



# Bethersden Bulletin

NEWSLETTER 12  
27<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

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

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Last week's attendance

95.85%

This week's attendance

94.77%

Year to date  
attendance

95.98%

**We are aiming for  
excellent attendance.**

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## Headteacher's message

Half term is upon us and we are looking forward to our return for our final term in June (and hopefully the return of some decent weather). We have continued to welcome our families back in to school with our 'Books and Blankets' events, although the poor weather has meant a number of these have had to be postponed once or twice. Hopefully, only Otter Class will have their event delayed until the new term, and is now scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> June.

We have continued to introduce activities for children that are targeted at supporting their physical and mental health and their general wellbeing. We were lucky to be able to welcome a mindfulness and wellbeing specialist into school to work with our Year R-5 classes, and will be running a series of sessions for Year 6 in their final term at Bethersden. We have also continued with the very popular boxing, creepy-crawly and science after-school clubs, much to the delight of the children involved.

Finally, thank you to the parents who have supported the school by ensuring the children arrive and depart promptly and in an orderly manner. Although normality is returning to life as we manage to overcome the pandemic, we still have to maintain practises in place to ensure the safety of our children and the wider community.

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](mailto:families@bethersden.kent.sch.uk) email address or give the office a call on 01233 820479.

Have a great half term.

Best wishes,

Mr Robert Clark

For Headteacher

## What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

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*What have Bumblebee, Owl and Deer Class been learning?*

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We have had a wonderful end to the term in **Bumblebee Class**. We have been on an adventure around the world with the 'Snail and the Whale' and written some incredible postcards. We have also explored water pollution, learnt how we can help keep our waters clean and have looked at the importance of recycling. In our Reading Writing Excellence lessons, we have been extremely busy learning new sounds and reading books that are a bit trickier. We have also been focusing on our writing resilience by practising writing sentences more independently. In Maths, we have become incredible with being able to double numbers and we have reminded ourselves of our number bonds to ten. In our own choosing time we have loved creating our own castles and designing our own obstacle course for our friends to enjoy.

We have had the most amazing term and we can't believe that it is the holidays already! **Owl class** were fortunate enough to have some very special visitors to the class last week. How have we managed this in covid times? Well... the special visitors were Owls! The lovely people from creepy crawly club came in to see us on Tuesday 18th May with their beautiful Owls, we learnt some interesting facts and even got to hold one! This then inspired some fantastic writing and we produced some information leaflets.

In Science, we have been planting and learning how seeds grow. The beans have been watched closely to see how they have changed, and there has been a lot of excitement about roots and shoots! We have also planted sunflowers which we would love you to nurture at home, as we have been invited to participate in a competition run by Bethersden Gardeners' Society. (Details have been sent separately).

In other news, Owls have continued with the theme of growing beans in Music, where we have been following a unit of work all about Jack and the Bean Stalk. In RE we have been studying Judaism and in particular the Shabbat, how and why it is celebrated. In Art, Owls have been exploring patterns in Nature and looking at Mandalas, which use repeating patterns and designs and using this to make our own.

Our Owls have been working hard in English and Maths too. In Maths, Year 2 have been thinking about position and direction and Year one have been looking at division. Year one have been flying through their RWE lessons and Year 2 have had a focus on non-fiction in English. What a totally awesome term! Well done Owls!

**Deer class** bridges are finally beginning to edge towards completion! We have learnt a lot throughout the process, as some of our clay cracked and crumbled, and certain elements have creaked or collapsed, so we'll have plenty to evaluate in our final week of term. We have been getting to grips with telling the time (hopefully they can impress you at home) and our information texts are looking sharp, ready to be laminated and shown off. We've had great fun using the hall equipment to develop our gymnastics skills and in Geography, we wrote postcards imagining we were on holiday in Hawaii... if only! The term has flown by and the children have done themselves proud. It is really shining through how much they have grown in maturity over the course of the year, despite all of the disruption and uncertainty they have faced. Well done, Year 3! We wish all of the children and their families a great half term break

## What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

*What have Otter, Badger and Fox Class been learning?*

It only feels like five minutes since writing the bulletin for the end of Term 4 IN **Otter Class**, which just goes to show how quickly time flies when you are enjoying yourself! We have managed to fit in some outdoor learning between showers and were able to work in groups for English lessons using the picnic tables to carry out our role-play to support our work on Ted Hughes' 'The Iron Man', which explores the impact the arrival of a stranger has on a local community (we will continue this into term 6). We have also been able to use the school grounds and the new 'forest school' area behind us to carry out studies of creatures and their habitats, as well as an environmental survey of the impacts of the new village housing estate on wildlife. The children were most careful to ensure that any creatures that were displaced as part of their studies were returned safely to their original habitats. PE has continued twice a week with tag Rugby, circuit training, yoga, a dance taster from Lax Academy (which turned out to be a bit more polished than Mr Clark's Term 4 'Uptown Funk') and rope/rope ladder and other climbing techniques. We also had a meditation 'taster' session with relaxation exercise, which the children found extremely calming. Maths has proved a challenge and is perhaps the area where the children's learning has suffered the most nationally. In Term 6 we will be concentrating on deepening our skills rather than broadening them, in order to make sure children are competent and confident in number work.

How quickly this term has flown by in **Badger Class**! In English, we have continued work on our class text, *Oliver Twist*. We have written persuasive speeches, arguing whether Oliver should or should not be forgiven for stealing. We revised figurative language features, and have used these to retell the story from Nancy's point of view. Our fraction work has continued in Maths. This week, we have learnt to subtract mixed numbers (including converting and simplifying) and to solve multi-step problems. In Science, we are now investigating friction. Having found out more about the force, we have then tested the impact of different materials using a Newton metre. In Geography, we have been modelling the three river processes: erosion, transportation and deposition. We found out that different sized sediment is transported in different ways, and that it is deposited at different times. In preparation for creating our own soft toys, in DT we have been testing different methods for joining fabric. We found that running stitch was the most effective and safe. We have continued to enjoy our PE lessons with Fox Class, where we have been learning the attacking and defending skills needed for Tag Rugby. We have also enjoyed a Mindfulness and Meditation session with a qualified yoga teacher!

For our topic this term in **Fox class** we have been exploring Crime and Punishment through history, comparing the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Tudors and Victorians through to modern day punishments. We identified that many forms of prevention and detection strategies used today, originated many years ago. We have created non-chronological reports, diary entries and beautiful double page spreads on our history learning. In Maths this term we have been learning about properties of shapes; learning about angles within 2D shapes and how 2D shapes are used to create nets of 3D shapes. We thoroughly enjoyed getting hands on with polydron to support our understanding. As we completed our narratives inspired by The Hunger Games in English, we have moved onto a different style of writing - play scripts! This is in preparation for our end of year celebration. But we shouldn't tell you any more than that...

## 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

Rex, Freya, Obie & Phoebe.

### Owl Class

Harley, Marine, Nancy & Ethan

### Deer Class

Hollie, Ivy, Indie-Rae & Charlie

### Otter Class

Albert, Sadie, Delta & Harry

### Badger Class

Lola, Poppy, Erica, Rudi

### Fox Class

Lilly, Olivia, Erin, Maya

## Waterbottle reminder

We are hoping that the weather is going to improve in coming weeks and that we will be able to get outside more. Can parents please ensure that children bring in a refillable/reusable water bottle for use both in the classroom and for outdoor activities. Owing to the pandemic, the water fountains have been disconnected so drinking water is not readily accessible for outdoor activities, such as playtime and PE.

## Parking

Can I please remind those families who drive to park safely and courteously when dropping off your children and 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.

## Dates for your diary

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

<b>May</b>	
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Inset day
<b>Half term holiday Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	
<b>June</b>	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school KS1 Boxing after school club starts
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Dance after school club LAX starts
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	School photos - whole class KS2 Boxing after school club starts
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Creepy Claws after school club starts
28 <sup>th</sup> June - 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 Transition week to secondary schools
<b>July</b>	
19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Inset days, no children in school
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last day of term
<b>September</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Inset day
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Children return to school