



Bethersden Bulletin



NEWSLETTER 8
19TH MARCH 2021

Bethersden Primary School, School Road, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3AH

Last week's attendance

98.97%

This week's attendance

96.68%

Year to date attendance

95.97%

**The current National
Average is around 87%**

**We are aiming for
excellent attendance.**

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Headteacher's message

I cannot begin to tell you how good it feels to welcome all our children and families back to school. Never have I been so proud of the children, families and the team for the way we have very quickly made the school feel so 'normal'. The buzz in the classrooms, in the dinner hall and on the playground is everything we remember and more. The way the children have come in with such positive attitudes, reconnected with their friends and the teams in the classrooms is an absolute joy to see.

I would like to thank you all for the way you have supported the school with the drop off and collection arrangements. We have worked very hard on these to ensure we reduce the risk as much as possible. I would also like to again thank you for accepting the inconvenience that I know this causes for some families.

This week we celebrated all the missed birthday parties from the past year with our 'Big Bubbles Birthday Bash' events. The children enjoyed party food, eating cakes, playing games and singing 'Happy Birthday' to each other. We know this cannot fully make up for the celebrations they may have had but we hope it went some way to giving them some sense of normality.

As a school we have tried really hard throughout the last twelve months to continue to provide the children with the rich opportunities we believe in as a school. Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming Olympia Boxing to our school who will introduce the children to the technical skills of the sport and the importance of good diet and fitness.

In today's Excellence Assembly I was delighted to hand out 4 awards from 'The Rotary Club of Tenterden, Cranbrook & Hawkshurst, and Rye & Winchelsea Christmas Story Competition' where children from our school were awarded 4 prizes, including 3 in Owl Class. I am sure you will agree this is a fantastic achievement and a real celebration of the start the children make in their learning at our school.

As always, if you have any questions you would like to raise or any comments you would like to make please do get in touch using the families@bethersden.kent.sch.uk email address or give the office a call on 01233 820479.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Stuart Gawthorpe

Headteacher

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What have Bumblebee, Owl and Deer Class been learning?

Bumblebee Class have had a wonderful time back at school. We have all been working incredibly hard with our Reading, Writing Excellence lessons and have blown our teachers away with our incredible reading and writing. The children have been super busy reading at home to reach the top of the beanstalk to play with our new special toys. In Maths, the children have been exploring different shapes and have discovered lots of wonderful 2D and 3D shapes in our learning areas. They have also been extremely busy learning how to follow maps to help the dragon save the princess and reach the huge pile of gold. In wider learning, we have created our own dragon and have been exploring the magic of our imagination. We have created some magical wands that have all sorts of powers including turning us into unicorns or power ranges and we have even made bottles to catch all the magic surrounding us. We can't wait till next week when we will be creating our own magical inventions with salt dough. In Maths, we are starting an exciting topic looking at patterns and in Read Write Excellence we have some super stories to read.

Owl Class have returned to school with a smile and have thrown themselves enthusiastically into their learning. We are very proud of how they have returned.

Year 2 have been continuing their learning on shape in Maths, and have been identifying and drawing 2D shapes and also spotting patterns with shapes. Year 1 have been focusing on measurement, using non-standard and standard units to measure objects.

In English, Y2 have started their new text 'Lola the plant hunter' and are looking forward to exploring the links with geography within the book.

Y1 continue with their 'Reading, Writing, Excellence' and are practising those speedy sounds and red and green words.

Owls have also started talking about 'The Battle of Hastings' for our history topic and we are continuing learning about animals as part of our Science learning.

It has been a busy week in Deer Class. We have been adapting the story of Theseus and the Minotaur to create our own unique Greek myths in English, whilst in Maths we have been developing our understanding of fractions. We had a fantastic day on Wednesday celebrating all of the lockdown birthdays children have had since last year. The children have done really well to get back into our class routines quickly and some even passed their first Times Table Challenge of 2021 last Friday! Year 3 have enjoyed being back together and it's been fun to be able to do more practical lessons again. In Music, we've composed rhythms using body percussion, such as clapping and clicking our fingers, whilst in Art we have started to investigate perspective drawing. We are really looking forward to the rest of term, as we have lots of fun Easter activities planned. A huge well done to all of Deer Class for such a smooth transition back into school life.

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What have Otter, Badger and Fox Class been learning?

Otter Class has been 'back in the saddle' for just two weeks and have made an amazing return to Bethersden. All the children settled back into school life almost immediately and adapted very well to the change of routine - we are now operating a teaching model involving three one-hour lessons between 08.45 and 12.00 (with a 15 minute break), consisting of English, Maths and one other foundation subject, so the children start learning as soon as they enter the classroom and make maximum use of time. The pace is quite intense but the children have adapted extremely well. We are focusing on brushing up skills that have lapsed due to the nature of online learning - such as handwriting and presentation - as well as times tables. Knowing times tables is fundamental to so many Maths topics and effective times table recall also frees up working memory to develop reasoning and problem solving skills. Please help your children to practise their tables at home where possible.

What a busy first few weeks in **Badger Class**. Having had quite a few weeks of Home Learning, the children have quickly readjusted to our daily routine. In English, we have continued work on 'The War of the Worlds' having written from the narrator's point of view using the progressive form. We have also revised the use of modal verbs while exploring the artilleryman's idea of building a new world underground! In Maths, we have completed our Multiplication and Division unit having learnt about short division involving remainders. After taking some time to review our learning about the Anglo-Saxons so far, we have then investigated their religious conversion from Paganism to Christianity. In Science, we have been making comparisons using data on the height of babies in their first year of life. This week, we have also enjoyed our whole class birthday party - which is so well deserved after the resilience and maturity the children have shown this year. We have also been lucky enough to welcome Miss Webster into Badger Class, who will be with us into the summer terms!

Fox Class have had a great start to the term and have continued to set the high standards we would expect of our most senior learners. We have welcomed two new members to Fox Class this week, Anya and Maya, and we look forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks. As we prepare Fox Class for their move to secondary school the children have been thinking about the skills they will need. Their curriculum is now focused on making sure they will flourish at secondary school and making their final 14 weeks at Bethersden a happy and memorable one. Mrs Taylor has been developing the children's idea of social responsibility through the learning about recycling and how to protect the environment which has involved cleaning the local area for the benefit of our village. It has also been great to see them developing their own area of school for their break times and they have had lots of fun setting up their dens and other areas.

Excellence Awards

We will be continuing to broadcast our popular Excellence Assemblies on our YouTube channel until we can welcome you back in to the school properly so that you can still be part of our celebration. Children will all watch the assembly in class and will be presented with their certificate by the class team to bring home. Please do tune in each week and share in their successes. A link will be sent to the assembly which will be live from 2.15pm each Friday. Below are the children who received Excellence Awards over the last two weeks.

Bumblebee Class

Alex, Belle, Sam and Phoebe

Owl Class

Lexi, Ethan, Alfie and Alexis

Deer Class

Charlie, Amelia, Arlo and Harrison

Otter Class

Lyla, Albert, Jayden and Harry

Badger Class

Ryan, Thomas, Daniel and Teddy

Fox Class

Kobi, Louie-Rose, Joe and Lilly

Boxing at Bethersden

We are delighted to be welcoming Olympia Boxing to school next Wednesday with each class taking part in workshops. The trainers will teach children the importance of good exercise and diet, introduce them to fitness activities and teach them some of the technical skills required in boxing in a relaxed and non-contact way. Physical exercise is so important to everyone and this is a new opportunity for many children to try a sport that is not always easy to access.

Following on from this taster session we are hoping to start an after school club where children can build on the skills they have learnt. More details we be shared shortly.



Bethersden Bubbles' Big Birthday Bash Day

What an incredible privilege it was to throw birthday parties this week for everybody in our school. We had loads of fun wearing our best party clothes, playing games, dancing to party music, eating party food and of course singing happy birthday with cake and candles in the classrooms, it was great to see the celebrations. We know the children (and staff) really enjoyed the chance to party with their friends, their smiles and laughter was incredible. Below are just a few of the photos but to see more have a look on Twitter @BethersdenSch.



Dates for your diary

Please check the website for new additions: <https://bethersden.kent.sch.uk/calendar-2/>

April	
Thursday 1 st April	Last day of school
Easter Holidays Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April	
Monday 19 th	Children return to school
May	
Monday 3 rd	May Bank Holiday
Friday 28 th	Inset day
Half term holiday Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June	
June	
Monday 7 th	Children return to school
July	
19 th , 20 th & 21 st	Inset days
Thursday 22 nd July	Last day of term