



# Bethersden Bulletin

NEWSLETTER 14  
2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2021

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

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Last week's attendance  
95.5%

This week's attendance  
94.10%

Year to date  
attendance  
95.90%

**We are aiming for  
excellent attendance.**

## Headteacher's message

Dealing with disappointment is never easy for anyone so I would like to start this newsletter by paying tribute to the children in Fox and Badger Class who had their residential cancelled at just 3 days' notice. The maturity with which they took the news is an absolute credit to each of them. However, out of adversity comes triumph and I would like to thank the team who, at very short notice, made sure the children had an experience to make up for it, and what an experience they put on. From bushcraft in the woods, scavenger hunts, woodland art, a talent show and ghost stories the children were certainly treated to a wonderful time. Thanks to a donation from a local organisation this was all achieved through the dedication of the staff in school and I would like to thank them all again for what they achieved.

We were also pleased to welcome the children who will join us in September for their first 'Stay and Play' afternoon. The children had a great afternoon in the outdoors meeting their new teacher for September and getting used to the environment. It was great to see photos of them enjoying themselves with a story and we all look forward to getting to know them better in the coming months and years.

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As we head into the final two weeks of term things are not slowing down. Year 6 are busy putting the final touches to their end of year performance. Looking at the list of props that are needed it looks like it is going to be a lot of fun and we look forward to sharing that with you on our YouTube channel.

This has been a challenging year for the children, families and staff and I am sure we will all be looking forward to a more normal year next year. I know many of you will be wondering about what September will look like and we are as keen as you to know. We are awaiting guidance about how we will need to operate next year and as soon as that is received we will work hard to put it in place and get the information out to you as quickly as possible.

Best wishes,

Mr Stuart Gawthorpe

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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In **Bumblebee** Class, during our wider learning lessons we have been learning about the animals in the 'Big 5'. We loved learning different facts about them and we then drew our favourite animal. We also made our own animal face masks focusing on texture by using sponges. We have been looking at some of the traditional clothes worn in Africa, and we love all the bright colours and patterns which inspired us to design our own African tops. In Maths, we have looked at length and compared the lengths of different objects. We have also been learning about how to weigh different things and tell which item is heavier. In our Read Write Excellence lessons, we have been working on our independent writing and resilience skills. We have been practicing writing multiple sentences by ourselves and we have even been trying to add some adjectives to our work. We have also continued to learn some new sounds to help us to be able to read and write more words.

What a wet couple of weeks we have had but this hasn't hampered our **Owls'** enthusiasm for learning! In Science, we have been thinking about bees and why they are important and what we could do to help them. We have designed gardens that attract bees and give them what they need to survive.

Year 2 have been looking at and writing a diary entry in English and in Maths they have been learning to tell the time. Maybe you could help them with this at home?

Year 1 have been continuing with their phonics learning in RWE and in Maths have been looking at numbers to 100 and number bonds to 100. Their next Maths topic is money, so maybe you could look at the different values of coins together?

During RE, Owls have been looking at and comparing sacred books in different religions. Art has been all about texture and clay work - with Owls making coil pots in clay.

**Deer** Class children have worked exceptionally hard over the last two weeks to write their own folktale, based on the Brazilian folktale "The Dancing Turtle". They have written unique and interesting stories, whilst also illustrating particular sections and creating their own front covers. In Maths, we are looking at properties of shape, angles, and types of lines. The weather has prevented us from playing rounders, so we've been developing our throwing, catching and teamwork skills in bench ball. We are about to begin growing our own plants in Science and are looking forward to making Brazilian carnival foods in our Geography and DT learning.

## What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

We've now said goodbye to 'flaming June' (although some of it was effectively extinguished) and entered July - our last month of the academic year. The **Otters** have been working hard gearing up for their transition to Year 5 and upper Key Stage 2 but did have a few days respite from Mr Clark when he was diverted to support Years 5 and 6 in their home-grown Bushcraft experience (he could be seen yomping across the playing field dressed in his SWAT kit, humming the 'A' Team theme tune). In his absence, the children enjoyed being taught by three different teachers who brought a wide variety of skills and experiences, which the children enjoyed very much. Of particular note was the debate on environmental issues, which resulted in some very passionate but mature discussion that continued into the playground. The children have also learnt about teeth and the importance of caring for them, and in DT they started designing and building their Iron Man toys. Everyone is now looking forward to the last couple of weeks and keeping our fingers crossed that the weather holds out so we can do as much learning outdoors as possible.

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

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It has been a varied few weeks in **Badger Class**. In Maths, we have been representing tenths, hundredths and thousandths as decimals using place value counters. We have identified the relationship between fractions and decimals and have used this to solve calculations. Our Science lessons have continued to be experiment-led, testing the impacts of drag and water resistance on moving objects. In Art, we have been examining how artists use texture in their work. We have also tested how different stimuli (music, poems and stories) can influence our ideas. Our DT toy manufacture is well underway, having sewn on buttons and embroidered details to the front of our products. Despite having been caught in some rain showers, Badger Class are still loving their Tiger Troop sessions with Sergeant Rose and Sergeant Mac. Their teamwork, physical and mental fitness has been tested as part of this personal development programme. Most excitingly, Badgers (along with Fox Class) have enjoyed their Bushcraft experience. Although not as initially planned, the children still participated in outdoor learning opportunities. They built shelters, lit fires and learnt about camouflage and concealment. They also got to spend a night camping on the school field! It was a fantastic experience for children and staff alike, and we are all incredibly proud of the mature way in which the children conducted themselves.

What a busy time we are having in **Fox Class**! Our play rehearsals are well underway, from practising our lines, song rehearsals to drama and performance. Juggling that along with our Bushcraft residential, it's surprising that we have any energy left! We had the most amazing time as a class joint with Badgers on our 3 day residential, creating memories that will never be forgotten. As we approach our final few weeks left at Bethersden Primary School, it's all systems go making sure that we have the most fun that we possibly can together as a class and as a school.

## 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

Lucy, Alex, Jaxon & Owen

### Owl Class

Shawn, Aggie and Mya

### Deer Class

Harvey, Jack, Arlo & Owen

### Otter Class

William, Frankie, Sadie & Violet

### Badger Class

Whole class for Bushcraft residential, Caleb, Jamie

### Fox Class

Whole class for Bushcraft residential, Joe, Erin

### Bethersden's Bushcraft

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June, we received the sad news that the Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Bushcraft at Penshurst Place had to be cancelled. Determined to still provide the children with similar outdoor learning opportunities, school staff, families and the local community came together to create 'Bethersden's Bushcraft'. Badger and Fox class enjoyed this event last week.

On a rather soggy Monday morning, the children arrived at school to find out they needed to set up their camp. The children worked fantastically well to build their tents (provided by Bethersden Scouts and Guides), demonstrating great teamwork and determination. Even in the wind and rain, they persevered and showed good problem solving skills. The children spent some time at the park and then enjoyed a picnic lunch (inside the marquee). Thank you to all the families for your generous food contributions. We then spent the afternoon making parachutes for an egg drop and creating nature art, using items collected on the field.

The fun continued on Tuesday, with another day packed full of outdoor activities. Having revised important map and compass skills, we set off to the woods. On arrival, the children quickly set to work building shelters. With only two ground sheets per group, the rest had to be created using natural materials. This was a difficult task and required careful planning and teamwork. The end results were wonderful! After some discussion on the importance of camouflage, we used paint to help us blend into our surroundings. This proved useful when participating in a concealment game in the woods. Having collected sticks throughout the day, the children had the opportunity to try fire lighting, something which proved more challenging than expected!

Tuesday was an especially exciting day, as the children were invited to spend the night camping on the school field. That evening, the children created tree art inspired by the Green Man.

They used clay and foliage collected from around the woods, to produce their beautiful pieces of art. The children also participated in a scavenger hunt around the school, built marshmallow towers and had a nappy making competition (using toilet rolls). After such a busy day, the children tucked into their pizzas, which they made earlier in the day and were very kindly cooked by The Bull Inn. We also enjoyed a talent show. From dancing to singing to comedy, the children excelled in all their talents. We were even treated to a circus performance from Mrs Green, magic from Miss Mexter and Miss Webster, a musical surprise from Mrs Smith and jokes from Mr Clark. As it started to get dark, the campfire was lit and the children sang campfire songs, drunk hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows.

After a very early start for some, we awoke on Wednesday to a lovely sunny morning. The children ate breakfast together and then set about tidying the camp site. This was a little harder than expected - especially trying to fit the sleeping bags back into their bags. We then spent the morning competing in team games, such as relay races and obstacle courses. For lunch we enjoyed a barbeque and ice lollies, perfect for a hot day, and a perfect end to Bethersden's Bushcraft. We would like to thank the children of Badger and Fox class, not only for the mature way they dealt with the last minutes changes, but also for their impeccable behaviour throughout. They were wonderful representatives for the school. We would also like to thank all the people who supported us in organising this wonderful event.



## Alternative uniform supplier

We now have a local school uniform supplier in Ashford town centre. County Print & Embroidery will be stocking uniform with the Bethersden logo from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The address of the shop is 2 Chapel Mews, Ashford, TN24 8JN. The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm, you can visit the shop to buy our uniform direct from them. They also offer a Click and Collect service from their website: [www.countyprintandembroidery.co.uk](http://www.countyprintandembroidery.co.uk). The shop telephone number is 01233 367867.

Uniform can still be purchased on line through My clothing: [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com). Telephone 08000 6999949.

## Dates for your diary

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

<b>July</b>	
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Production - <i>2pm outside</i>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term for children
19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Inset days, no children in school
<b>September</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Inset day, no children in school
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Children return to school