

Columbia Grange Weekly Newsletter

11th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week at Columbia Grange...

Blossom

Over the past two weeks, Blossom Class have been working incredibly hard to develop their sitting skills. Just look at how independent they are becoming, well done everyone!



Rose

This week in Rose class, the children have been working on their early reading skills. They have been exploring books in the classroom library, investigating how to turn pages and feel different textures within them. Oscar has been repeatedly interacting with the book "Never Touch A Panda!" and appears to enjoy the different textures on each page.



Raspberry

Since returning to school, Korbyn has impressed staff and is settling well into his new class. This week he was initiating and requesting bubbles with staff, moving his hands towards the 'more' symbol each time! Well done, Korbyn!



Strawberry

As part of our 'My People' topic, Strawberry class have been exploring the idea that they are all unique through fingerprints, but together we are a community. Finn has been especially kind to his friends and has showed a community spirit this week, as well as creating this beautiful piece of artwork to represent our learning.



Cherry

Cherry Class enjoyed a great Attention Everyone session, with a focus on themselves. For Stage 3, they took turns building a Mr Potato Head, choosing which body part they wanted to add. In Stage 4, they used bingo dabbers to trace their own names. Jack and Luke did a particularly fantastic job mark making.



Poppy

James has recently started to mirror an adult clapping their hands in time to music. Fantastic progress, James!



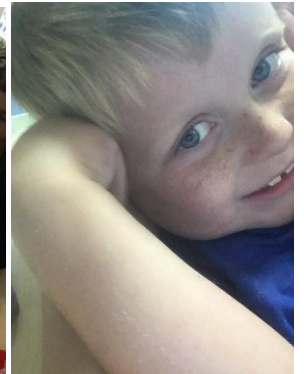
Sunflower

Children have been learning about the people who are important to them. They began by looking at photographs of themselves and then continued to explore photographs of their peers and class staff. Ugo particularly enjoyed the lotto game, where he matched the photographs to the corresponding pictures on the lotto mat.



Lavender

This week in Lavender Class, children have been exploring the topic 'My People'. They began by looking at themselves in the mirror, discussing what makes them special. The children had lots of fun blowing bubbles, taking turns and sharing the experience with friends. To finish the session children took selfies and created their own colourful bubble art pictures.



Mint

In Maths this week, the children have been practising subitising and counting numbers to 3. The children enjoyed counting different objects and matching the amount to the correct number card and numberblock. Well done to Jack who also ordered the numberblocks correctly as an extra challenge. The children have also been singing lots of number rhymes... the current favourite is 'Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer'! The children also enjoyed science this week where they made different coloured clouds and began to use simple science equipment.



Lime

In Maths this week, the children have been practising counting and recognising quantities to 5. To support their learning, they have been singing number songs and giving out high fives! A special shout-out goes to Ellie, who independently sang all of our "Funky 5" songs and initiated high-five interactions with her peers. Well done, Ellie!



Apple

John did an excellent job during his Food Technology lesson this week. He followed a simple set of instructions and requested ingredients and equipment using a communication board as well as successfully recognising and naming a range of foods. Following an initial demonstration from the adult, he was also able to use an electric whisk independently. Well done, John!



Olive

We are incredibly proud of the fantastic progress the children are making in their daily phonics sessions. They have been working hard to develop their letter sounds, blending skills, and confidence in reading and writing. Many children are now beginning to write simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words independently, such as *cat*, *dog*, and *pin*. It has been wonderful to see them applying their phonics knowledge during learning activities and becoming more confident writers every day. Keep up the excellent work, everyone!



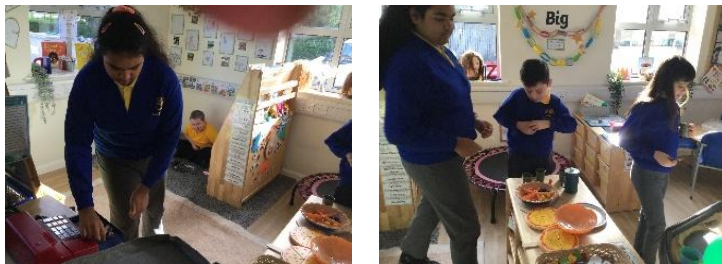
Forest

The children in Forest class thoroughly enjoyed their first PE session with Asha this week. They explored a variety of ways to move their bodies, including stretching, running, and jumping, before practising different animal movements. A particular class favourite was hopping up and down like frogs! The children then completed an obstacle course, working together to maintain a safe distance from their peers. The session concluded with a calm and enjoyable cool-down circle time, where the children rolled a light-up ball to one another, completed gentle stretches, and practised slow breathing by blowing bubbles.



Peacock

This week, Mariam took charge of our class café role play area, confidently serving up delicious smoothies for her friends. She showed fantastic imagination and communication skills as she took orders and interacted with her customers. Mariam also worked hard on developing her money skills by using the till, recognising coins and handling payments during her play. It was wonderful to see her so engaged, independent and proud of her role. Well done, Mariam!



Reminders/Key Dates

Date	Event	Year Group
25.9.26	Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:00-11:00	Whole School
5.10.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Lime and Apple
6.10.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Peacock, Forest and Olive
7.10.26	Mams/Female Carer Coffee Morning 9:30-11:30 @ Washington Mind	All Mams/Female Parents and Carers
7.10.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Sunflower, Mint and Lavender
8.10.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Poppy, Cherry and Strawberry
9.10.26	Parent Stay and Play (2pm)	Raspberry, Rose and Blossom
15.10.26	Dads/Male Carer Coffee Morning 9:30-11:30	All Dads/Male Parents and Carers
16.10.26	School Photograph Day	Whole School
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: Well don't to Rose, Strawberry, Cherry and Apple class who all had 100% attendance this week!

Class	Blossom	Rose	Raspberry	Strawberry	Cherry	Poppy	Sunflower
Attendance	98%	100%	94%	100%	100%	98%	98%
	Lavender	Mint	Lime	Apple	Olive	Forest	Peacock
Attendance	90%	98%	98%	100%	96%	93%	93%

Class	Star of the Week
Blossom	Bear: For consistently responding to instructions and following the classroom routines with more independence. Well done, Bear!
Rose	Theo: For actively taking part in mark making lessons. Well done!
Raspberry	Elias: For his wonderful listening skills, helping tidy up throughout the day and having a wonderful smile on his face!
Strawberry	Oscar: For combining two symbols on a communication board to ask for "play chase".
Cherry	Tommy: For engaging in some great adult interactions and taking turns with two peers when going down the slide on the Discovery Park. Well done, Tommy!
Poppy	Jayden: For independently requesting to be pushed on the Discovery Park swing by guiding an adult by the hand. Well done!
Sunflower	Hunter: For making fantastic progress with using the toilet more independently! We are very proud of you and your hard work.
Lavender	Jax: For experimenting with new foods this week and using his communication board to request pasta. Well done, Jax!
Mint	Fynley: For some super phonics and maths work. Well done, Fynley!
Lime	Matthew: For his continued determination with his reading skills. Keep up the good work Matthew!
Apple	Zac: For demonstrating fantastic phonological awareness with CVC and tricky words.
Olive	Kray: For amazing maths work across the week! Well done, Kray!
Forest	Luke: For fantastic work in PE this week, well done!
Peacock	William: For showing great number skills and partitioning '5' in different ways, well done!

Class	Lunch Time Stars
Blossom	Andrew: For eating all of his lunch, well done!
Cherry	Jack: For sitting sensibly at lunchtime and tidying up after himself.
Poppy	Jojo: For trying new foods.
Mint	Fynley: For being a great role model to his friends at lunchtime.
Olive	Aliyah: For being well behaved and an excellent role model.
Forest	Poppy: For tidying up after finishing her lunch.
Peacock	Lyla: For trying new foods at lunchtime, well done!

It has been another great week in school, and it was particularly great to see three classes go swimming for the first time this term. A highlight from the week was finding out that a child who was particularly nervous about getting in the water was brave enough to get in and give it a go, well done!

A reminder to ensure children are sent to school with a set of spare clothes and any other items of clothing they might need through the day.

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

J. Lines

Headteacher