



Dear Families of The Grange School,

As January draws to a close, I would like to share what a positive and productive start we have had to the new term here at school. Our pupils have returned with wonderful enthusiasm, and it has been inspiring to see them settling back into routines, engaging with learning, and showing such resilience and joy.

Across the school, pupils have been making fantastic progress. Team Members have shared many moments of pride—from pupils communicating in new ways, practising their independence skills, and engaging confidently in sensory and curriculum activities, to building friendships and supporting one another so kindly.

We've also enjoyed enriching experiences this month, including sensory exploration sessions, creative arts activities, and continued work with our therapists. These opportunities help our pupils develop confidence and celebrate their individual strengths.

I want to thank our dedicated staff for their commitment and care, ensuring each child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn. And a heartfelt thank you to all our families for your ongoing partnership; your support makes such a difference.

We look forward to all the learning, growth, and joy that February will bring.

Best Wishes

**Rebecca Shaw (Headteacher)**



## Dates for the diary

- ★ Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Anti-bullying week
- ★ Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – NSPCC Number Day
- ★ 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – Children's Mental Health Day
- ★ Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Safer Internet Day
- ★ Half Term – 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February

# ❄️ Check Out What We've Been Up To! ❄️



## ❄️ Snow!

The pupils were very excited to see snow at school. They enjoyed spending time outside, playing in the fresh snow and working together to build a snowman. It was a fun winter moment that everyone loved.

## LEGO Day

We celebrated World LEGO Day by taking part in a variety of creative, hands-on activities like colouring and building LEGO figures. One pupil even made a DJ booth!



## 🌸 Art

Pupils had a series of art stations where they created flowers using a variety of materials. As they worked, they explored and described the shapes, forms, colours, patterns, and textures they observed



## 🐛 Science

Pupils in primary rolled up their sleeves for a hands-on science session, exploring soil from the school garden and discovering what they can find!





## English

Pupils explored persuasive language techniques through an engaging 'Match It Up' activity, strengthening their ability to recognise and apply key features of persuasive writing. They then went on to write their own persuasive pieces, using their fact files they had previously created about a topic of their choice ranging from iPhones to World War II.



## Global Citizens

Pupils have been busy crafting bird nests as part of RSPB Week, helping to support local wildlife while discovering more about the birds that live in their community. By creating safe, welcoming spaces for birds to rest and build their homes, they're encouraging more species to visit the area. The activity also offers a fun, hands-on opportunity to explore nature, learn how nests are constructed, and deepen their understanding of why caring for our environment matters.



## Strengthening our fine motor skills

Pupils spent time strengthening their fine motor skills through a hands-on activity using tweezers and buttons. This engaging task encouraged them to focus, use precise hand movements, and build the coordination needed for writing and self-care skills. It was wonderful to see their concentration, determination, and pride as they carefully picked up each button and completed the challenge.



## Visual Arts

Pupils in Maple and Elm had a fantastic time exploring the mesmerizing Wake the Tiger experience, an immersive and interactive art adventure that sparked plenty of curiosity and conversation. They moved through imaginative spaces filled with colour, sound and creativity, each area offering something new to discover and wonder about. Among all the exciting installations, the airplane simulator quickly became a standout favourite. Pupils loved the thrill of stepping into the cockpit and experiencing the sensation of “flying” as part of the journey.

## Sensory circuits

Our sensory circuits are set up indoors to support pupils in regulating their bodies and preparing for learning. These carefully designed stations offered a range of calming, alerting, and organizing activities, giving pupils the chance to move, explore, and reset in a structured way.



## Word of the Month

We have a "Word of the Month" in school to help pupils expand their vocabulary and encourage meaningful conversations around positive values.

 Word for February is **POSITIVITY** - Positivity is a way of thinking, looking for the 'good' in all things.

## Our Local Community

 SEND Café – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> : [SEND Parent Carer Cafe](#)

 Swings & Smiles: [Swings & Smiles](#)

 Inclusive Teen Club: [Inclusive Teen Club in Newbury - ASD Family Help](#)

 Waterside Centre Berkshire: [What's On at Waterside Centre | Youth Sports and Activities in Newbury](#)

 Berkshire Youth: [BERKSHIRE YOUTH HUB | Berkshire Youth](#)



### Curry & Quiz night

Get your taste buds and brain working!  
Join us for a Curry & Quiz Night at The Bowlers Arms in support of Swings & Smiles. BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE BY TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY



### Golf Day 2026

Our annual golf day is returning on 14th May 2026 and this year will be held at Newbury & Crookham Golf Club. Teams of 4 are £300 and there will be a shot gun start at 1pm. Full members of N&CGC will be £180 per team of 4 (if all of the team are full members)

# Sensory Sensitivities, Clothing and Cold Weather

As we have experienced bouts of cold, wet and stormy weather lately, I wanted to highlight some of the challenges that might come with dressing warmly and sensory sensitivities around clothing that some of our pupils are experiencing and offer some tips on how to dress warmly for the colder weather.



Fabrics and textures such as elastic sleeves and waistbands are common sensory sensitivities. Fabrics, such as thick wool and thicker synthetic fabrics can also cause discomfort and irritation.



To make dressing for winter easier try:

- ☆ -Layering with thin layers such as merino wool or bamboo. These fabrics are soft, light and breathable and will create a layer of insulation without causing overheating and discomfort. (images: thermals, bamboo vest)
- ☆ -For our pupils who prefer deep pressure, there are thicker jumpers and also adapted clothing such as heavier jackets or compression clothes that can provide the needed sensory input and act as a second layer for warmth.



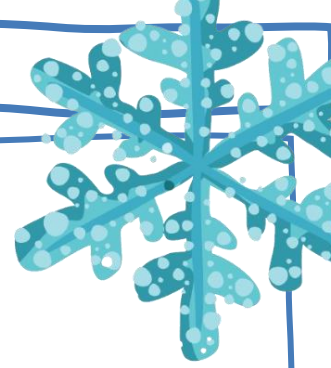
Opting for seamless clothing such as socks, vests and leggings can provide more comfort too. Socks in merino wool, bamboo or cotton are also soft and breathable, whilst also keeping feet warm

Elastic bands on waistbands and coat sleeves can create irritation and discomfort. Opting for elastic free waistbands and Velcro closures on sleeves can help to all



Warm and watertight shoes are important. Shoes are a common sensory sensitivity, so opting for shoes with plenty of room that are easy to take on and off is important. Slip on shoes or shoes with Velcro can be good options.



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 **Quiz Night** – We are in the final planning stage for our FROGS quiz. Keep your eyes peeled for full details coming soon.

We recently held our Annual General Meeting, where we reflected on the achievements of the past year and set out our priorities moving forward. It was a positive and productive meeting, and we are pleased to share that clear plans are now in place to guide our work for the year ahead. We look forward to building on our progress and delivering continued improvements for The Grange School.

 Join the PTA WhatsApp group for up-and-coming events and planning <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CInxVPS1q5k5wpoDMMaMBh>

We would also like to thank Sue who generously answered the plea for Gazebos and tables that are on our wish list with one of each, this is an amazing addition to our FROGS set up.

 **Gentle Reminder** 

 All pupil medication will need to be handed into the Welcome Building and a form completed.

 If your child can't attend school for any reason, please give us a call on 0330 135 8154. If we're unable to answer, please leave a message.

 **We'd love to hear from you** 

If you'd like to get in touch, please email us at [grange@phoenixschools.org.uk](mailto:grange@phoenixschools.org.uk), call 0330 135 8154 or find us at The Grange School, 18–21 Church Gate, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 3PN

