

GrangeMail 19 - 20

4th October 2019

Hello everyone

CONKER CHAMPION SMASHES IT TO SMITHEREENS!

Tension and excited whispering filled the school hall this morning. Children rubbed their hands together as the 'Rocky' theme played loud and the conker finalists took to the stage.

Foundation Stage's Jayden D and Alexander R; KS1's Theo Y, Luqman and Travis S; LKS2'S Sophie P, Holly R and Alfie G and finally UKS2's Daniel M, Mathew A and Danny W looked pensive as they warmed-up their conkers. Team Captains took to the floor to referee the matches, with Conal declaring to the amphitheatre, that he wanted a "Good, clean match"

Jayden's accuracy overpowered Luqman's conker and Holly's dexterity and calm play catapulted her into the semis with ease after a not-so-easy match against FABULOUS Alexander R. Travis' gentle technique wasn't enough to keep Meikle at bay and Mathew couldn't watch as Sophie's conker smashed the outer case of his conker to the floor... still hanging onto its string. Meikle finally put to bed Mathew's hopes of triumph by annihilating his conker in the semis.

The clash of the titans: Theo v Alfie had faultless aiming and hard ended Theo's hopes of a semi-final position.

Holly continued her domination; beating Whitton in the sudden-death. Meikle again showed strength and resolve against the conker-master Alfie G in a nerve-wracking bout; only just beating him in the nail-biting play-off.

With loud chanting and huge cheers; the finalists, Holly and Meikle took to the stage. With conkers pendulous and nervous grips, the match commenced. Hit for hit, crack for crack – there was

nothing in it; 5 out of 5 hits for each warrior. Sudden death was instigated. The room was electric; Meikle blowing into the air, Holly as calm as a cucumber. On the fourth hit, Holly missed and Meikle rose to smash Holly's trusted conker to the floor. What a match! Meikle: Conker King and Holly a courageous and talented runner up of whom her brother Max will be utterly proud.

Thank you Mr Lane; you were a fabulous ringmaster and congratulations Meikle – an impressive tournament.

The Scholastic Book Fair has been a roaring success so far; seeing many of you coming into school to purchase books – every penny spent is books for the school so if you have not come along yet, you still have until Monday.

Reading: The Department for Education's expectations for our children to read challenging literature are higher than ever. We must encourage our children to read for pleasure. But that is easy to say and hard to achieve, particularly in the culture in which many young people grow up today in Britain. They have plenty of other leisure activities to choose from and they can, of course, read on a screen; but we read in different ways when reading different formats. The language of emails and texts, for example, is not the same as the language we would use in a letter. Analysis so far of the impact of digital literature is that it can play an important role in building core literacy skills, but there is an ongoing debate about whether it conveys the same benefits as reading a physical book.

The act of reading and the quality of books that our children are exposed to in school is at the heart of our school improvement plan this year. We are determined to provide texts that challenge our children's minds and inspire them to be great writers. As Christmas approaches, (I know, sorry!) please think about the quality of books that you are buying. It would be really great too, if you patronised Banbury Library regularly. We have planned to take all year groups to the library this year in a bid to inspire our children to become bookworms.

Brrrr, it's gone cold – time for hats, gloves and scarves methinks!

Harvest: I never fail to be overwhelmed with your kindness and support at this time of year. Our Harvest haul may well have been the best in years. Banbury Foodbank collected the food on Tuesday and reported that Banbury schools and families have been very supportive this year. We were able to supply food to some of our Grange families before the food went off – 'Charity begins at home'. Brilliant job everyone, you're fab.

X Country: 60 of our strongest runners competed in the Banbury Area Primary Cross Country last Thursday held at Wykham Park Academy. The course was wet and muddy and the competition; tough with about 100 children running in each race from 13 schools across the area. It was a real test of physical and mental toughness and all of our children should be extremely proud of themselves for showing so much courage and determination.

Well done to our 3/4 boys who were truly outstanding, coming first out of the 13 teams! Well done to the 3/4 girls who came third and the 5/6 girls and boys who both came 4th. Our 1/2s did really well as well; the girls came in 6th and the boys 8th. Overall we came 4th.

A huge well done to all the top 20 finishers - what an achievement!

Isla T 13th
Charlie H 7th
Keira L 4th
Jess N 5th
Tiannah P 7th
Sophie G 4th
Sophie Q 13th
Mati W 5th
Archie K 6th
Ben D 7th
Freddie M-S 13th
James S 20th

Home learning: The quality of the Home Learning so far this year has been second to none. The lists of additional/optional activities have been really embraced by you and our children. Thank you for sending in the photos and fruits of your labour. Not only is it great to see our children cooking (so many skills required) it has been rewarding to see the range of creative and physical activities that you have been involved in.

Congratulations to Georgia S and her baton twirling/pom pom team at Banbury Cross Twirlers who took 1st place in a competition last weekend.



Congratulations also to all of our children who have been awarded CBGs and out-of-school awards for challenges, fundraising and triumphs; our celebration assembly was wonderful.

School Disco 17th October @ 6.15pm-7.45pm: The entrance fee is £2.00 and drinks are available in the price. Our FS beauties will have an afternoon disco during the school day. The price is the same. There is a tuck shop available at both discos.

PTFA: Look out for details for The Christmas Family Party on 6th December.

Come to School with your Child this week was popular with both parents/carers and children. Thank you for coming along and thank you for your feedback. We have one every term and the next one will focus on Reading.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon: Didn't you do well? Congratulations to the 5/6 parents and children for a most successful event. The quality of the cakes was exceptional and as always, the atmosphere was awesome. Thank you for helping to clear up too. **£477.77** was raised in an afternoon – great work all!

Car Park: We continue to wait in vain for the rest of the fence for the walkway. Fingers crossed that it will all get done at half term. The new system is working a treat and the volume of traffic has seemed to decrease significantly.

Attendance: 98.03% - WOWZA!

Fire Drill: As you are aware; we do at least 6 a year. 1st one of the year completed this week in less than 2.30mins - executed perfectly by staff and pupils.

Promoting Positive Behaviour - CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR ACHIEVERS

Caught Being Good Awards :

20 Caught Being Good Awards: Oliver S

Bronze Caught Being Good Awards: Finnigan D, Sarah N, Tawan M

40 Caught Being Good Awards: Macie S, Maks G, Arnav S, Reuben C-S, Olive C, Kayla B, Milly L, Oliver W, Fateh K, Isla B, Summer H

50 Caught Being Good Awards: Millie H, Alani F, Gracie B, Huw P, Peter B, Lara P

Silver Caught Being Good Awards: Ethan W, Aariz H, Sammy C, Travis S

70 Caught Being Good Awards: Ben G, Charlie Gi, Jacob J, Lucie T, Lilly S, Reenie B, Sienna L, Matthew A

80 Caught Being Good Awards: Jayden E, Harry D, Sonny C

Gold Caught Being Good Awards: Patryk M, Reuben P

100 Caught Being Good Awards: Charlie C, Lowand K, Ruby G

110 Caught Being Good Awards: Oliver M, Nicholas E, Harry W, Kayla B

Platinum Caught Being Good Awards: Joseph B, Timmy R, Aaron S, Suki C, Anna P, Holly R

130 Caught Being Good Awards: Ruby N, Karly F, Freya S, Jessica S

140 Caught Being Good Awards: Indira C, Ben D-P, Kirsty W, Leo G, Max H

Book caught being good awards: Abdou-Samed D

170 Caught Being Good Awards: Danny W

Amethyst Caught Being Good Awards: Ellie A



Showing The Grange Way out of School

... **Rebecca C** for running the Pretty Muddy Kids Race for Life 2019 in memory of her Grandad



... **Holly R** for receiving her 50m - Rainbow distance certificate from the Swim England Awards

... **Harry D** for being nominated Best player of the month by Banbury U8 Irish football club

Well done children; great achievements.

That's all for now folks. Keep warm and have a great weekend.

Muri Bix