



Only a very short half term but as you will see, it has been action packed! As always, we are excited to share with you what has been happening at Grange Drive. During the second half term of spring, we have recognised many key dates and events whilst continuing to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our young people.

Our love of reading has been shown on World Book Day through students and staff dressing up as their favourite character, this also continued whilst we fundraised for Comic Relief as we took part in a Reading Marathon, engaging in different Little Miss and Mr Men activities.

I hope you and the children have a lovely Easter break. Please refer to the key dates within the newsletter to prepare yourself for what is coming after the break.

Tom Bradley-Hewell- Head of School Birch Wood Grange Drive



What has happened this half term?

Red Nose Day – To raise awareness and money for Sports Relief, Birch Wood Grange Drive took part in a weekday reading marathon. As the Sports Relief theme involved Little Miss and Mr Men, we thought it was the perfect opportunity to involve the classic books in our marathon. Every class at the Grange Drive site engaged with a Little Miss or Mr Men book each day for 26 days. On the actual day we also had a non-uniform day where students and staff alike made voluntary donations towards the cause.

World Down Syndrome Day – On Tuesday 21st March, Birch Wood School celebrated World Down Syndrome Day – a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

The date for World Down Syndrome Day being the 21st day of the 3rd month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

A wonderful video was put together with input from every class at Birch Wood School (please click here <https://fb.watch/jwhzPgiLkT/>) to support this year's theme which is "with us not for us". This theme emphasises how decisions about our young people should be made with them and not for them and the importance of giving them the skills to be able to make their own decisions.





Autism Awareness Week – On the final week we took part in World Autism Acceptance week. This year's theme was "A spectrum of colour". To celebrate we had an Autism Celebration day on Friday 31st March. On this day we invited all staff and students to wear "a spectrum of colour". Students took part in different colour themed activities throughout the day. Photos will follow on our Social Media pages. Amy Dunstan our Behaviour and Culture lead also wrote an article providing top tips to other schools on supporting pupils with Autism, which can be viewed on our website. We also had some lovely contributions from our parents about what autism means to them which we have shared on Facebook.

Reading and Communication!

We view reading and communication as the foundation of our curriculum from which everything is built upon. We give reading and communication such high status as it helps our young people to communicate, strengthen relationships, deepen their knowledge of the world around them and also...have fun!

If you require any more information about our approach to reading and communication, please speak to your class teacher. You may also have a look on the website:

<https://birchwoodschool.co.uk/reading>

This half term has been full of reading and communication opportunities for the Birch Wood community:

World Book Day – This year we invited all students across Birch Wood School to dress up in clothes inspired by a genre of a book. This ranged from characters from Science Fiction books to characters within thriller books. It was wonderful to see all of the amazing costumes our students arrived in for World Book Day! We had a wonderful time sharing stories and celebrating our love of reading through lots of different activities. I'm sure you'll agree, everyone looked fantastic!







Lea Green Residential

Students from The Burrow, The Penguins and The Treehouse went to Lea Green for their residential. This involved students staying at Lea Green from Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th where they took part in lots of different fun activities, from the climbing tower to pond dipping!

Students and staff alike have had lots of fun on their residential and are already asking for when their next residential will be! More residential trips will be available very soon so watch this space.... Here are some of the pictures from Lea Green:





Spring 2 Newsletter

Where a love of learning grows





Birch Wood Community Café

The Birch Wood Community Café is re-opening on Monday 24th April at Melton Mencap. Please come and show your support!



Birch Wood Community Café

at the

Melton Mencap Centre

Re-opening Monday 24th April 2023

Open Mondays 11:00am – 2:00pm

Managed, Prepared and Run by

Post 16 Students

from BirchWood Vale School

Please Support Us !

For Further Information Contact : Di Alexander

Alexanderd@birchwoodschoo.co.uk

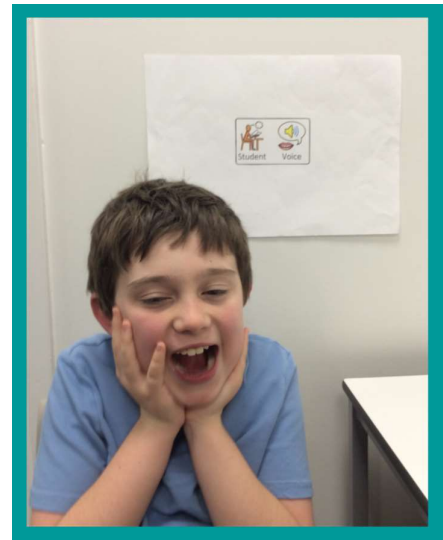


The Student Voice has been incredibly busy since the turn of the year and they have been very focused on making Grange Drive a school they can be proud of!

Within this half term, the Student Voice has helped interview new staff by being on a student panel. The students asked specific questions that were important to them. The students have also started a Cinema Club on a Friday lunch time which is very popular.

Some of the student council have supported the school by completing learning walks, where they support staff to understand what needs to be changed from the student's perspective. This has led to new blinds for the Lodge, and a renovation of the kitchen space.

The student voice have also been instrumental in helping us adapt our student voice so that all student's voices are heard within the student voice meetings. As always, we are very proud of our students and this half term, the Student Voice has been instrumental in more positive changes at Grange Drive.





Key Dates next term

Monday 3rd- Friday 14th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 28th April	Undiagnosed Children's Day (SWAN UK)
Monday May 1st	Bank Holiday
Friday May 5th	PMLD Awareness Day
Monday 8th May	Coronation Day Bank Holiday
29th May- Friday 2nd June	HALF TERM
June	Preparing students for transition to new classes and teachers where appropriate
May 15th- June 16th	Exam period
30th June	School Reports
30th June	Employability Day
4th (GD) & 5th BWV/AH July (proposed)	Sports Days
July 12th	Prom
Thursday 13th July	School closes to students
Friday 14th July	Staff INSET Day- school closed to students

Running for Birch Wood:

On May 20th, Tom Bradley-Hewell, Head of School at Birch Wood Grange Drive, and David Grimes, Network Manager and Jordan Meads, BWV Nurture Teacher, will be running a marathon at the peak district.

None of us have completed a marathon before so to provide ourselves with some additional motivation, we would like it to benefit other people. We have decided to try to raise money to purchase outdoor equipment for Birch Wood School! If you would like to donate, please feel to click on the below link:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/birchwoodschool?utm_term=gYwYXAebd

