

Rainbow Room Newsletter

Spring 2 - 2025

Welcome back to another exciting half term! Spring is always a very busy term at Grange and we look forward to welcoming all the children back to school. We have lots of exciting activities planned and we can't wait to share our learning with you all!

This half term we will be delving into many short stories and movie clips that explore our overarching 'I wonder? Question':
'Could we have pet dinosaurs?'



Each week there will be carefully planned activities that cover all curriculum areas based on our weekly theme and focus text. Here is a snapshot of what we will be getting up to:

We will be exploring where dinosaurs come from, what fossils are and where we can find them; learning from the famous paleontologist Mary Anning. We will also be exploring what volcanoes are and what the world was like when dinosaurs were alive. We will be making dinosaur pets and dinosaur eggs using a range of different materials as well as learning a dinosaur stomp!

Towards the end of the term we will be learning about the celebration of Easter and the tradition of giving and receiving Easter Eggs.

Parents evening meetings:

These are being held on either the 4th or 5th of March and will be with your child's class teacher. You will be able to view your child's Rainbow Room book during this meeting and teachers will be able to share how your child is progressing. However, if you would like a

Easter Craft Afternoon!

To celebrate Easter, we will be holding an Easter craft afternoon and we would like to invite grown ups to join us in the Rainbow Room to celebrate!

Thursday 3rd April 2:00—3.00pm

As always, I am happy to meet with any parents who would like to discuss their child's SEND needs.

To make an appointment please call the school office on: 0115 9734956

Mrs Riley :)

Progress towards the SEND Inclusion Award

Since September 2025, we have been working hard on improving our SEND offer at Grange. Here are some of the things we've been up to:

- We have updated our accessibility plan which can be viewed on the schools website.
- Ensured parents and carers have access to key information via our school website where documents like the SEND information report can be viewed.
- Signed up to Derbyshire's Positive Play program which will be starting this term. Information about this can be found on Derbyshire's Local Offer.
- Attended Trauma Informed Emotional Response Training.



Key Dates:

- ♦ **Monday 24th February 2025—Inset Day**
- ♦ **Tuesday 25th February 2025—School reopens for children**
- ♦ **Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th March 2025—Parents Evening**
- ♦ **Thursday 3rd April 2025—Easter Craft Afternoon**
- ♦ **Friday 4th April 2025—Last day of the Spring Term**

How You Can Support Your Child At Home

Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Almost everything we do involves communication; everyday tasks such as learning at school, asking for food and drink, sorting out problems, making friends and having fun. These all rely on our ability to communicate with each other.



Makaton is a unique communication program that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression. Signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order. This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help children who have no speech, whose speech is unclear or those children who have speech but struggle to processing information quickly.

At Grange we use Makaton to support language development through learning key words and phrases and songs related to our current topic to build up a bank of vocabulary. At home you could watch programs like Mr Tumble's 'Something Special', watch the 'Singing Hands' channel on YouTube and/or practice signing our focus words (see Widgets below) of the term by searching them online.

Another communication tool we use at Grange is Widgit. All staff at Grange have been working hard to ensure the environment is language rich. To ensure that the needs of children who have communication and language difficulties are met, we are using Widgit symbols as a communication tool to supplement developing language skills. See below for our Widgits of the term that you can cut out and use at home if you wish.

Widgits are symbols that are used to support text, making meaning clearer and easier to understand. They reduce cognitive load and provide children with the opportunity to return to ideas that may have passed if only spoken language was used. Widgits provide a visual representation of a concept that help children develop and grow their own vocabulary.

Please see Mrs Riley if you would like more support with using Widgits at home.



Some children representing Grange
at the Ks1 Gymnastics Festival and
the KS2 Athletics Festival!



Look at the fantastic work we have been doing in the Rainbow Room.
A special mention to Alfie for his superb writing! Well done!

