in schools and communities.

On Tuesday 10th, we were entertained by Krisgar Entertainments who put on a puppet and magic show for us.



We had lovely feedback from the performer who said "It truly was a joy to see everyone having such a fabulous time. I've performed countless school shows over the years, but the pupils at Tuesday's event at Grange Academy created one of the most electric atmospheres I've experienced in a long while. I was also struck by how genuinely supportive the students were of one another, it was something wonderful to witness and it made the whole experience even more memorable. Thank you again for inviting Tricky Teddy and I to be part of such a wonderful occasion".

On Wednesday 11th we invited pupils to 'Do Something Different'.

This provides the opportunity to try new activities and make new friends. We had a range of activities including gaming, board games, yoga, dodgeball, DT, pampering, sewing, mindfulness, art, cooking, Minecraft, soft play, animal care, Karaoke and Kahoot.



On Friday 13th we held the Grange Academy Talent Show 2026. Our fantastic acts performed so well, and we are so proud of everyone who took part.

Huge congratulations go to our wonderful winner **Grace-Lily in Sequoia Class**.



Generous Donations to Grange Farm

Celebration Afternoon Showcases Fundraising Success

NFU Mutual has donated £8,000 to support Grange Community Farm, an initiative run by pupils and staff at Grange Academy in Kempston. Grange Academy is part of the Bedford Inclusive Learning and Training Trust (BILTT); a local SEND-specialist multi-academy trust dedicated to supporting children and young people with a wide range of abilities and SEND needs.

Grange Community Farm is a vital part of school life, offering pupils meaningful hands-on learning while supporting their emotional and social wellbeing. Running a school farm is expensive and requires significant time, expertise and resources; but it provides a calm, purposeful environment where pupils can develop confidence, independence and key life skills. The farm also hosts regular community open days; helping strengthen local connections and celebrate the pupils' achievements.

On Friday 13 February 2026, representatives from NFU Mutual visited Grange Academy for a special celebration day. Alongside the farm activities, pupils from across the school performed a talent show for those not involved in the farm; showcasing their impressive skills; including magic, singing and dancing, to name a few. The event highlighted the breadth of talent across Grange Academy and the supportive environment that helps pupils thrive.

Toby Hayward, an ex-pupil of Grange Academy, has also played a significant role in inspiring current pupils. Motivated by his "What If?" mantra, Toby completed the Three Peaks Challenge and raised £2,700 for the school. His fundraising has paid for a new pygmy goat and other essential farm-related expenses; and, more importantly, has motivated pupils to believe in themselves and strive for their own goals.

Rachel Timms, Headteacher of Grange Academy, said:

"We are incredibly grateful to NFU Mutual for their generous donation. The farm is such an important part of our school community; it supports pupils' wellbeing, helps them grow in confidence and gives them practical experiences that prepare them for life beyond school. This funding ensures we can continue running the farm and offering these invaluable opportunities."

A spokesperson for NFU Mutual said:

"We are delighted to support Grange Community Farm and the fantastic work happening at Grange Academy. The farm provides pupils with meaningful, hands-on experiences that build resilience, independence and real-world skills; we are proud to help ensure the project continues to benefit both the pupils and the wider community."

The donation will help further develop the farm project and ensure it continues to benefit pupils and the local community.



Pine



Pine have been enjoying the sunnier, drier weather since returning to school after half term. We have been using our horticulture lessons to refresh the sensory garden and do some planting, ready for Spring.

Connor: Last week we did some weeding in the sensory garden and planted some pepper seeds in the polytunnel. The weather was warm and not soggy so we can get onto the field.

Aaron: We have been planting bulbs like irises and crocuses in the sensory garden. We also made a wood house.

Asia: We did planting and digging in the sensory garden because we need to grow more flowers.

Marcus: I did weeding in the sensory garden to clear out the planters ready for Spring.

Oliver: I pulled some weeds out because it will officially be Spring on 20th March. The plants we planted before

Winter are growing good and are not dead!

Emmanuel: We went to the polytunnel to plant seeds to go into the pots in the vegetable area.

Rayan: We have been doing weeding and planting some more bulbs and the flowers are going. I enjoy horticulture at my new school.

Lucy: At the garden centre on Friday, I bought lilies and heather for the sensory garden. It will look joyful.

Aishah: I went to Hudson's plant centre with the horticulture option group, and I bought some strawberries and other flowers, which can go into the sensory garden.



Maple



Maple class have been exploring different patterns, and this week have been making their own items that were discovered in the 'Indus Valley'. They used air dry clay to make their items and when they have set, they will design their pattern and paint it on to finish off their item, some children chose to make jewellery while some decided to make toys that children from the Indus Valley used to play with.

Jack: I made a cave out of my clay and a plate; it was fun looking at different toys they played with.

Levi: Children from the Indus Valley made their toys out of clay.

Teddy: I made a cup.

Olo: Children played with toys.

Marcel: They made bricks out of clay and dried them in the sun.

Samuel: They made pots out of clay for drinking water and food.

Alex: Craftsmen were people who made different items out of clay.

Alfie: The craftsmen used cotton and spun it into thread to make materials.

Riley: I made a bowl out of my clay and a ball that children would have played with.



Walnut

This term, pupils in Walnut Class have been exploring the world of emotions in art, in particular the artwork of Pablo Picasso and his abstract approach to art. The students fractured their page into different pieces and then drew a self portrait in the style of Picasso's 'Weeping woman.' They used their knowledge of colours and emotions to show how they were feeling at the time.

Toby: I enjoyed drawing myself.

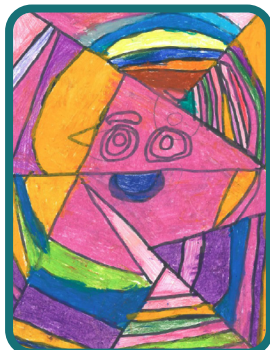
Robin: It was different to normal art; it didn't have to be right.

Courtney: It was nice to experiment with different things like pastels.

Kayden: I love that Art can be anything and that it doesn't have to be perfect.

Ruby: I like to use lots of different colours to show my own emotions.

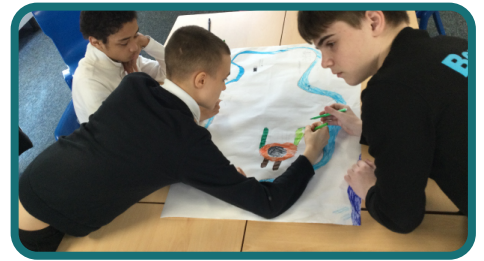
Jasmit: I found using the pastels fun, I was happy how it looked in the end.



Acer



During Children's mental health week, Acer Class visited the interchange shopping centre, planned a party for our friend and visited Pets at Home. We all enjoyed looking at the animals and buying new things for our guinea pigs



Nugget and Chips. We also talked about where we all belong and how that makes us feel.



Alex: I loved seeing all the animals at Pets at Home. We bought a new ball for the guinea pigs.

Louis: I looked at all the guinea pigs. Mrs Cowell said no to a baby guinea pig. We did buy a new water bottle with hearts on.

Lewis: I belong to my family and Acer Class. We can all belong to different places.

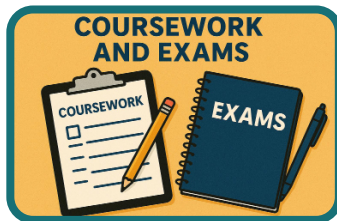


Gabriel: I went on the bus. We got balloons and crisps. I looked at the dog in the pet shop.

Carter: I got apple pies for the party. I saw the fish at the pet shop.

Dominik: We got a balloon for the party and some cake.

Sycamore



Sycamore class have been reflecting on their progress this term towards examinations and coursework.

Ollie: In art I have been working towards my GCSE. I have been drawing fish

and then I have used pastels to add colour to my picture. I will continue to work on the fish drawing this week and then it will hopefully be complete.

Rodney: I have started work experience in school by supporting in a Food Tech class. Mrs Porter give me instructions and then I help the younger pupils with their cooking.

Ibrahim: I am taking part in 'Sports Leaders' with Mr Kilcoyne. This is an opportunity for me to learn how to lead sport sessions. Over the next couple of weeks, I am going to start supporting some of the younger class in PE lessons.

Reece: I am really excited that the F1 season is starting again this weekend. I have been researching everything about the new teams and new rules for the cars.

Kye: I have started work experience on a Friday morning at the café in Robinson's swimming pool. I help bake cakes, stock shelves and take orders to

customers. On my first week I made a Victoria sponge cake which I brought in for my class.

Chibunna: In my ICT option lesson, I have been working on Minecraft Education. This is helping me achieve some AQA unit awards.

Ray: This week I have finished my coursework in Food Tech which I am very proud of. That now means that I only have cooking to do each week.

Tulicia: I have been learning about Antarctica in the book we are reading in English. I know that it is the coldest place on earth and I would love to visit with a friend.

Jake: In my Food Tech coursework, I have been learning about cooking skills, food hygiene and rules in a professional kitchen. I have a little bit of course left to complete before I finish Year 11.

Kalen: I have just completed my Speaking and Listening Assessment for my GCSE English. I spoke for 13 minutes about Computer Mouses and gave reasons why I think Logitech are the best brand.

Caoimhe: I love History lessons. We have been finding out about manmade and natural disasters e.g. the Grenfell Tower and the Horizon oil rig. I can't find out what we are learning this week.

Steven: In animal care I have been cleaning out the chickens. This is my favourite job in animal care. Miss Jill helps me with the water each week.



Eco Club

Since half-term, Eco club have been thinking of ideas to make the school site more environmentally friendly as we start heading toward Spring. The staff eco leaders, Mrs Cowell and Miss Tomkins, also attended the annual sustainability in education training conference at the University of Bedford on Wednesday 25th February. We hope to bring lots of new ideas to Grange Eco club!

Marcus: We are planning to plant flowers around the school to help the local environment, especially the bees.

Riley: The weather is nicer so we can start fixing the bug hotels.

Riyaaz: We're going to get some wildflower seeds and sprinkle them outside.

Harry: I would like to do litter picking to keep the environment clean.

Luca: We will start doing some litter picking outside the school gates at the parking lot to clean up the area around our school.

Freddy: One day I would like to save some money with Eco club to give to an animal shelter.

Sienna: There are bug hotels and other things to fix in the sensory garden.

Rowan

In Rowan class they have been using pizza and toast to visualise the difference in the size of fractions. The all had a yummy and fun Maths lesson!

Sophia: I went to cook pizza with Miss Read and it took a long time. We had pizza because we were using it for fractions.

Stefano: We split pizzas into halves, quarters and twelfths. We then ate it.

Tyler: I liked when the teacher split the pizza into different fractions. I ate the pizza it was yummy.

Dejon: I learnt about quarters and how to share equally. The pizza was delicious.

Monica: I learnt how to work out what a half is. We used the aeroplanes to show this.

Nevaeha: We have been doing fun lessons in Maths. We did quarters, halves and 3 quarters and showed this on pizzas. We also did this with toast. We are lucky to have Miss Burns who does fun lessons.

Eva Louise: I enjoy Miss Burns fun Maths lessons. I liked how she split the pizza into equal parts.

Aneesa: I have been learning about halves and how to find a half of something.

Lewis: I liked eating the pizza because it was yummy. I learnt how to split the pizza up into fractions this was fun.

Harry: I liked it when the pizza was cut into different size portions it helped me to see that a half is bigger than a quarter.



Beech

Beech enjoyed Children's Mental Health Week. They were able to do a variety of different activities including; A visit from a magician, Do Something Different afternoon, a muffin day and the chance to watch school talent show.

Jack: For do something different afternoon I did Isabella room and board games. The sensory room was best because it is fun.

Raf: For do something different afternoon I did ICT and animal care. I enjoyed animal care because I love the animals.

Cameron: For do something different afternoon I did Yoga and I.T. I enjoyed yoga because it is relaxing and peaceful.

Dylan: For do something different afternoon I did animal care and DT. I enjoyed DT because we got to use the tools.

Eva: For do something different afternoon I did art and Kahoot. I enjoyed both activities. They were fun.

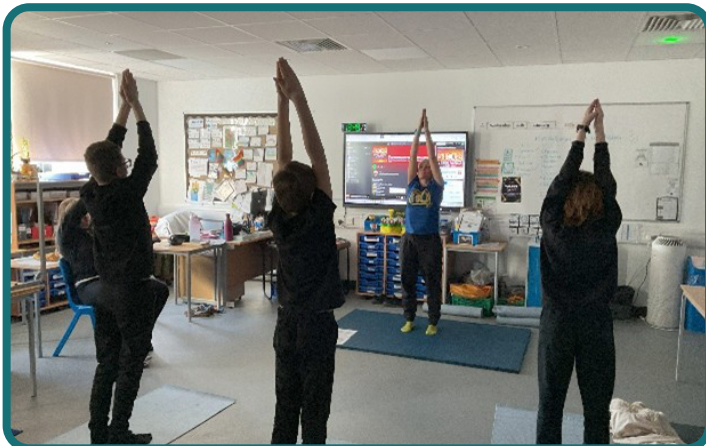
Tristan: For do something different afternoon I did I.T and Kahoot. I enjoyed ICT because we played Minecraft.

Amber: For do something different afternoon I did Kahoot with Miss Linney and Cooking. I enjoyed Kahoot because it was fun and Miss Linney joined in.

Emilia: For do something different afternoon I did cooking and Kahoot quizzes. I enjoyed cooking because I made cookies with icing and sprinkles and I ate them all.

Justine: For do something different afternoon I did Kahoot and ICT playing Minecraft. I enjoyed both activities because they were really fun.

Arthur: For do something different afternoon I did D.T. and dodgeball. I enjoyed DT because we made phone holders.



Careers

Our Career meetings with our Year 11's have started on the 2nd March 2026.

Alyce from 4YP has come in to carry out the 1 to 1 meeting with firstly our year 11 and then our year 10's.

This involves each pupils having a chat and putting together an action plan about there future and the skills they have and will carry forward to there Post 16 placement for September. These will be shared with parents once they have been completed.

If you need support with any send issues you can contact details are below. I hope you find this helpful.

Partnership working with the Co-op Marston Moretaine.

Lee and his staff team from the Co-Op visited on Thursday 26th February. They work in partnership with supplying food for our Food Share Shack. Currently they are having a re-refurbishment of their store and have offered to provide 3 of our students with work experience placements from the 25th of March and supporting there grand re-opening. Then going forward will be able to offer work experience placements.

Work Experience Updates

Can I also encourage parents to support us with assisting to find placements for your children from year 10 and 11.

Mrs Porter has been supporting students in Food Tech with our internal work experience as have a few of our other staff in school.

The feed back from the Community work experience continues to be very positive about our student involvement.



National Careers Week

Sycamore class this week have worked hard on producing information to share with the school on a display.

They have identified jobs and then found what the jobs entailed, how much they could get paid and what qualifications they would need to do the jobs.

External Support



Supporting
- Families
- Adults
- Practitioners

CHILDRENS SERVICES:

- Family Support Groups
- Youth Clubs
- Girls Social Group
- Summer Schemes
- Social skills courses
- Personalised support
- Sports and leisure sessions
- Parent Network
- Education Consultancy

HELPLINE:

- Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
- Advice, support & signposting
- Open to anyone seeking help

01234 350704

ADULT SERVICES:

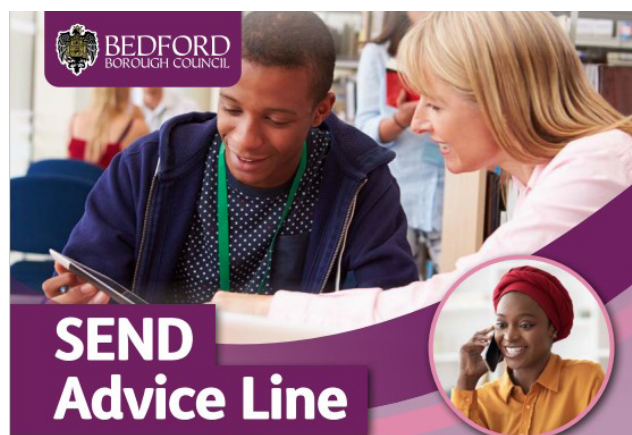
- Social Groups
- Support Groups, LGBTQ, Female Voice, Parent Support
- Employment support for both individuals and employers
- Transitions 'My Futures'
- Skills development
- Benefits Advice

TRAINING:

- For parents/carers, practitioners & autistic individuals
- Topics include anxiety, behaviour, women & girls, demand avoidance, sensory needs and much more.



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WWW.AUTISMBEDFORDSHIRE.NET



The SEND Advice Line is a phone line and email service for school staff and other professionals to use, to get advice about meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Contact us if you:

- Are unsure of what the next steps are for a particular child and want to talk through options
- Want to know what else to do to support a child you are working with
- Need advice on supporting a child at risk of exclusion
- Thinking about applying for an Education, Health and Care needs assessment
- Want to know how to refer to other services and organisations within Bedford

The advice line is a safe space to discuss concerns at an individual or whole school level. The team can help explore the best options for support and identify the most appropriate resources available.

01234 718131 (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm)

sencoadviceline@bedford.gov.uk

Notices

A colorful poster for a 'Community Farm' event. At the top left is the Grange Academy logo, featuring a blue stylized tree and the text 'Grange Academy' with the tagline 'Delorg • Reliever • Achieve' below it. To the right of the logo is the address 'Halsey Road, Kempston, MK42 8AU'. Below this is a large brown wooden sign with the words 'COMMUNITY FARM' in bold yellow capital letters. Under the sign, the text 'Animal experience! Once a month on a Saturday!' is written in white. Below that, the time '10am – 12 noon' and price '£5 per person' are listed in black. The central illustration shows a farm scene with a brown horse, a yellow chick, a pink pig, a white sheep, and a black cow standing on a brown field. In the background are green rolling hills and several evergreen trees. At the bottom of the illustration is a green log. Below the illustration, the text 'Under 3's go free' is written in black.

Grange Academy Halsey Road, Kempston, MK42 8AU
Delorg • Reliever • Achieve

COMMUNITY FARM

**Animal experience!
Once a month
on a Saturday!**

**10am – 12 noon
£5 per person**

Under 3's go free

[Click on this link to book your place on one of our Saturday Open Mornings](#)

Diary Dates

Friday 27th March 2026 - Last Day of Term

Monday 30th March to Tuesday 14th April 2026 - Easter Holidays

Wednesday 15th April 2026 - Pupils Return to School