



# Bethersden Bulletin

NEWSLETTER 10  
30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

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

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## This week's attendance

97.75%

## Year to date attendance

96.01%

**We are aiming for  
excellent attendance.**

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## Headteacher's message

At the start of the Summer Term it is great to see the signs that the better weather is on its way. With that brings even more opportunities to learn in the outdoors. It also gives us an opportunity to start to welcome you, our families, back in to school beginning with 'Books and Blankets'. Starting next week we will be inviting one class in at a time to join us on the field so you can see what your children have been learning this year, it will also give you an opportunity to chat to your child's Class Team. I am sure you will appreciate that we will have to have many controls in place to protect everyone and I thank you in advance for supporting these. I know how much you have missed the usual opportunities to connect with the school and I want to assure you we feel the same and are working very hard to find further ways to welcome you back fully.

We have started welcoming a limited number of visitors in to the school where they are enhancing the learning and wider opportunities of the children. This includes Rev. Mike Rose who is carrying out weekly assemblies with small numbers of classes. We have also welcomed the Kent Road Safety Team in to school this week to remind children in Key Stage 2 about staying safe on the roads. Our very popular after school clubs have also recommenced this term with Olympia Boxing being oversubscribed leading to the creation of two clubs, Creepy Claws and Fizz Pop Science. Next term we will be welcoming back Amy Needham from LAX Dance Academy, further details to follow.

As we start to work towards more 'normality' we will be trialling whole school Excellence Assemblies again, held outside in the fresh air as a way of bringing all our school back together. This is an important step in preparing children for what I hope is 'Bethersden as usual' in September. As always, we will be carefully monitoring guidance and changing our practise accordingly.

Next week we will be sending out invitations to join Bethersden Primary School's Governing Body and I would urge anyone who is interested to contact either myself or Mrs Read, our Chair of Governors, via the school office if you would like further information.

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 weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Stuart Gawthorpe

Headteacher

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## 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 start to the term in **Bumblebee Class**. We have started our incredible topic, 'Under the Sea', where we have learnt about rock pools and sea turtles. We have all loved learning facts about the wonderful different sea creatures who live in rock pools and we all want to be a little bristle worm. We were amazed with how the adorable baby sea turtles can move so quickly. In our Reading Writing Excellence lessons, we have been writing incredible sentences which have blown our teachers away. We have also been learning how to sound out words in our head. In Maths, this past week, we have completely smashed being able to count on. During our own choosing time we have loved playing in our new outdoors cafe and have been creating many delicious meals and made loads of hot chocolates. We have also been exploring our fruit and vegetable market and have been busy labelling all our fruit and vegetables preparing to open up our new shop.

**Owl Class** have returned to school after the Easter holidays and settled right back into their learning. Our topic of plants has been a huge hit, where we have been identifying plants and learning about trees. Our outdoor area, including our garden centre, has supported our learning on this and we can't wait to see what else we can grow!

In English, we are looking at non-fiction texts - identifying them and finding the key features, Year 1 are continuing with their Reading Writing Excellence lessons and are doing well with their new sounds.

There is a lot to look forward to this term and we are looking forward to seeing you all at Books and Blankets next week!!!

We hope you all had a fantastic Easter break. It has certainly been a positive start to Term 5 for **Deer Class**, thankfully with the weather to match! We have begun our learning on Rocks & Soils in Science, which is linking to our English work, where we have started to plan our own information text about Volcanoes. The children have enjoyed learning the names of some fruits in French and building sequences of movement in Gymnastics. The children engaged really well in this week's Road Safety workshop, and they have really impressed us with their work in Reciprocal Reading. In Geography, we have started to explore the differences between Kent and Hawaii, although sadly a visit may be out of reach! We are looking forward to exploring each of our topics in more detail as the term progresses.

## What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

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

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**Otter Class** are two weeks into the first summer term and remote learning already seems like a distant memory. We started the term with a new theme - our environment and living things - which coincided with Earth Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The children will be looking at the effects of climate change and how we can all play a part in combating it, and have already started by designing and constructing 'bug hotels' for mini-beasts to use as a safe place for shelter and raise their young. In PE, we have decided to continue with tag Rugby mainly in response to the enthusiasm and effort shown by the class during their 'taster' sessions in Term 4 and it is again proving most popular. On Tuesday, we had a road safety workshop from the KCC Road Safety team, which the children really enjoyed and enthusiastically engaged in.

What a busy start to the summer term we have had in **Badger Class!** The children returned to school with their usual enthusiasm and we quickly got to work, starting a range of new topics. In English, we have been revising SPaG features such as apostrophes while also beginning our new class text, *Oliver Twist*. In Maths, we have continued work on fractions, investigating the relationship between them and division and then learning how to add and subtract fractions. We have started our new Geography topic by reviewing the hydrological cycle, before starting work on 'Rivers.' In Science, we have been learning about gravity and air resistance. We have modelled their effects by conducting a drop test of different shaped pieces of paper. We have enjoyed PE with Fox Class this term, learning about the rules and skills needed to play tag rugby. We have also been fortunate enough to welcome back Buster for our ukulele lessons, which we have very much missed during the last few terms.

What a fantastic start to Term 5 we've had in **Fox Class!** During home learning we realised that we'd missed out on a lot of Year 6 leadership opportunities within the school. So we've decided to do something about that... Each week we are taking on the responsibility of creating and presenting an assembly for the wider school. As we still can't physically present these, we are improvising using the powers of technology.

We have also dived straight into our latest text, *The Hunger Games*, inspiring our English learning. We have been taking inspiration from the author, identifying literary devices used in her writing, as we begin to rewrite the story from another character's perspective. Within our history topic, we have been exploring how crime and punishments have evolved over time. From the Romans to the Tudors, we anticipated that their punishments would have been fairer, but it turns out it was quite the opposite! We're looking forward to delving deeper into history as we continue on our timeline.

## Excellence Awards

## Diary Dates

From next week we will be holding in school Excellence Assemblies for the children so our online assemblies will finish after today's. We will still continue to celebrate those who have been awarded a certificate in the bulletin.

### Bumblebee Class

Elijah and Thomas

### Owl Class

Sophie and Lexi

### Deer Class

Albie and Amelia

### Otter Class

Florence and Joshua

### Badger Class

Lola and Teddy

### Fox Class

Anya and Lois

## Dates for your diary

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

May	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bikeability for Year 5
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9am - Owls Books and Blankets 2.20pm - Bumblebee Books and Blankets Footwork Friday - All classes 'Dance Workshops'
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	9am - Deer Books and Blankets
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>2.30pm Fox Books and Blankets - change of date</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	9am - Badger Books and Blankets 2.30pm - Otter Books and Blankets
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Inset day
<b>Half term holiday Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	
June	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	School photos - whole class
July	
19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Inset days
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last day of term