

St John's News

21st October 2022

Welcome to the new look St John's newsletter which will be published fortnightly. A wide range of events have been enjoyed by many pupils this term including the BILTT Pupil Fun Day, Hello Yellow Mental Health Awareness Day and the BILTT Summer Fayre at the end of September. Pupils have been engaging in a wide range of activities: pumpkin picking, exploring the local community and P5 have been enjoying their new interactive *Clevertouch* board. Huge thanks go to the BILTT site team and S7 and S8 staff who have been working extremely hard to update and refresh learning environments.

S4 News

S4 have been working hard on transitioning to and from different places around the school and actively engaging in adult led activities. One pupil has been learning to count 1 and 2 objects to demonstrate 1-1 correspondence in maths and in literacy we've been working on sound discrimination and lots and lots of reading.

In PE we have been working on gross motor skills to climb, balance, walk, jump & throw. Over the half term, we have got more and more self-confident! We did this after the adults modelled what we needed to do and supported us to gain confidence to do it ourselves.



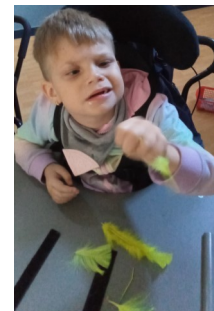
S6 News

S6 had great fun at the BILTT fun day, our favourite activities were the face painting, the ice cream and the forest school. We also enjoyed our walk there. It was our first visit out of school for a while, we found lots of conkers on the way. In Geography we have explored recycling. We have been reading 'The Messy Magpie' and thinking about how we can keep our environment tidy. The pupils sorted different pieces of rubbish into their correct material group.



P5 and S9 News

During the autumn term, S9 and P5 have joined together in the school hall on Wednesday afternoons for a group sensory story called 'The Autumn Forest'. Pupils experienced shadow puppets and explored forest related resources.



S7 and S8 get a new look

Our site management and staff teams have worked incredibly hard to complete an amazing and speedy update of our teaching areas over the last week and as our pictures show the corridors and classrooms are now inviting learning spaces with clear distraction-free corridors, individual workstations, a common room and a sensory circuit room to support the students to regulate themselves throughout the school day.

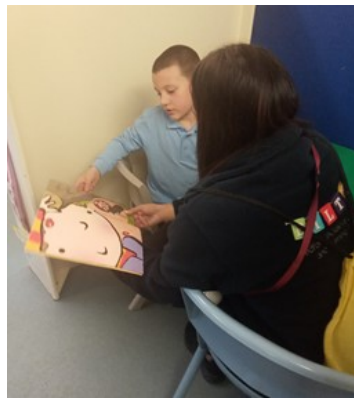
The impact of these changes are already being noticed, each student is settling into their new workstations and routines, encouraging the students to develop their independence and self-help skills.



P6 News

In P6 we have been reading for pleasure every morning in class. During these sessions we have been reading a range of books with an adult. Staff used questioning to assess pupil's comprehension and ask questions such as 'who can you see? What are they doing?'

Ryan really likes the story 'Kitchen Disco' and went to S9 to read this to their class. Eddie says his favourite story at the moment is 'Gruffalos child'.



FE1 News

The class of FE1 went pumpkin picking at Sharnbrook Farm as part of our community access curriculum. Pupils put on their wellington boots and boarded the minibus. When we reached the farm, they picked up a wheelbarrow from the farm shop and picked their own pumpkins from the farm field...after close inspection of course. The pupils got to see first-hand where and how the pumpkins are grown in their natural environment.

Once a pupil had chosen their pumpkin it was loaded into a wheelbarrow and taken to the farm shop. The pupils put their individual pumpkins on a weighing scale to identify a cost which was noted by the "pumpkin team" at the farm shop and relayed to the pupil. The pumpkins were then paid for and taken back to school. The whole process helped our students understand how weight affects cost with certain items.

After some research online, pupils created designs on paper and were supported in scooping out their pumpkin and carving their design into it, in preparation for Halloween. This gave our students a chance to be creative and improve their motor skills.

During our end of week meeting the pupils spoke about how they loved the activity and were looking forward to having some spooky pumpkins for Halloween!



Hello Yellow

As our reports below show pupils across the school took part in activities around World Mental Health Day last week and the #HelloYellow campaign which aims to highlight and raise funds to support mental health issues for young people.

Pupils and staff wore yellow and enjoyed well-being activities including yoga, arts and crafts photo booth fun and music during lunchtime play sessions.



P9 News

We had a very exciting Hello Yellow Day on Friday. We all dressed up in yellow and took part in a variety of activities including yoga, mindfulness and the interactive floor projector! We even practiced our fractions by decorating biscuits with yellow icing and finding a fraction of the total amount! Finally, at lunch time, we were able to enjoy music and outside games with our friends.

Dougie: I liked the hall, jumping on the stars!

Jason: I liked making biscuits – yellow!

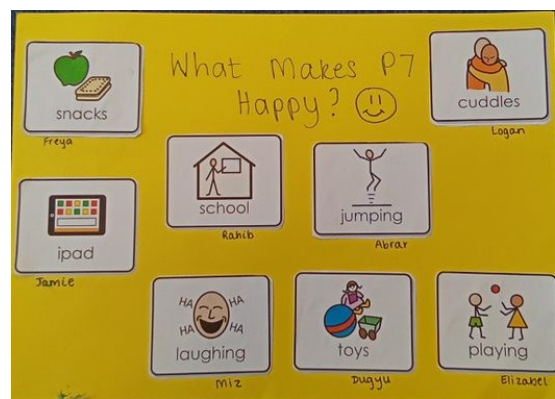
Monet and Orlagh: We liked jumping on the stars and playing with the bubbles.



P7 News

P7 had a great time celebrating Hello Yellow for World Mental Health Day! We did some yellow themed activities and worked on being positive in order to support our friends' mental health. In order to support our mental health as a class, we did some meditation and listened to some calming music in the classroom. We also played together in our yellow themed tuff tray activity and worked on our fine motor skills by using the Playdoh to make some shapes.

As a class we looked at the things that make us happy. Each child was given a chance to express something that makes them happy. Rahib expressed that school makes him happy. Dugyu expressed that toys make her happy. Jamie said that the iPad and computer make him happy and Elizabel really enjoys playing and said that play makes her happy. Freya told P7 staff that snacks make her happy.



P5 News

P5 have a new large *Clevertouch* screen on an adjustable mount. This allows pupils to access the screen at different heights and in different ways. It can be lowered down to the floor for pupils developing their independent sitting skills and to access it with their feet, and it can be raised up high to enable pupils' better access when using their standing frames.



P8 News

P8 have been learning about 'People that Help us' in RSE. We have been exploring people that can help us in the community and what they do to help us. We have been also looking at and matching the uniforms, equipment, and resources these people use to do their jobs. The pupils in P8 really engage in and enjoy dressing up as doctors, nurses, police officers and shop keepers and role play helping each other, dolls and teddies.



BILTT Pupil Fun Day

Pupils from all BILTT schools came together in September to enjoy a day of fun learning activities hosted by Grange Academy.

Primary and secondary classes from Greys Education Centre, St John's Special School and Grange Academy experienced new activities and workshops throughout the day including drumming and singing, Forest School, crazy science workshops, face painting and outdoor games. Ark-Farm visited with cute and cuddly rabbits and guinea pigs, chickens, ducks, sheep and their friendly and playful Labrador dogs.

Feedback from pupils was hugely positive and one class teacher reported that her class "found the Crazy Scientist show so funny, really thinking he didn't know what he was doing"

Grange Academy's Elm class reported they were especially fond of the free ice-cream van, the animals and the visit from both a police van and fire engine through the day.

Parents also fed back on how much pupils had enjoyed the activities "I heard all about today on the way home. It sounds like a fantastic day and a fun time had by all"

Grange Academy chef Bev and her team provided delicious snack bags for all attendees and planning has already started for our next BILTT Pupil Xmas Fun Day on December 9th.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Grange Academy, Halsey Road,
Kempston, Bedford MK42 8AU

Saturday, 10th December 2022
11am to 2pm

- Fun Family Activities •
- Santa's Grotto •
- Tombola • Craft Stalls •
- Raffle • Face Painting •
- Refreshments •

FREE ENTRY

BILTT Bedford Inclusive Learning and Training Trust
Greys Education Centre
Grange Academy
St John's School

Our BILTT Xmas Fayre will bring together all our schools for one single family festive event for the very first time this year. We are busy working with the Friends of Grange and St. John's PTA committee members to plan the event but we still urgently need volunteers, raffle and tombola prizes and your ideas for what will make the event a huge success. If you can support us in any way please contact jane.hutchings@biltt.org



The Luton and Bedfordshire **Paediatric Occupational Therapist** service supports children & young people with SEND to participate as fully as possible in activities including play, eating, self-care, life-skills and managing at school. The service is based on supporting parents/carers and schools to be aware of sensory processing difficulties and adapting a child's environment to increase participation and help manage the impact of these challenges at home and in the classroom.

The service provides resources and further information about the services available via their website www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/BedsandLutonOT

EXCLUSIVE SEND ONLY Relaxed/Quiet Fire Station Open Day

Come along & visit Bedford Fire Station on Barkers Lane...

Sunday 23rd October 2022, 2pm to 4pm

- Explore the fire engines
- Meet fire fighters
- Engage with Fire Safety Team about fire safety in your home
- Book in a FREE home safe and well check with the safety team

To register your interest (so we have a rough idea of numbers), please email: LocalOffer@bedford.gov.uk
Please include how many people in your group will be attending.

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL Parent Carer FORUM

Diary Dates

Half Term	Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October 2022
Pupils return to school	Monday 31st October 2022
Parents Evening	Thursday 3rd November 2022
Diwali Day	Friday 4th November 2022
Ice Cream Fireworks Special	Friday 4th November
Remembrance Day	Friday 11th November 2022