

Grange Primary School

Elder Avenue, Wickford, Essex, SS12 0LR

Tel: 01268 734420

Headteacher: Mrs M Elfenich

Deputy Headteacher: Miss B Langley



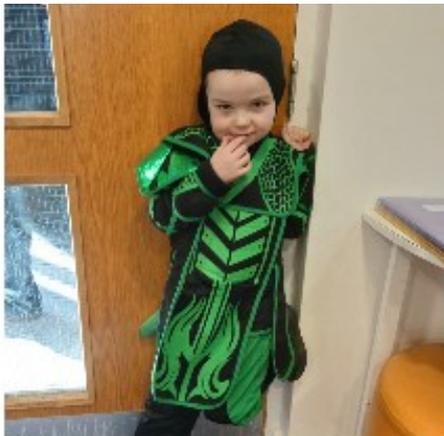
Friday, 6th March 2026



World Book Day

We had a great day for World Book Day yesterday and it was lovely to see so many fantastic costumes! The children enjoyed taking part in different activities and loved the mystery reader activity in the afternoon! The adults all chose a book to read and the children could go and listen to whatever book they wanted. I wonder if any of the children worked out who was reading the story they chose correctly?

A big well done to our costume winners from each year group: **Jackson R, Bonnie R, Jackson G, Amelia S, Davyd S, Bobby F, Imogen H and Mrs Blunt!**





Red Nose Day

On Friday 20th March, we will be celebrating Red Nose Day at Grange. Red noses are now for sale and can be bought for £2 through School Money. This year, they are all design-your-own noses, so we are looking forward to seeing all of the interesting designs! On the day, children can dress as something silly (the sillier the better as it is Comic Relief!) or they can wear red from head to toe! We will have donation buckets on the gates with some of our year 6 pupils and will also set up a Just Giving page to help raise money to support those less fortunate than us all around the world.



School dinners

Next week we will be on week 1 of the dinner menu.



Dinner Menu Week 1



	Monday Pasta day	Tuesday Burger day	Wednesday All day breakfast	Thursday Curry day	Friday Grab-a-bag
Red	Macaroni cheese	Chicken burger Beef burger	Sausage, bacon and scrambled eggs	Diced chicken curry (mild or korma)	Chicken nuggets
Green	Pasta with tomato sauce or cheese	Southern-fried quorn burger	Veggie sausage and scrambled eggs	Diced quorn curry (mild or korma)	Quorn nuggets
On the side	Garlic bread	Wedges and beans	Hash brown, beans and home-made bread	Rice and naan bread	Chips
Veg and salad	A choice of peas, sweetcorn and carrots Salad bar				
Yellow	Jacket potato with a choice of beans, cheese or tuna				
Blue	Meal deal Baguette with tuna, cheese or ham. Served with crisps, a carton of juice and dessert.				
Dessert	Rice crispie cake	Iced sponge cake	Ice cream pot or lolly	Chocolate sponge cake	Flapjack

School Money Accounts



schoolmoney

As you will be aware, we are fast approaching the end of the financial year. Mrs Fealy is busy working on the budget for next year and needs to get everything tied up ASAP. Could any parents with outstanding balances on their accounts please ensure that arrears are paid before the end of the month. Thank you.

Driving and parking around school



As you will be aware, the end of Elder Avenue can get very busy at school times. We are asking all families to please think carefully about whether you NEED to drive up to the end of the road as this can put the children and families in danger. We would be really grateful if you could either walk from home or park in a road a little

bit further out and walk in to reduce the number of cars around the school. Now that the weather is beginning to improve, this should be much easier to do! If you do, for some reason, need to drive to the end of Elder Avenue, please ensure that you drive slowly and keep a close eye out for children crossing the road.



School uniform and PE kit

Just a quick reminder about uniform. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform to school on days they do not have PE. This should be navy trousers/shorts/skirt and a white top with a navy cardigan or jumper. They should also be wearing plain black shoes or trainers. For PE days, children may wear a navy tracksuit or navy shorts and a white top. As the weather has been slightly nicer, we have noticed more children wearing shorts as part of their PE kit. Just a reminder please that these should be either school PE shorts or longer cycling shorts - please do not send children in wearing super short cycling shorts as we will ask them to change into a pair of school football kit shorts. Can we please also remind you that all children's hair must be tied up for school at all times. Thank you.



Marathon runners!

Mr Wastell and Miss Hill are both running the London Marathon at the end of April and are busy training! If you would like to sponsor either of them to help them raise money for their different charities, I'm sure they would very much appreciate it!

Mr Wastell is running for St Luke's Hospice and you can [sponsor him here](#).

Miss Hill is raising money for Southend United Community Foundation and you can [sponsor her here](#).



Dates for your diary

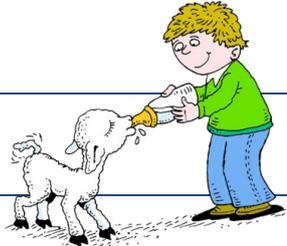
March

Tuesday 10th	Year 1/2 trip to Braintree Victorian Museum	
Wednesday 11th	Year 5/6 trip to Wimbledon EYFS baby dinosaur visitor!	
Thursday 12th and Friday 13th	PTA Mother's Day sale	
Wednesday 18th	Year 6 Crucial Crew event	
Thursday 19th	Year 3 and 4 trip to the Museum of Power Year 6 SATs and Mersea meeting for parents at 2:50	
Friday 20th	Red Nose Day	
Thursday 26th	SEN coffee morning	
Monday 30th— Friday 10th April	Easter holidays. Children return on Monday 12th April	

April

Monday 13th	Return to school for launch days Year 1 and 2 exotic animal encounter	
Tuesday 21st	Year 3 and 4 Benin workshops	

May

Tuesday 5th	Class photos	
Thursday 7th	EYFS school trip to Barleylands	
WB 11th May	KS2 SATs week	
Monday 18th	Year 5/6 trip to the Tower of London	
Monday 25th— Friday 29th	Half term. Children return on Monday 1st June	

Celebration

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

Callum won his RC car championship.



Roma was awarded runner up student of the week at dance school.

Seren won some awards at her dance awards night.



Zion was named player of the team in his first ever football match with the team.

More to celebrate!

A big well done to everybody who has received a gold card, certificate or postcard from their class teacher this week!



Trampolining

Some children in year 3 and 4 were selected to take part in a trampolining event today. They had a fantastic time and represented Grange really well.



Rewards and achievements in school

This week's Headteacher awards for **determination**, **co-operation**, **imagination** and **excellence** were awarded to the following children.

EYFS	
Blake D	<i>Determination</i>
Toby J	<i>Co-operation</i>
Year 1 and 2	
Niamh H	<i>Excellence</i>
Elsie B	<i>Determination</i>
Kiara HS	<i>Co-operation</i>
Year 3 and 4	
Joseph T	<i>Imagination</i>
Freddie T	<i>Determination</i>
Daisy M	<i>Determination</i>
Year 5 and 6	
Albert P	<i>Co-operation</i>
Rocco V	<i>Determination</i>
Aliyah A	<i>Excellence</i>



Well done to our star readers this week, who were awarded a golden coin in assembly and got to choose a book from the vending machine to take home and share with their family:

EYFS and KS1 - Henry R, Gracie P, Georgie M, Mae J and Odran F

KS2 - Davinia G, Jenson S, Daisy P, Clara C, George W and Sienna F

A big well done to our attendance winners this week:

Class attendance - spin the wheel! - Elder Class who won a games session

Individual 100% attendance - Grace C in Chestnut Class



GRANGE PTA

Mother's Day Sale!

Thursday 12th & Friday 13th
March

Children can buy lovely gifts for
Mum, Nan & Special Ladies!

– Please Remember: –

Bring **CASH** to purchase gifts

Bring a **CARRIER BAG**
to take them home!

Don't forget to join in the fun!

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polylingo and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All in' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



[See full reference list on our website](#)

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