



16th December 2022

BILTT Festive Newsletter

Our end of term newsletter celebrates the achievements and collaboration across all our schools.

BILTT Christmas Fayre

BILTT families and members of the local community flocked to our first BILTT Xmas Fayre held at Grange Academy last week. Santa's Grotto was as popular as ever as was our kitchen offering hot and cold meal and drink options, home cooked by our catering wizard Bev Tott. Local craft stalls complemented those run by BILTT staff and volunteers and classes across BILTT had been very busy creating amazing gift items to sell on the day including some stunning wooden Xmas trees from our secondary pupils at Greys. We enjoyed a visit from our local MP and must also thank Mark Ford at Eurostar for the amazingly generous donation for our Grand Raffle. Over £1,000 was raised on the day which will be shared across our schools. Thank you to every pupil, staff member, volunteer and visitor who supported us on the day.



BILTT Pupil Fun Day

Pupils from across BILTT enjoyed a morning of fun hosted by St. John's School last week. Activities included a fun science session, cookie decorating and festive card making. Grange's Palm class proved to be excellent mentors for younger Greys and St John's pupils as they supported the craft and cookie sessions. The morning ended with a meet and greet with Santa for our visitors and a personal visit from the man in red for St. John's classes.



Special Deliveries from BILTT Pupils

This Christmas pupils from across our schools created a very special and unique range of greeting cards to thank our Trustees, Governors and supporters this festive season. As you can see pupils' creativity included cards in many mediums from traditional felt, paper and paint to digital artwork.





T'was the weeks before Christmas,
and all throughout BILTT,
Excitement was mounting;
Festivities flowing full tilt!
A term of hard work means time to celebrate,
With pantos and parties and our great Christmas Fete!
Please join in our happiness,
As we reflect back and smile,

At all Grange have achieved in the last little while. Over this term, we've had some fantastic highlights; our Forest school is evolving into a wonderful resource (watch out for our virtual tour coming to the website in the new year!). We've achieved some awards – Eco Schools, and Gold Artsmark amongst others and opened our wonderful new building. Pupils have enjoyed many events including our BILTT fun day, visiting artist workshops, drumming, dancing and trips to the cinema, alongside some quieter reflective moments like our Diwali contemplation and Remembrance events. For some of us, it has been a time of getting to know new faces and settling into the Grange Family; for others, it has been a time of strengthening already deep bonds. We've had a few challenges, not least our flood! But through it all, the Grange values of belonging, believing and achieving have shone through. We've worked as a team and thrived; our pupils have been exemplary and showed just how wonderful they are. Thank you all.

For many of us this is a season of anticipation, joy, thankfulness and perhaps a little indulgence; a time for laughing with family and friends. But for some, Christmas is less like the adverts – it is a time of loneliness, anxiety and fear over finance or conflict. If we are looking forward to a time of peace and happiness; let us spare a thought for those who are not able to enjoy the season and wish them comfort and offer whatever kindness and hope that we can.

Looking ahead, we have so many things to look forward to in 2023 – our exciting Grange Curriculum, sporting and arts events, fostering even deeper partnerships with other BILTT schools and, not least, welcoming some new chickens to our school. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution to Grange Academy and wish each and everyone of you a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas time. *May your happiness be large and your bills be small! Merry Christmas one and all!*

Rachel Timms, Headteacher



Festive Fir Fun For Greys Primary Pupils

A big thank you to Box End Feed Merchants for once again providing Chestnut class with a fabulous tree. Pupils were given the opportunity to visit the feed merchants and select a tree for the school. All the pupils have enjoyed making Christmas tree decorations and watching the tree become decorated. It now stands proudly in the Bromham site reception for all to admire.



A Special Thank You

Staff and Pupils at St. John's School have been enjoying a brand-new Xmas tree thanks to a very generous cash donation from one of our St. John's families. The donation allowed us not only to replace the rather tired tree at St John's but also purchase a similar 12ft tree for our Xmas Fayre hosted at Grange Academy. Our very grateful thanks go to the donor from every BILTT pupil. They have both given much joy and will do so for years to come. If you, your family or friends are able to support any of our schools with sponsorship or gifts in kind please contact our BILTT Communications Manager laura.sherwood-king@bilt.org at any time. There are so many ways to support and enhance what we do for our pupils and we would love to hear your ideas.



Careers Encounters with Employers

This term St John's secondary pupils had the opportunity to learn about the job the police do. The police explained some of the different strands of the police force and explained some of the skills they need when they are at work. Some pupils asked inquisitive questions about the job, whilst others enjoyed the sensory experience of trying on the helmets, hats, and jackets. Some pupils took this opportunity to link the learning about transferable skills such as teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills which were explored when Job Centre Plus visited earlier in the year.

Some of our pupils have expressed an interest in the world of work and have identified they would like to be a hairdresser, a shop keeper, a babysitter, and a pilot. Ideally, we would like to offer encounters with employers that are meaningful and aspirational to the pupils so they can share the skills and knowledge needed in these job roles. If you are or know someone who has one of these jobs, we would love to hear from you if you are able to come into school and meet with our pupils.





Greys Education Centre
Aspirational • Collaborating

Greys Education Centre



It's been a fantastic term for Greys Education Centre - we've been very busy! We have welcomed new staff and pupils, and celebrated opening the new HIVE Provision at Bromham. Pupils have participated in BILTT events, showing enthusiasm, manners and positivity at both the summer event and Christmas Fayre. We have celebrated Diwali Day, had a trip to the pantomime – thanks to a kind donation from the Rotary Club - and laid our wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Grange Academy.

In Primary, pupils have visited Salem Woods as part of the Forest School curriculum and discovered hidden talents during music lessons from a professional drummer. We relaxed and refreshed with wellness yoga sessions for World Mental Health Day. We kindly had a Christmas tree donated from Box End Horse Feed Merchant, and pupils were lucky enough to visit to choose our tree, then craft their own decorations in Forest School.



In Secondary, pupils have been just as successful; we raised funds for many charities, including £42 for Comic Relief with our school quiz. We complemented our weekly DJ session with visiting Beatboxers, which was great fun. We visited the Banksy Exhibit to complement Art coursework and had a careers coffee morning for parents. Some pupils are now taking part in weekly sessions of Drawing & Talking. Pupils and staff alike faced their fears during the climbing trip to Milton Keynes. Thanks to donations from Lawsons pupils have designed and made wooden Christmas trees complete with fairy lights! These proved to be a huge hit, raising £60 at the BILTT Christmas Fayre.

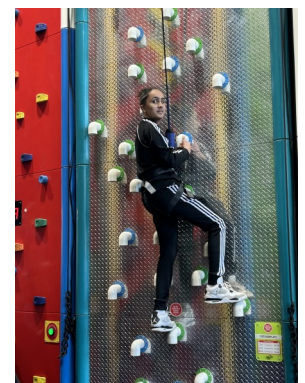


Looking ahead, there is so much to look forward in 2023, our exciting Greys curriculum, sporting and arts events, fostering even deeper partnerships with other BILTT schools and, not least, our wild camping residential in Matchstick Wood.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution to Greys Education Centre and wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas time.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back on: Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Kind regards,
Clare, Headteacher



Dunelm Christmas Gift Donations

Grange Academy would like to extend an enormous thank you to Sue Worthington-Ellis from Dunelm who has organised a Christmas gift for every pupil at our school. Pupils were invited to suggest gifts they'd like to receive; these idea tags were placed on a tree in the store. Staff and customers then purchased the presents which were delivered to school by Sue. Everyone has been extremely generous and the pupils were delighted. Sue is shown here with a small selection of the huge range of gifts. Alongside this, the community team have knitted a range of beautiful hats and scarves for pupils too! Thank you everyone at Dunelm, especially Sue for all the hard work. We really appreciate it.



Rotary Club Thank You

A big thank you from Greys Primary to the Bedford Rotary Club for helping to sponsor our theatre trip. The Rotary Club generously supported our school in purchasing tickets for all the pupils to attend the MK Theatre to see the Pantomime 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.



Competition Success for Grange Academy Pupil

Grange Academy pupil Mya has taken top spot in a national festive card competition with her stunning digital Xmas tree design. Run by award winning online interactive learning space *Purple Mash* the winning designs are currently available as personalised digital cards in a learning activity for all users of the highly regarded digital educational platform.

Grange ICT teacher and BILTT Digital Lead Claudine Rowley commented "Mya worked incredibly hard on her design; she chose the painting technique carefully and used various parts of the 2Paint application"

Rachel Timms Headteacher commented 'I am very proud of Mya for using her ICT skills to create such a beautiful, winning card which really captures the Christmas atmosphere; seeing her work recognised by Purple Mash shows just what a high standard she reached! ICT is a strength of our school and pupils achieve fantastic results in the subject'.





We hope that you are all looking forward to the festive period with your loved ones.

Autumn term has been incredibly busy at St John's. Pupils in S3 have been accessing Forest School at Grange Academy and they have enjoyed a range of outdoor activities including a campfire.

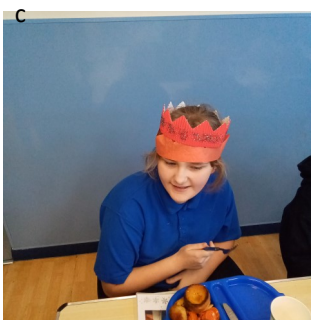
We celebrated a whole school event for Diwali and pupils particularly loved getting dressing up in beautiful clothing. Some of our pupils absolutely loved a multi-sensory theatre production called *Rain Rain* by a theatre company called *Bamboozle*. Earlier this term we collected food donations for Harvest Festival and our FE pupils took these to a local food bank.



Thank you to all parents for your ongoing support. We recognise the importance of working in partnership with families and look forward to continuing to build upon these positive relationships.

We wish all our families a very happy holiday season and look forward to all the wonderful opportunities that 2023 will bring.

Shannon and Louisa, Deputy Headteachers



Hair and Beauty Update

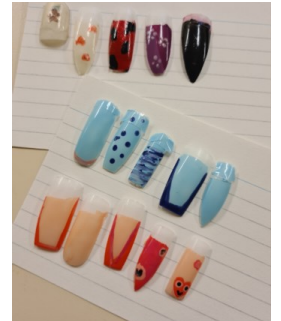
Students from schools across Bedford have been working hard this term as part of their outreach Hair & Beauty programme. With students focused on theory work such as health & safety in a salon environment and practical units such as manicures, nail art and braiding hair, the six weeks have kept them busy and have flown by. All students have shown a keen interest working in the hair & beauty industry and are thinking of their future career opportunities within the H&B sector. Louise a year 11 student is already showing enthusiasm by enquiring at Bedford College. She is now eagerly awaiting her tour around Bedford College's in house salon Brooks in the New Year. We wish her the best of luck.

Here are a couple of comments about what some of the students thought to their six week programme;

Kayla: I liked the course because I learnt things I didn't know already like all the different tools used during a nail art treatment.

Louise: I enjoyed the course because it will help me with my apprenticeship in hair.

Greys talented hair and beauty pupils and teacher designed lip care products to be sold at the BILTT Christmas Fayre. They made £30 towards the Aching Arms Charity.



Handmade Christmas Trees

Greys Secondary pupils handmade Christmas trees were on display at the BILTT Christmas Fayre. Dan McGrath the outdoor Ed teacher at Greys was thrilled that they made £60 for the Aching Arms Charity.



Fond farewell and welcomes across BILTT

This Christmas St John's school will be saying goodbye to colleagues Nataliia Zarivna, Lauren Steels and Charlie Knight. Pearl Houghton will be joining us as a teacher in our senior phase.

At Grange Academy Rebecca Cherry is joining Walnut class as their new teacher.

We thank all the departing staff for their service and commitment to our schools and look forward to welcoming all our new colleagues next term.



Return to School Dates

Greys Education Centre pupils return to school	Tuesday 3rd January 2023
St John's School pupils return to school	Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Grange Academy pupils return to school	Wednesday 4th January 2023