



Bethersden Bulletin

NEWSLETTER 11
14TH MAY 2021

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

Last week's attendance

96.77%

This week's attendance

95.53%

Year to date attendance

96.02%

**We are aiming for
excellent attendance.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Headteacher's message
- 2 What's been happening at Bethersden
- 3 What's been happening at Bethersden
- 4 Excellence Awards
Parking
Uniform
- 5 Lax Dancing information
Dates for your diary

Headteacher's message

It has been a couple of very busy weeks in school. Badger Class have taken part in Bikeability training last week with 13 children achieving their Level 2 certificates and badges. They made us all feel incredibly proud with their mature attitude and calmness as they learned how to ride safely on the roads around the school. They were praised for their excellent manners and enthusiasm.

Last Friday we welcomed back Amy Needham from LAX Dance Academy who took each class through a dance routine as a taster for what to expect in the after school club that will begin next term. Amy sent a lovely email following her day to say how much she had enjoyed working with each of the classes and again praising the enthusiasm and behaviours the children demonstrated in the sessions. Further information about the club has been sent out on ParentMail.

We also started welcoming our families back in to school with our 'Books and Blankets' events for Bumblebee and Deer classes. We were absolutely thrilled with the support from our families who came along and enjoyed sharing their child's learning in the beautiful sunshine. Over the coming weeks we look forward to welcoming our other class families in with three further events next week. Please check the calendar dates in this bulletin to make sure you don't miss out.

Next week we will be welcoming a mindfulness and wellbeing specialist into school to work with our classes. This is a further part of ensuring our children and staff's wellbeing and I look forward to sharing photos on Twitter on the day.

Finally, thank you to the parents who have put themselves forward for the role of Parent Governor. As we have had more candidates than vacancies, elections will take place over the coming weeks so please look out for the information and voting form coming out by ParentMail shortly.

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?

In **Bumblebee Class**, we have loved learning all about sea creatures that are mammals. We have had so much fun creating dolphins, whales and narwhals. We have also designed and created our very own submarines to explore what sea creatures live in the depth of the oceans. In our Reading Writing Excellence lessons we have written some incredible sentences showing off all the facts about the sea creatures we have learnt about. We have been working incredibly hard with our counting on and backwards in Maths and we are now able to solve some addition and subtraction questions. During our child initiated time we have loved creating many delicious chocolate cakes in our mud kitchen, writing lists for things to find and most of all we have loved exploring and playing with sea creatures in our new water tray.

Owl Class have had a busy time, learning the continents in Geography, creating algorithms in computing and planting beans in Science - we hope they grow! They have also enjoyed a new music unit on Jack and the Beanstalk - poor Jack only had a mouldy piece of cheese to eat! Owl class were very good at singing in a round and identifying the instruments in a classical piece. Most of the class have been looking at non-fiction books in English and identifying the features. On top of this we have sorted out the outdoor equipment store and had great fun on the bikes and the four new scooters!

Deer Class have begun learning about Time! We are starting with the basics, like the role of each of the hands on a clock face, and will be moving on to telling the time accurately in both digits and words. Our information texts about volcanoes are progressing well and children are taking greater ownership of their learning, deciding whether they need to conduct research, draft paragraphs or work on their final piece. In gymnastics, our sequences of movements and balances are showing greater skill and accuracy, whilst our bridge structures in DT are beginning to take shape. It was lovely to spend a couple of afternoons outside with Year 4 last week, conducting Science experiments and playing rounders. We are looking forward to the finished results of all our hard work as the end of term draws nearer.

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What have Otter, Badger and Fox Class been learning?

Otter Class are now well over half way through this term and enjoying the opportunity to spend as much time as possible learning and playing outdoors. We continue with our science theme of living things and looking at our environment, which has given the children the chance to carry out field studies of creatures in their natural habitats (ensuring we return them to where they came from). The bug hotels are coming on nicely and we hope to have them all positioned around the school in the next week or so - a big thank-you goes to parents who supported this activity by supplying materials. We have continued with the story of Iron Man in English, which has provided some great opportunities for role play, and have covered both decimals and time in Maths. It would be really helpful if parents could encourage children to practise telling time at home, and also use decimals in real life (e.g. using money), as relating Maths concepts to real world activities can really help the children to learn. A highlight of the last couple of weeks was the dance taster session, where even the most reluctant of us exceeded our own expectations and we all now have our sights set on our Year 6 production (in 2023!).

We have had a very varied few weeks in **Badger Class**. We participated in a road safety workshop, learning about the importance of road safety and the motto *Stop - Look - Listen - Think*. We also enjoyed a dance session with LAX Dance Academy. Some members of the class have also completed their Bikeability training, which teaches practical skills and understanding of how to safely cycle on roads. In English, we have been researching the author of our class text, Charles Dickens. We found out about his life, books and role as an activist, campaigning for the rights of the poor. We then used this information to create a non-chronological report. In Maths, we have continued work on adding and subtracting fractions. We have been working hard in Science, with a focus on gathering reliable data. We have completed three investigations related to gravity and air resistance, and have been learning about the importance of taking repeat measures. In Art, we have been taking inspiration from William Morris, creating printing blocks using string - which was a bit messy!

It's been a busy time in **Fox Class** as we have officially begun working towards our Year 6 production! We'd love to share more with you, but we don't want to ruin any surprises. What we can tell you though, is to prepare yourself for a trip down memory Lane...

Fox class have spent a few weeks planning their model bird hides in DT and this week they finally got to make them! Foxes were incredibly sensible using the hot glue guns and the saws and the results are incredible! As we continue our process of drafting, editing and publishing our narratives inspired by *The Hunger Games*, we've surprised ourselves with our stamina for writing. Not only has the quantity been impressive, but the quality of the writing itself doesn't disappoint! We are so proud of what Fox Class is achieving through their focus, resilience and determination. Keep up the amazing work Fox Class!

Excellence Awards

We are now holding our weekly Excellence Assemblies together on the field each week. Below we are delighted to celebrate the recipients from the last two weeks. Please take a look at Twitter to see the presentations.

Bumblebee Class

Mason, Belle, Matilda and Ava

Owl Class

Aggie, Shawn, Mya and Albie

Deer Class

Harrison, Evan and Owen

Otter Class

Evelet, Indiana, Eden and Albert

Badger Class

Jamie, Violina, Tillie and Billy

Fox Class

Caitlyn, Kobie and Alex

Uniform reminder

Can I please remind you we are now expecting all children to be in full school uniform. **Leggings are not suitable as an alternative to trousers.** If you are unsure of the uniform policy please take a look at the school website for further information <https://bethersden.kent.sch.uk/info/uniform/>

Parking

Can I please remind those families who drive to park safely and courteously when dropping off your children. In the last couple of weeks we have been contacted by a concerned resident and also been asked to remind you that you should not park on the bus stop as this causes congestion. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to move the collection point for the children travelling to Homewood or to slightly alter the time despite efforts being made earlier in the year.

We appreciate that many families have no option but to drive to school but would encourage those of you who live locally and could walk to do so. Parking is also available in the new St Margaret's Place for families dropping off and collecting from school.

Could I also please ask that when picking up from after school clubs you do not park opposite the school near the crossing point. We have no road crossing patrol at that time so we need to ensure good visibility as we cross the children safely.

Thank you for your support.

LAX Dancing

Last Friday, we were lucky enough to participate in a 40 minute dance workshop. We started off with a warm up which got us ready for the dance ahead. Miss Needham showed us the dance at the start then we practiced it until we knew it off by heart. To allow us to be creative she split us into groups and we had a chance to choreograph the end of the routine. As well as being fun, this helped us exercise. It is something I would recommend and do more often and there is no reason not to.

Lois, Fox Class

If you would like to join LAX Dance after school club starting next term please take a look at the recent ParentMail which was sent out

Dates for your diary

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

May	
Wednesday 19 th May	2.30pm Fox Books and Blankets - change of date
Thursday 20 th May	9.00am - Deer Books and Blankets - change of date
Friday 21 st May	9am - Badger Books and Blankets 2.30pm - Otter Books and Blankets
Friday 28 th	Inset day
Half term holiday Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June	
June	
Monday 7 th	Children return to school KS1 Boxing after school club starts
Tuesday 8 th	Dance after school club LAX starts
Wednesday 9 th	School photos - whole class KS2 Boxing after school club starts
Thursday 10 th	Creepy Claws after school club starts
July	
19 th , 20 th & 21 st	Inset days, no children in school
Thursday 22 nd July	Last day of term
September	
Wednesday 1 st	Inset day
Thursday 2 nd	Children return to school