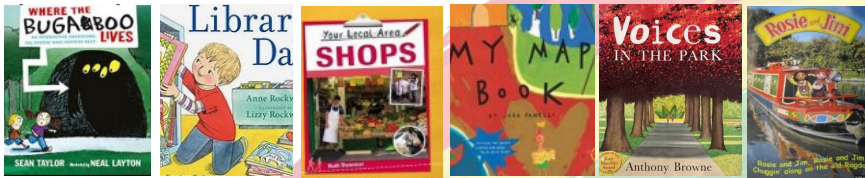


Rainbow Room Newsletter

Spring 1 - 2025

Wow! Where did 2024 go? 'Happy New Year!' I hope all of our children and their families have had a restful break over the Christmas period and are ready to get stuck into some really exciting learning experiences this Spring.

This half term we will be delving into many short stories and movie clips that explore our overarching 'I wonder? Question':
'What is special about Long Eaton?'



Each week there will be carefully planned activities that cover all curriculum areas based on our weekly theme and focus text. Here is a snapshot of what we will be getting up to.

We will be exploring our local area looking at what is special to us and what amenities make Long Eaton a fabulous place to live. We will be: discussing maps and following directions, creating models of West Park play area, exploring the canals and rivers as well as learning about our school and where our families live.

Look ... it's my house!

To support your child with their learning, it would be fab if we could have a photo of the outside of each child's house that they would be able to recognize during our group sessions. You could also send in other family members houses that are important to your children.

Please email photographs to: amy.riley@grange.derbyshire.sch.uk

Inclusion Support Advisory Service



In September 2024, Derbyshire County Council launched their new Inclusion Support Advisory Service. Our specialist teacher is Mrs Jones and she will be working alongside school to champion our children so they achieve, thrive, and fulfil their potential. She will be helping us to remove barriers to children's participation to ensure high quality and meaningful learning experiences and will work with us to promote high levels of equity, access and opportunity whilst celebrating our children's diversity. Mrs Jones will also be supporting us to develop our SEND resources in school—widening our range of skills and developing our support staff through various training and mentoring opportunities. There will be an opportunity to meet Mrs Jones in the new year and information about this will be sent out nearer the time.



Key Dates:

◆ Monday 6th January 2025—School re-opens.

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆
- ◆

As always, I am happy to meet with any parents who would like to discuss their child's SEND needs.

To make an appointment please call the school office on: 0115 9734956

Mrs Riley :)

How You Can Support Your Child At Home

Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Almost everything we do involves communication; everyday tasks such as learning at school, asking for food and drink, sorting out problems, making friends and having fun. These all rely on our ability to communicate with each other.



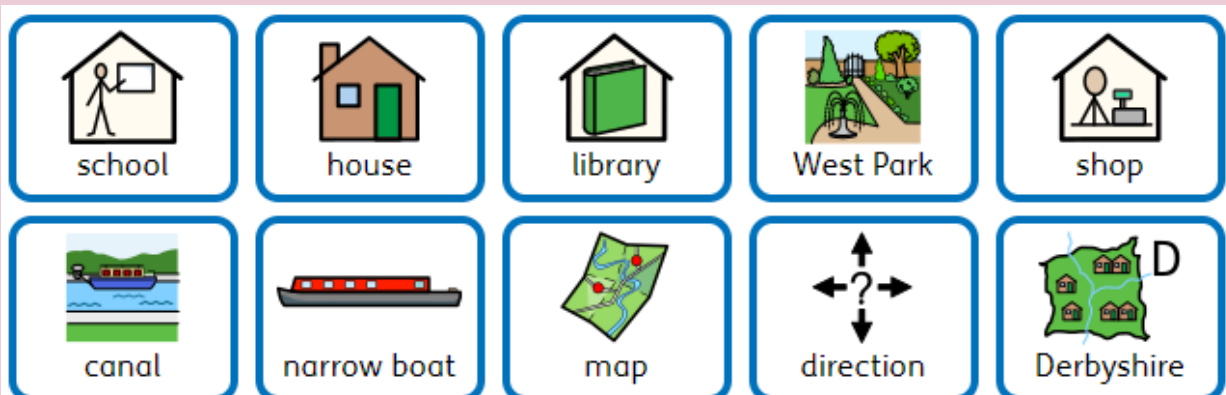
Makaton is a unique communication program that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression. Signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order. This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help children who have no speech, whose speech is unclear or those children who have speech but struggle to processing information quickly.

At Grange we use Makaton to support language development through learning key words and phrases and songs related to our current topic to build up a bank of vocabulary. At home you could watch programs like Mr Tumble's 'Something Special', watch the 'Singing Hands' channel on YouTube and/or practice signing our focus words (see Widgets below) of the term by searching them online.

Another communication tool we use at Grange is Widgit. All staff at Grange have been working hard to ensure the environment is language rich. To ensure that the needs of children who have communication and language difficulties are met, we are using Widgit symbols as a communication tool to supplement developing language skills. See below for our Widgits of the term that you can cut out and use at home if you wish.

Widgits are symbols that are used to support text, making meaning clearer and easier to understand. They reduce cognitive load and provide children with the opportunity to return to ideas that may have passed if only spoken language was used. Widgits provide a visual representation of a concept that help children develop and grow their own vocabulary.

Please see Mrs Riley if you would like more support with using Widgits at home.



'We had a very busy Autumn term!'

