



Bethersden Bulletin

NEWSLETTER 13
18TH JUNE 2021

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

Last week's attendance

95.62%

This week's attendance

97.53%

Year to date
attendance

96%

**We are aiming for
excellent attendance.**

Headteacher's message

In the last newsletter before half term, I looked forward to some better weather than we had experienced in the month of May - well, we haven't been disappointed. If anything, the weather has been a little too good, with many of the staff and children wilting somewhat under the intense heat and lack of cooling wind, but it has also allowed us to move outside for some of our learning, in addition to PE. We are lucky to have not only a large playing field but also two little gardens which provide great learning environments, so please remember that the children need water bottles, hats and sun block throughout the rest of the term.

The highlight of the next couple of weeks for the school was going to be the Year 5/6 residential trip to 'Bushcraft' at Penshurst Place. Unfortunately, this has had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a staff member at the facilities testing positive for Covid. Staff are now working hard to provide the children with an alternative worthwhile experience that we will be running locally. We will let parents know further details once they are finalised.

Unfortunately, following the Prime Minister's announcement that the end of all lockdown restrictions are being delayed for up to four weeks, it is necessary to continue with our Covid-safe measures for the rest of the term, to ensure the safety of our children and the wider community. A big thank-you goes out to all our parents who have supported the school to maintain these throughout the pandemic, and we are looking forward to the days when these become a distant memory.

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.

Best wishes,

Mr Robert Clark

For Headteacher

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What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

We have had a wonderful start to our final term in **Bumblebee** class. We have started our new topic on Safari, which we absolutely love. We have created a plane ticket, boarded our plane for our long journey to Africa and jumped into a jeep to head onto the African plains in search of some animals. We have learnt about the Big 5 and drawn some super pictures of them. We have also been super busy in our Maths lessons where we have learnt about how to half different numbers and we have also learnt which numbers are odd and which numbers are even. In our Read, Write and Excellence lessons we have been doing some fantastic reading and we have been working hard to write our sentences independently.

What have Bumblebee, Owl and Deer Class been learning?

Owl Class have started the new term well and are already completing some excellent learning. In English, year 2 have been developing their reading comprehension skills, Mrs Grace's group have been writing their own information leaflets and Miss Hoogen's group have been strengthening their phonic knowledge!

In Maths Year 2 are working on their mental maths skills and year 1 have been practising position, direction and turns. In Art, we are learning to work with malleable materials; we have made small animals and will be working with salt dough and clay. We have started looking at 'sacred' books in RE, we have started with the Bible and will then have a look at the Torah. In PE, athletics is this term's focus and our relay skills were put to the test with great results.

Deer class have started to explore a Brazilian folktale called "The Dancing Turtle" in English. We have created story maps and have been using oral storytelling skills to remember the story off by heart. In Maths, we're coming to the end of our unit on Time and are now much happier with using number lines! Mrs Grace has enjoyed returning to Deer Class to teach cross-stitch in Art and discuss why Jesus is inspiring in RE. Our PE focus this term is Rounders and we're making good progress with actually hitting the ball!

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

We're two weeks into our final term in Year 4 and the **Otters** are making the most of this lovely sunny weather (long may it last!). Our classroom has very quickly changed from being an ice-box, with all the windows open to let the virus out, to a sweltering oven with all the windows open to let the fragrance of sweaty 9 year olds out. We have continued with our 'Iron Man' theme in English, with the children role-playing characters and writing scripts to demonstrate their use of speech, while in DT we have been experimenting with levers and cams in the hope that we will be able to make models of the iron giant in the coming weeks. Maths has seen us move from decimals to using money (a more difficult subject to teach in the age of contactless payments), while in Science the children are looking at the functions of the human body. The high point of the period was the Books and Blankets afternoon, where the children were able to share their work with families after a relaxing yoga session to unwind at the end of the week, accompanied by yogic chants of "Sa-ta-na-ma".

What have Otter, Badger and Fox Class been learning?

We have had a busy start to the term in **Badger** Class. In English, we have finished work on *Oliver Twist*, having written our own endings based on predictions. In Maths, we have completed our work on multiplying fractions by whole numbers, and have moved focus to decimals. We have continued our learning about rivers in Geography, exploring the features of the middle and lower course. Our DT project is well underway. Having designed our soft toys, we are now beginning construction. We have also enjoyed our first Tiger Troop sessions (a personal development programme with a military ethos). The children's courage and resilience has already been tested in a supportive way, and they have loved it!

It's all systems go in **Fox** Class this term - our final term at Bethersden Primary School! To help us on the way, we have been focusing on transition in our PSHE learning - ensuring that we are as prepared as we possibly can be for this exciting change ahead. In English, we have completed writing our own play script for our end of year performance, as we've reflected on our time at Bethersden as a whole. We have officially assigned roles and have begun rehearsals! We've been using our time in DT to research existing advertising posters, in order for us to design and create our own. Keep a look out for when these are released as these will tell you all you need to know about the performance so you don't miss out!

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

Danny, Sam, Levi and Harry

Owl Class

Chloe, Faye, Ozzy & Frankie

Deer Class

Jesse, Albie, Shelby, Harrison

Otter Class

Riley, Eden, Connor & Tommy

Badger Class

Thomas, Ryan, George M & Tillie

Fox Class

Phoebe, Kobi, Angelica, Caitlyn

Governor update

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our two new governors. Reverend Mike Rose who joins us with his strong community links and previous governance experience and after a successful parent governor election, Erin Hogben. Thank you to you both for your commitment in joining us.

Thank you to all parents that stood for the parent governor election and also those that took the time to vote.

All governors have been busy with our usual monitoring and lots of online training to ensure we keep updated.

We all wish Mr Gawthorpe a speedy recovery and we hope to see you back in school, where you belong, soon.

Jenn Read
Chair of Governors

Warm weather reminder

As the weather has improved can parents please ensure that children bring in a refillable/reusable water bottle for use both in the classroom and for outdoor activities. Please can you apply sun cream to your child before they come to school and make sure they have a sun hat should they be required to wear one.

PE Kits

It has been noticed that many children are forgetting their PE kits on PE days. The school policy is that children should have their PE kits in school all week; this not only ensures they are ready for their PE lessons but also allows the children to take part in any impromptu activities or games that teachers may decide to organise when taking advantage of the summer weather. It is important that children wear appropriate PE kit for both safety and hygiene reasons

Dates for your diary

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

June	
Monday 21 st - Wednesday 23 rd	Year 5 and 6 event
Friday 25 th	Last day for class photo orders
July	
Tuesday 13 th	Year 6 Production - <i>Details to be confirmed</i>
Wednesday 14 th	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2-3pm
Friday 16 th	Last day of term for children
19 th , 20 th & 21 st	Inset days, no children in school
September	
Wednesday 1 st	Inset day, no children in school
Thursday 2 nd	Children return to school