

Grange Primary School

Elder Avenue, Wickford, Essex, SS12 0LR

Tel: 01268 734420

Headteacher: Mrs M Elfenich

Deputy Headteacher: Miss B Langley



Friday, 6th December 2024

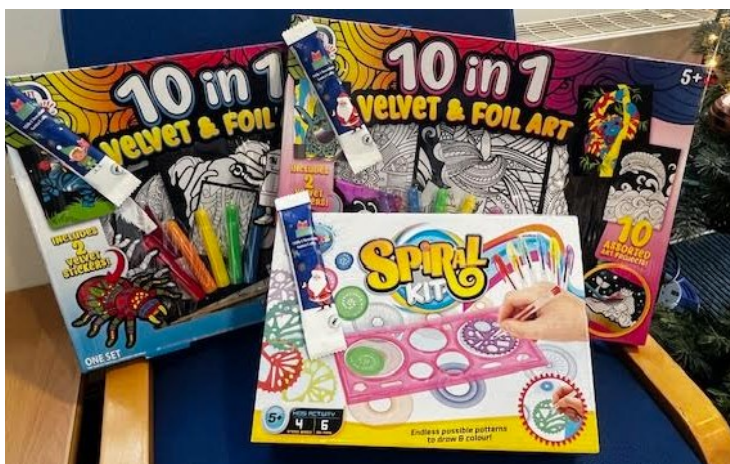
Christmas time!

We have had a lovely Christmas-filled week at Grange this week. Rehearsals are in full swing for next week's performances, we have had a church visit, made christingles, had a Christmas house reward, decorated Christmas trees, had Christmas jumper day and our delicious Christmas dinner. What a lovely week!



Christmas raffle

As we do every year, the school choir are holding a raffle to raise money for their transport to the Young Voices concert in January. Raffle tickets will be on sale in the school office at £1 a ticket from Monday. Please do buy some tickets to support our lovely choir, who will be performing at the shows next week.



House reward

A big well done to Earth, who won the house reward this term. They are in the lead with the house points at the moment, only just ahead of the house in second! The children took part in a Christmas craft morning where they made Christmas decorations out of pipe cleaners and beads and a delicious Christmas tree treat! A big thank you to the adults for running the event and also to the older children, who were really lovely with the younger ones and helped them with their crafts.



Christmas performances

The Christmas performances next week take place at the following times:

- **Year 1/2 on Monday 16th at 9:30 and 1:30**
- **Year 3/4 on Tuesday 17th at 9:30 and 1:30**
- **Year 5/6 on Wednesday 18th at 9:30 and 1:30**
- **EYFS (Oak and Ash) on Thursday 19th at 1:30**



As you will be aware, there are 2 tickets available per child to ensure there is enough space for everybody to attend the Christmas performances. As ever, no younger siblings will be able to attend unfortunately. If you do not have any childcare for your younger children, please let the school office know as we will run a creche for the 9:30 shows if the spaces are needed. There will also be a creche for the 1:30 EYFS show.

Lost property

Please have a look through the big black box on the left hand side of the Zone for any lost property before we break up for Christmas. It is building up and will be recycled in the new year if unclaimed. If anybody comes across Mr Urch's Ravenclaw scarf which he has misplaced, he would be grateful for it to be returned! Thank you



School uniform reminder

We pride ourselves that children at Grange always look smart and are ready to learn. We just need to remind everyone that:

- Children's hair needs to be fully tied up - no half up/down hairstyles at school. Hair accessories must be small and in school colours. No big bows please.
- Children should only wear 1 pair of earrings and these must be small studs. Children should not be wearing hoops or dangly earrings as these are a hazard.
- PE kits must be PLAIN NAVY. Children who wear other coloured outfits or tracksuits with logos on will be asked to wear their school uniform to school on PE days.



Diary dates - upcoming events

December

Monday 16th	Year 1/2 nativity at 9:30 and 1:30	
Tuesday 17th	Year 3/4 Christmas show at 9:30 and 1:30	
Wednesday 18th	Year 5/6 Christmas show at 9:30 and 1:30	
Thursday 19th	EYFS nativity at 1:30	
Friday 20th	Sparkle day - wear your party clothes!	
Monday 23rd - Friday 3rd January	Christmas holidays (children return on Monday 5th January)	

School dinners

Next week we will be on week 1 of the winter menu. Please discuss the options each morning with your child as you know what they are likely to want to eat - thanks!



	Meat free Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red	Cheesy stack wrap	Cottage pie	All day breakfast	Chicken fajita	Chicken nuggets
Green	Pepper and onion cheesy stack wrap	Gardeners pie	Veggie all day breakfast	Quorn fajita	Veggie fingers
On the side	Beans	Gravy, carrots	Hash brown, beans, egg and tomatoes	Rice, green beans	Chips, sweetcorn and peas
Yellow	Jacket potato with a choice of beans, cheese or tuna				
Blue Grange meal deal	Cheese baguette	Ham wrap	Bacon roll	Chicken fajita wrap	Cheese roll
Dessert	Fruit or yoghurt	Jam & coconut cake	Flapjack	Fruit or yoghurt	Vanilla Ice-cream tub

Diary dates - upcoming events

January

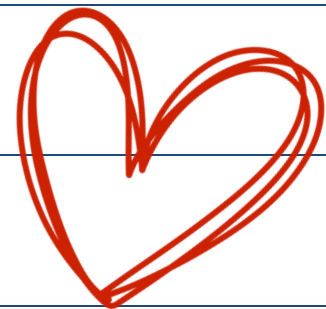


Monday 6th	Children return to school
Monday 13th	Year 5 and 6 school trip to the Science Museum
Thursday 23rd	Choir performing in Young Voices at the O2
Monday 27th	Year 1 school trip to Hollytrees Toy Museum
Tuesday 28th	Year 2 school trip to Hollytrees Toy Museum



February

Tuesday 4th	Parents evening
Thursday 6th	Parent evening
Thursday 13th	SEN coffee morning PTA valentines disco
Friday 14th	Year 3 and 4 trip to St Alban's Cathedral
Monday 17th— Friday 21st	Half term
Monday 24th	INSET day - school closed to children



Sporting events

This week a team from years 5 and 6 took part in a tag rugby competition through the William De Ferrers Sporting Partnership. There were 3 teams in total and our team won 1 and drew 1, finishing in first place. The team are through to the partnership finals in the new year. Well done everyone!



Postcards

Well done to everyone who received a postcard, certificate or gold card this week. Our new postcards have arrived so children should start receiving the new design soon!



Celebration

We enjoy seeing what the children are proud of outside of school, so please send your photos to Miss Langley!

Riley got trainer of the week at jujitsu.



Jackson got player of the match at football.

Florence passed her level 1 and 2 gymnastics.



William got his pen licence this week!

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross-contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift size and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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Better Housing Better Health

The Warmth & Wellbeing Service

HOME ENERGY ADVICE

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is a service working locally to improve your domestic warmth & wellbeing. In a preventative approach, our free helpline provides you with a single point of contact for advice and support in order to help improve the energy efficiency of your property and lower your bills.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our team of experts can work with households to apply for grants and funding to help with your home energy. Schemes like the Warm Home Discount can take £150 off your bills and ECO Funding can replace heating systems as well as install insulation. Call us to see if you're eligible and start the process.



WE ARE HERE.

GET IN TOUCH

0800 107 0044

WWW.BHBH.ORG.UK

