

28.5.21

Grange First Weekly News



COVID – If any Grange pupils test positive for Covid on a LF or PCR on Saturday, Sunday or Monday, please contact me on clare.clougher@grange.newcastle.sch.uk as I will need to inform relevant families to self isolate during the holidays. We have done incredibly well since returning to school in January. I'm hoping this continues and we don't get any positive cases now.

Dear families

Happy half term holiday everyone! We've had a great half term in school working hard and enjoying our learning. Here is a little reminder of some of the exciting work that has been going on over the last few weeks at Grange.

Nursery

Nursery have some new wooden 'Grapat Mandala' pieces. The children have been so imaginative and have created dinosaur worlds, a fairy land with a magical forest and bridge, a beehive, houses and a river with them!



Reception

In Reception, the children have been exploring minibeasts. This week I was so impressed with their knowledge and written work about ladybirds. Do you know what ladybirds do to frighten off predators? No? Neither did I until some clever children from Oak and Beech Class came to see me. They emit a stinky smell from the ends of their legs which scares enemies away!



Year 1



Our Year 1 children have just started work on their Welly to Belly project. They had a visit from two expert gardeners who helped them to plant a variety of different vegetables. If you go into the yard outside the Year 1 classrooms, you will see beans, carrots and potatoes growing. They are going to look after them through the summer and in the autumn it will be time to harvest their produce. Everything they grow will be taken by a group of children to Grainger Market to be sold. Money they raise will be donated to support FareShare, a charity that tackles food waste and fights hunger in the UK.

Year 2



Year 2 have enjoyed extracting coal from Grange Colliery this week! Mine tunnels were set up in the classroom, children collected their mining check, safety equipment, smelled some of the smells you would experience down the mine and then they worked as a team to extract the coal.

Year 3

Hola! Year 3 have enjoyed a Spanish banquet as a grand finale to their topic on Spain. What a feast!



Year 4

The highlight for Year 4 was two weeks of swimming. We were all so impressed with their resilience and determination to improve their skills in the pool. It was brilliant to see so many children making progress; I hope they keep practising their swimming at weekends and during the holidays.

Staffing

Mrs Stubbs has joined the leadership team in school and will be Key Stage 1 Phase Leader when we return to school after the May half term holiday. She is an excellent teacher and I know she will help to make the teaching and learning at Grange even better in the future.

Mrs Kidd-Scannell, Iain Ross (one of our school governors) and I have been very busy recently reading 163 applications for 2 teacher vacancies at Grange. We were delighted with the number of applications; it is great that so many teachers aspire to work at our school. Interviews take place in the first week back after the holiday. I hope to be able to tell you who we have appointed in my first newsletter of next half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our teachers, office and support staff for their hard work this half term. They go above and beyond to make learning fun and engaging for our children.

Drop off and pick up times

Please arrive at school on time to drop off or pick up your child. Some families are starting to arrive very early which means children become bored and run around. Please ensure children stay with you on the yard so they are not crossing bubbles. I will also be reminding children not to climb on flower beds, fences or bushes in my assembly today. I would also like to remind you NOT to bring dogs on to the school site even if you are carrying them.

PTFA

An enormous thank you to everyone who donated books to our PTFA Book Fair. We were literally swamped with books! Every child has chosen a book in school today to bring home and keep; we hope they enjoy reading it over the half term holiday! Thank you too for your cash donations; the PTFA will be counting the pennies and we will let you know how much has been raised very soon.

One of our Year 3 parents, who is also a committee member of the PTFA, has kindly made and donated each class a blue money box where they can collect PTFA contributions; they even have the Grange logo engraved on them!

On Saturday June 12th, one of our Grange parents is cycling 188 miles across the country and back in under 20 hours to raise money for Grange PTFA. This is incredibly kind as well as being very ambitious! If you would like to sponsor him, please click on the link below. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

[Fundraiser by Jack Crane : C2C2C 4 GFS PTFA \(gofundme.com\)](https://gofundme.com)



Holiday Time!

I hope you all have a wonderful half term holiday. It looks like the sun may shine for us at long last! Take care and stay safe.

Clare Clougher