

Columbia Grange Weekly Newsletter



16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week at Columbia Grange...

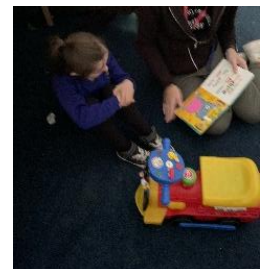
Blossom

This week, some of the children in Blossom enjoyed spending time sharing stories in the library. They independently selected the books they wanted to explore and were keen to share their choices with an adult.



Rose

This week, Rose class has been developing a love of early reading. The children have enjoyed exploring books in our class library alongside a variety of sensory activities. A special well done to Luna for actively taking part each day. She loved exploring a range of stories, with 'The Gruffalo' being her favourite so far!



Raspberry

This week, the children in Raspberry class have been counting with pumpkins! Klay was able to use pumpkin playdough to roll 3 pumpkins, adding pipe cleaner stems with increasing independence. Well done, Klay!



Strawberry

Lucus has been developing his concentration and behaviour for learning skills, trying to sit for longer periods of time. He showed great listening and attention during an art session this week, printing pumpkins with apples. Well done, Lucas!



Cherry

Cherry class have been wowing adults during choice time. The children have been playing together, sharing resources and tolerating their peers being in the space. Some children drew pictures on the whiteboard together, adding to the scene. We're especially proud of Luna, Tommy, Vinnie and Jack who enjoyed completing a jigsaw together, each adding their own piece before putting it all together. We're so proud of the way they are engaging with each other. Well done, Cherry class.



Poppy

Alia has been developing her emotional regulation skills across different areas of the school. She particularly enjoyed spending time in the library, sharing books with familiar adults and engaging positively in this calm and supportive environment.



Sunflower

Children in Sunflower class have been enjoying sensory integration sessions this week. Zara particularly enjoyed taking part in Attention Everyone, engaging with the brushing activity. Well done!

Lavender

The children in Lavender class thoroughly enjoyed their Attention Everyone session this week, especially the bubbles and cauldron experiment. A special shout out to Harry, who asked for "more bubbles" using his words. This is something the children have been working very hard on this week and we are so proud of their efforts.



Mint

The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring pumpkins this week. In a session with Dawne, the children opened up the pumpkins, exploring what was inside before exploring the textures and sizes. Later in the week the children continued their pumpkin exploration in the mud kitchen, using their imagination and engaging in lots of hands-on sensory play!



Lime

Lime Class have been getting ready for Halloween by creating some spooky witches using different shapes and materials. A special shout out to Harriet for her fantastic independence during this activity! If you're attending the Halloween Disco, keep your eyes peeled for some of our spooky decorations around the school!



Apple

Liam demonstrated excellent participation during his cookery session this week. He followed instructions exceptionally well; independently selecting and collecting the correct ingredients and successfully carrying out simple actions modelled by the adult.



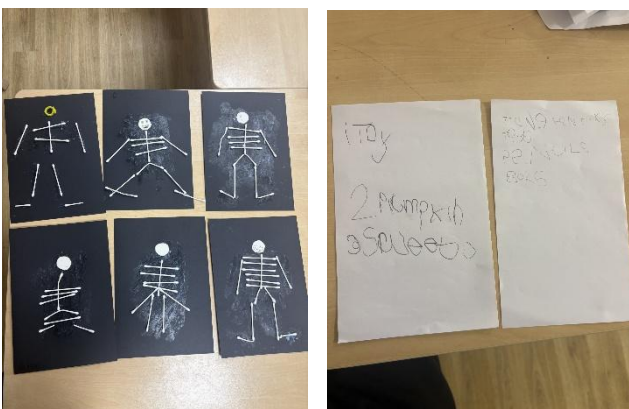
Olive

There was lots of mathematical thinking in Olive class as the children explored everything about numbers within 10! Each child selected a mystery number from the box before becoming a number detective, finding different ways to make the number. They counted objects, made different groups and explored how two smaller amounts could be combined to make their chosen number. It was wonderful to see the children explaining their ideas, trying different possibilities and confidently exploring numbers through practical play.



Forest

Forest class have been getting into the Halloween spirit this week! The children have enjoyed making some fantastic Halloween crafts and discussing the things they might see at a Halloween party or when out trick-or-treating. During their writing session, children put their ideas into practice by writing shopping lists for a Halloween party, thinking carefully about what they would need to buy from the supermarket. This was a great opportunity to develop their vocabulary and practise their independent writing in a fun and meaningful context.



Peacock

Peacock Class have been learning about 'more than' and 'fewer than' in Maths. The children enjoyed playing games with counters to compare different colours, finding out which group had more and which had fewer. They worked hard to use mathematical language to explain their thinking. A special well done to Aaron and William for their fantastic use of the sentence stems during the lesson. They showed great confidence in explaining their answers and were excellent role models for their friends.



Reminders/Key Dates

Date	Event	Year Group
21.10.26	Halloween Disco (after school)	Whole School
26.10.26	HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED	Whole School
2.11.26	School re-opens	Whole School
5.11.26	Outdoor Classroom Day	Whole School
6.11.26	Inset Day – School Closed to Children	Whole School
12.11.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Lime, Mint and Apple
13.11.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Peacock, Forest and Olive
16.11.26	Odd Sock Day	Whole School
19.11.26	Dads/Male Carer Coffee Morning 9:30-11:30	All Dads/Male Parents and Carers
20.11.26	Children in Need	Whole School
23.11.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Lavender, Sunflower and Rose
24.11.26	Mams/Female Carer Coffee Morning 9:30-11:30 @ Washington Mind	All Mams/Female Parents and Carers
25.11.26	SALT Parent Information Session for New Starters	TBC
26.11.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Blossom and Raspberry
27.11.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Strawberry, Cherry and Poppy
2.12.26	SALT Parent Information Session for New Starters	TBC
9.12.26	Christmas Disco (after school)	Whole School
10.12.26	Christmas Lunch Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day	Whole School
14.12.26	Christmas Party	Peacock, Forest, Olive and Sunflower
15.12.26	Christmas Party	Apple, Lime, Mint and Lavender
16.12.26	Christmas Party	Poppy, Cherry and Strawberry
17.12.26	Christmas Party	Raspberry, Rose, Blossom and The Nest
18.12.26	Last Day of Term Pyjama Day	Whole School
	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED	Whole School

Key dates for the wider school year

5.3.27 INSET Day (school is closed to children)

30.4.27 INSET Day (school is closed to children)

25.6.27 INSET Day (school is closed to children)

Schools will close to pupils on Tuesday 20th July 2027.

Attendance: Let's see if we can get at least one class with 100% attendance next week for the last week of this half term!

Class	Blossom	Rose	Raspberry	Strawberry	Cherry	Poppy	Sunflower
Attendance	95%	95%	95%	96%	94%	94%	94%
	Lavender	Mint	Lime	Apple	Olive	Forest	Peacock
Attendance	92%	93%	96%	96%	94%	93%	92%

Class	Star of the Week
Blossom	Georgia: For holding her pencil correctly and tracing over the letter /n/. Well done, Georgia!
Rose	Noah: For engaging and tolerating his sensory massage session. Well done, Noah!
Raspberry	Marc: For engaging in his learning with a smile on his face, well done!
Strawberry	Benjamin: For bringing joy to the classroom every day!
Cherry	Luke: For his growing engagement in our Mastering Maths lessons. Well done, Luke!
Poppy	Jojo: For independently requesting a pepperoni pizza at lunchtime. Well done!
Sunflower	Ugo: For developing his communication by responding to visual aids to express his feelings, wants and needs.
Lavender	Ollie: For working hard on requesting bubbles using a communication board, and even asking for 'more'.
Mint	Roman: For being a great lunchtime monitor! Each day, Roman takes the trolley of packed lunches to the hall, leading the class line, before helping to hand them out to his peers. Well done!
Lime	Adrian: For an exceptional attitude to learning this week and making a real effort to communicate his wants and needs. Well done, Adrian!
Apple	Alina: For fantastic independence and enthusiastic participation during her cookery session when making pancakes. Well done!
Olive	Tommy: For being a valuable member of Olive class, demonstrating kindness to his peers. Well done!
Forest	Ivy: For great resilience and determination during her P.E. session this week. Well done, Ivy!
Peacock	Lily: For showing great kindness and care towards her peers this week. Well done!

Class	Lunch Time Stars
Rose	Leo: For trying new foods, well done!
Poppy	Edie-Mae: For trying new foods, well done!
Lavender	Lincoln: For eating his dinner, well done!
Olive	Kit: For trying new foods, well done!
Peacock	Mariam: For asking for her pudding, well done!

As we approach the end of the first half term, don't forget about the Halloween disco that we have coming up next week. This is a particular highlight of the school year and provides families with a safe space to bring children to celebrate together. We are keen to have as many families as possible, so if you have concerns or feel any further adaptations may be needed, please let us know.

The school week ended with some children from Olive, Forest and Peacock class attending an Oak Learning Trust Football Tournament. Children (and staff) had a brilliant day and were represented the school exceptionally well.

Enjoy the weekend and we will see all children back in school on Monday.

J. Lines
Headteacher