



Grange Drive



Birch Wood  
Vale School



Birch Wood  
Ashton House



## Grange Drive Newsletter Autumn 2023

Welcome to Grange Drive's first newsletter for the 2023/24 academic year. The students have had a very positive start to the autumn term, settling into their new classes, some with new peers and staff. The year ahead promises to be another exciting period at Birch Wood School; as you will see below, it has already been a fun-filled half term! I look forward to sharing more with you over the coming year.

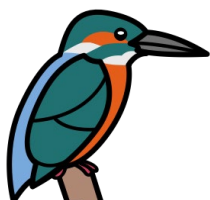
Tom Bradley-Hewell – Head of School

### Student Voice

The Student Voice team always has a significant input at Grange Drive and we welcome our new team for this academic year. The Student Voice team for 2023/24 consists of:



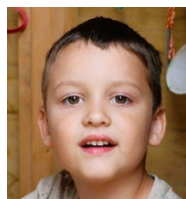
Taylor - **Nightingales**



Katie - **Kingfishers**



Amber - **Hummingbirds**



Theo - **Robins**



Leo- **Penguins**



Gwen - **Merlins**



Ben- **Owls**



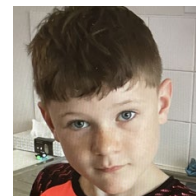
Phillip - **Eagles**



Blake - **Goldfinches**



Harley- **The Lodge**



Charlie- **The Treehouse**

All of the Student Voice representatives were voted in democratically by their peers. The team will be meeting after half term where they will have the opportunity to discuss and implement ideas that could help make the school even better! Previous initiatives from the Student Voice team was to redevelop our soft play facility and to be involved with our interviewing panel so I look forward to see how they are going to help further improve the school during this academic year!

### Jeans for Genes

On Friday 17th of September we celebrated Jeans for Genes Day by wearing jeans to school. You can read more about Jeans for Genes on the charity's website <https://www.jeansforgenes.org>. Students also took part in many fun activities throughout the day, raised money for the charity and put together a video to increase awareness of the daily challenges that are faced by those living with a genetic condition. You can see the video on Birch Wood School's Facebook page and by clicking: <https://fb.watch/nzMq2y6U8b>

At Birch Wood School we have continued to showcase the voices of our parents and their lived experience of having a child with a disability through our 'Ask the Expert- a Parents View' Podcasts. To celebrate Jeans for Gene's day, Hannah O'Mara, Assistant Head Teacher, spoke to Eric's parents Beth and George. The podcast can be found here



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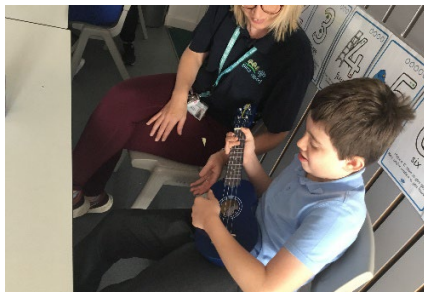


<https://fb.watch/nzEMQGKo4n>. A huge thank you to the truly inspirational parents Beth and George for sharing their journey.

### Leicestershire Music Hub

We have been incredibly fortunate to have a teacher from the Leicestershire Music Hub delivering ukulele sessions with classes such as the Robins and Penguins this half term. Robin has provided our young people with wonderful interactive sessions, where they can learn the basics of playing the ukulele, as well as developing their communication and interaction skills through the power of music. A beautiful example of this can be seen on our Facebook page, where Maisie from the Owls sings along as Robin plays her favourite song

<https://fb.watch/nzFrCwnxLR/> A massive thank you to Robin and everyone at the Leicestershire Music Hub, as well.



### Birch Wood 10 and Family Fun Day

The Birch Wood 10 and Family Fun Day was once again a massive success! A massive thank you to all the runners and walkers who took on the 1k, 5k and 10k challenge. We managed to raise a whopping £2330 from JustGiving donations alone and we will be updating you shortly with the total figure raised from both the race and the Fun Day. If you would still like to make a donation, please follow this link to our JustGiving page:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/birchwoodschoobw10?utm\\_term=NqkwzrEJr](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/birchwoodschoobw10?utm_term=NqkwzrEJr)



### Key dates:

Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day 11.11
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Day
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Bottesford Bike Christmas Toy Run
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Bazaar
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Letters sent to Santa
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Grange Drive Christmas Production
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Beauty and the Beast Melton Theatre
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS