



# Bethersden Bumper Bulletin

NEWSLETTER 15  
16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020

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

## Headteacher's message

**Our full year  
attendance was  
95.64%**

**Last year our  
attendance was  
95.62%**

**To 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 when  
schools were ordered to  
close to most children.**

**We are aiming for  
excellent attendance.**

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Well, what another very strange year this has been but with so many things to celebrate too. I would like to start by saying how incredibly proud I am of each and every child in our school. They have shown so many incredible attributes this year and have taken everything in their stride. At the start of the year, we were all hopeful that we were having a whole year of uninterrupted learning, albeit in our 'bubbles', but when we were told that we needed to switch to Remote Learning for some children they, and you, switched to it so well for which we thank you. On their return they slipped back in so well and it was like they had never been away.

I would like to extend my gratitude to each and every one of our families who have endured a year of staggered start times and remote learning. Thank you for supporting the school with all the adaptations we have had to make; your flexibility and understanding has been greatly appreciated. I know you have missed all the opportunities to come into school and we have missed our contact with you something I am looking forward to (hopefully) restarting next year.

As I look forward to next year and the current guidance it is looking more like normal and I will be sending out further information in the coming weeks. I am sure you will have all seen the national guidance about the easing of bubbles, the removal or staggered start and finish times and the need for staff to wear face covering which is all very positive. I am awaiting the guidance from the Local authority as they may place some local restrictions on school especially if case rates continue to increase. Please do check ParentMail and the school [website](#) over the summer for the latest information on September.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to my entire team of staff who have shown dedication, endurance, flexibility, patience - the list goes on. I can't begin to tell you how fortunate I feel to lead such an incredible team who whatever challenges have been thrown at them over the last year they have risen to and overcome to ensure the children have received an excellent experience whether that has been working under 'bubble' conditions or organising a 'residential' at 3 days notice, nothing has been too much for the incredible Bethersden team. We are saying goodbye to Mrs Grace and Mrs Taylor to follow their different paths (more on page 10) and welcoming some fantastic new members to our team who I am sure will very quickly become part of our dedicated family.

I wish you all a fantastic summer break with (hopefully) great weather so we can all get outside in the fresh air, and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Best wishes for a restful summer holiday,

Mr Stuart Gawthorpe  
Headteacher

## Bumblebee Class End of Year Reflection



We are busy creating our sea turtles.



Exploring the animals on Safari.



We had the best time brushing our teeth!

We have had a wonderful end to the year in Bumblebee Class. We have loved our 'Under the Sea' and 'On Safari' topics. We have learnt all about rock pools and we discussed what creatures live in them. We absolutely loved learning about sea turtles and their life cycle and we thought the baby sea turtles were adorable. We then went on to learn about mammals in the ocean and we wrote about our favourite one. We have even been on an adventure around the world with the 'Snail and the Whale' and written some incredible postcards. Next, we went to the depth of the ocean in our very own submarines that we made from junk modelling. When creating our submarines we were super carefully to add all the important parts such as the periscope and the propeller. We have also explored water pollution and learnt how we can help keep our waters clean and we have looked at the importance of recycling. We started our 'On Safari' topic by going on a journey to Africa. We looked at the 'Big 5' and learnt some facts about these incredible creatures. We then looked at some of the traditional clothes and learnt a bit about their wonderful culture. We deigned our own tops and even created our own necklace inspired by the traditional beads used.

In our Reading, Writing Excellence lessons, we have been extremely busy learning new sounds and reading real and alien words with them in. We are now reading books that are a bit trickier as we have become super readers. We have also been focusing on our writing resilience by practising writing sentences more independently. On Fridays we have loved our 'Inspire to Write' sessions and have shown off our incredible writing skills as well as our fantastic knowledge about the sea creatures we have learnt about. We have also written some wonderful sentences about the beautiful creatures in Africa. In Maths, we started the term with looking at more complex patterns and we are now able to complete and create our very own patterns. We have explored everything about numbers all the way up to 20 and we are now able to count on and backwards. This super skill means we can now add and subtract numbers. We have become incredible with being able to double numbers and we have reminded ourselves of our number bonds to ten. We have also looked at how to measure and compare different lengths and weights. Our last topic of the year was to learn how to measure and know the different between full and nearly full etc.

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 also been very busy in our new café and have created many delicious meals and made some incredible menus. Our absolute favourite activities have been playing in the water tray with our beautiful sea creatures and playing with our African animals in our tuff tray safari.

Some of the highlights have been muddy puddle making and jumping, tower building, creating and going on the Polar Express, mud pie making, going on safari, fruit and vegetable tasting. There are so many other wonderful activities we have enjoyed doing together there is not a piece of paper long enough. However, what I have loved most is watching your friendships blossom and how you always show each other kindness and compassion.

This past year has been an absolute joy to teach you all. We are so proud with how much you have all learnt and grown this year. It has been a joy to watch you grow in confidence and see your personalities blossom over the year. We can't wait to hear all about your adventures in year one and we know you will all do fantastically.

## Owl Class End of Year Reflection

What a year it has been for Owl Class! The pesky coronavirus has disrupted our year somewhat, but we have still managed to have a fantastic year with some amazing learning taking place.

We started the year thinking about our own history and looking at what had happened in our lifetimes, and then that of our teachers! We then started looking at some significant people in History. Owls loved learning about Martin Luther King and really took on board the message that he shared.

As Christmas approached, we started thinking about our Christmas cards that we were going to make for our families. We used the skills we had been learning in Design Technology about levers and mechanisms to ensure that they had a moving part. We hope you liked them!

We were then lucky enough to celebrate Christmas with a Christmas lunch and a party - where lots of fun was had by all. We also practised for our Christmas play which was then recorded and shared with all of our families.

Unfortunately, we were unable to return to school after Christmas, as the pesky virus was flourishing, so lockdown learning began. Owls, you were amazing during this time, completing all your tasks and joining us every day. We spent time learning about the continents in Geography, animals in Science and then planned, prepared and evaluated our own Fruit Salads. We are sure they were delicious!

When we were able to return to school, we celebrated with a Birthday Party - as no-one had been able to have one for so long, we had an afternoon of dancing and party games and even a cake!!!!

As the school year progressed, we enjoyed our Art lesson with Mrs Grace who taught us all about the colour wheel and how to mix colours.

We were very lucky in Term 5 to have some real-life Owls visit us. We enjoyed the visit, learning a lot of Owl Facts and some of us actually got to hold an Owl! What a lovely treat.

As the summer holidays approach, we think it would be lovely if the children could participate in the Summer Reading Challenge that was shared on Parentmail recently. We would love to see as many of you as possible taking part!

Thank you also for all the updates about the sunflowers and keep them coming in over the summer. The deadline for the competition entries is the end of August, so please do send a photo of your sunflower with a measurement of its head, so we can share it with the gardeners' society. (Entries can be sent to the families email or via google classroom).

And finally, when the children return in September, they will be in Deer Class in one of the mobile classrooms. The Class team will be Miss Hughes, Mrs Moss and Mrs Pressland-Joy. The team are looking forward to the year ahead and can't wait!!!

Thank you for all your support over the year, The Owl Team.



Owl Class Autumn  
2020



Christmas Jumper  
Day 2020



Red and White Day  
July 2021

## Deer Class End of Year Reflection



We have grown cress seeds this term in Science, changing different variables to see how each affects the growth.

What a term and what a year it has been in Deer Class! First of all, I would like to say a massive “well done” to all of the children for coping with such a difficult and unusual year. They should be immensely proud of the resilience, determination and good humour that they have demonstrated throughout Year 3.

In English this term, we have written our own folktales, based on a Brazilian folktale called “The Dancing Turtle”. The children created story maps and practised retelling the story orally, before following a structure to produce their own extended piece of writing over a sequence of many lessons. They did an exceptional job and their writing was a pleasure to read. Over the last two weeks, we have explored rhyme and rhythm using Roald Dahl’s *Dirty Beasts* series of poems.

Our Power Maths work in Term 6 has focused on angles and properties of shape, learning key terminology such as *parallel*, *perpendicular*, *vertical*, *horizontal* and *right angle*. We have revised different 2D shapes and their key features, for example how many sides or vertices they have. Recently, we have returned to using the column method and number lines to solve addition and subtraction problems, as it seems we have forgotten many of these skills since we practised them earlier in the year... This is something for the children to do a bit of revision on over the summer if they get the chance!

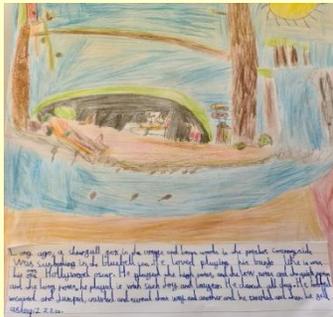
We have studied Brazil this term in Geography, DT and Music. We have learnt about where Brazil is in the world in relation to the UK, including some of the countries that border it. We have used an assortment of percussion instruments to create samba rhythms and we have spent the last three weeks making food items that we thought might be suitable to eat at a Brazilian carnival: fruit skewers, chocolate tarts and savoury pastries.

In Science, we have investigated how cress seeds grow under different conditions, including if we give them no light or water them with orange juice! In PE, we have played both Rounders and Benchball, rehearsing throwing, catching and teamwork skills. It has been a really busy and productive term, in which the children have shown how much they have matured.

Next year, we will hopefully be able to return to something resembling normality. Deer Class will become Otters and our classroom will move into the main building. The children will still have to tolerate Mr Cook and Miss Simpson, but hopefully there won’t be too many tears when we all return in September. ☺ We will continue to study a broad range of topics across the curriculum - including important civilisations such as The Romans - and build on the skills we have developed this year in Reading, Writing and Maths.

Many of the routines we have put in place in Year 3 will remain in Year 4. Children will practise spellings and times tables each week, whilst more formal home learning tasks are also likely to return. Please ensure over the summer that children have a full PE kit and school uniform ready for September, including plimsolls and trainers that fit them well.

**Have a fantastic and well-deserved summer break!**



We wrote our own folktales in English, then created our own picture book pages. The beautiful one above is Arlo’s!



We created our own finger foods suitable for a Brazilian carnival. Here we are, chopping up exotic fruits like pineapple and mango for a fruit skewer.

## Otter Class End of Year Reflection

We've made it to the end of the year ..... and what a year it has been. Fortunately, Terms 5 and 6 have seen Otter Class return to relative normality, certainly compared to the post-Christmas period. Term 5 got off to a great start, with the children throwing themselves into their first full term back in school this year. The weather was very promising for the first few weeks, allowing us to spend a lot of time outside using the field and surrounding area as a classroom. We were able to work in groups for English lessons carrying out our role-play to support our study of Ted Hughes' 'The Iron Man', and the children could be seen running up and down the field, furiously flapping their arms to imitate the 'Spacebat-angel-dragon' (which everyone now refers to as the 'SBAD!'). We also used the school grounds and the new 'forest school' area behind us to practise orienteering techniques, which we hope to develop further next year. Orienteering is a great way of combining PE with Maths, Geography and English, thus allowing the children to see 'real world' applications for their learning.

In Design and Technology (DT), we built bug houses in Term 5 and, in Term 6, have been learning about levers and cams which we have used to design and build 'Iron man' related models. DT is a subject where children are encouraged to make as many 'mistakes' as possible in order to learn how to evaluate, develop and improve their products, rather than simply replicate something the teacher shows them. Thank you to all of you who supported the children by providing materials, and I think the pallets that were kindly donated will last us well into next year. The children learnt cutting and hammering techniques, as well as using glue guns safely. It was a real pleasure to see the look of relief on their faces when Mr Clark finished cutting planks with his electric saw without incident, and those who had volunteered to be the ones to run to the office to call an ambulance when it all went a bit wrong seemed relieved that they weren't actually needed.

In Science, we have been looking at the human body and comparing it to other animals. There has been a particular focus on teeth and the importance of dental hygiene to prevent tooth decay, which has also complimented the RSE lessons on physical and emotional changes the children will experience as they approach puberty.

Next year, Otters will become Badgers, although little else will change as the class will stay where it is and the teachers (Mr Clark and Miss Mexter) will stay the same. Mr Clark will continue to welcome the children into the classroom each day with relaxing yoga music and uplifting, motivational greetings, such as "Right, stop faffing and get your books out". The only significant change will be that Mrs Moss will join the team and teach the class on Wednesdays. Mrs Moss is a qualified secondary school French language specialist and will no doubt provide more sophisticated vocabulary than Mr Clark's "I learnt it from the French Army" lessons. As we move into Year 5 and upper KS2, we intend making maximum use of the day and our learning time. In upper KS2, children will be required to take more personal responsibility for themselves and their learning and there will be a greater emphasis on becoming role models for the rest of the school. We hope to raise our profile in the community more and develop an ethos of social responsibility. We also hope to take advantage of regained freedoms following the pandemic by getting out in the community more to support our learning.



Otters role-playing the arrival of 'Iron Man' as he teeters on the cliff top before tumbling downwards.



Conducting an environmental survey of the new 'forest school' area behind the school.

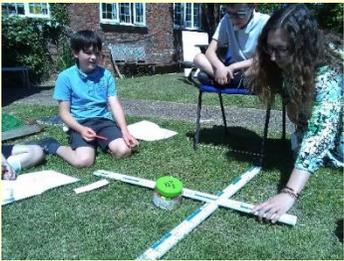


Demonstrating cutting techniques in Design and Technology.

## Badger Class End of Year Reflection



A rather unconventional jam sandwich - a jar of jam between two pieces of bread!



Testing the impact of friction on moving objects.



Having their drill put to the test during Tiger Troop sessions.

How quickly the year has flown by in **Badger Class**. It does not seem long ago that after months of learning at home, the children returned to school to begin the new school year. Since then, the class have enjoyed a range of learning opportunities, reconnected with the school and each other and completed ANOTHER term of Home Learning! The children of Badger Class really must be commended for the adaptability and maturity they have demonstrated this year.

Even during these last few weeks, we have remained busy. In English, we have explored instruction writing. After learning about the key features and then writing our own instructions on how to make a jam sandwich, these were then put to the test. This resulted in some rather unusual sandwiches, including some with the jam on the outside, some as individual slices of bread and even one with the whole jam jar in the middle. This proved the importance of clear and concise instruction writing! We have also enjoyed Charlie Mackesy's book *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, the perfect story as we prepare to make our transition into Year 6. We have analysed quotes from text, examining their hidden meanings, and have written from different characters' points of view.

In Maths, we have finished worked on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, having had a very successful few weeks learning about percentages. The class are becoming increasingly confident recognizing the link between these, and are able to represent an amount in all three forms. They are also beginning to solve more complex problems, explaining their method using mathematical language.

Our Science topic of Forces has allowed us to dive into practical learning. We have tested the impact of air resistance, the impact of drag on moving objects and how the effects of water resistance differ depending on shape. We have analysed data and considered the causes and impacts of anomalous results.

In Geography, we have been learning about flooding. Having examined the effectiveness of flood defense systems and looked at contrasting flooding case studies, we then conducted a geographical enquiry into how land use can worsen or reduce the damage caused by flooding.

Badger Class have participated in a range of wider learning opportunities this year. They have particularly enjoyed their Tiger Troop sessions with Sergeant Rose. Here teamwork, resilience, discipline and physical fitness have been tested - and the class have excelled! Their musical ability has also improved after four terms of ukulele tuition with Buster. Again, the children have really enjoyed these sessions, and it has been lovely to see their confidence and competence develop every week.

Well done to Badger Class on a great year! The children have worked so hard and should be proud of all that they have achieved during another strange year. Have a lovely summer, and I'll see you all in September!

In **Fox Class** next year, we will be starting our Geography work looking at 'Trade'. During the summer have a look at food packaging in your house. Where has it come from? How do you think it got here? Why do you think your food has travelled such a long way?

Please continue to practise your times tables throughout the summer (remember TT Rockstars is always available). A secure times tables knowledge will be vital on our return to school in September.

## Fox Class End of Year Reflection

My goodness what a term we have had in Fox Class - our final term at Bethersden Primary School!

We started out the term finalizing our script in English for our end of school production. Jackanory inspired our script, as we incorporated our memories of our time at Bethersden Primary into our scenes. Having completed our script, it was time to get down to business - rehearsals! We have worked tirelessly in Fox Class, from learning our lines, designing and creating props, including backdrops for the play itself. We have used our time in Design Technology to make such props, as well as designing, creating and making our very own advertising posters to promote our Year 6 production - Fox Class Jackanory. We researched existing posters used on the West End, identifying what we thought works well. We learnt how to use various features in Publisher to create our posters.

As our final days at Bethersden have been fast approaching, we have taken time this term to focus on all things transition in our PSHE learning. We took some time focusing on the importance of organization; looking at timetables, how to best prioritise your homework and what to pack in your school bag. We also spent some time researching our new secondary schools online. The virtual tours the school websites had to offer were particularly useful! Following the topic of transition, this term we have been fortunate enough to have Mindfulness sessions led by a qualified children's yoga instructor. These have been extremely calming for us during what can be tense time of year at school.

After what has been a difficult year with all things Covid and lockdown, Fox Class have pulled through in the best possible way, pushing past any challenge that came their way - particularly our most recent involving our production performance. Whilst we were extremely disappointed to not be able to perform for our families, we did our very best to put on the greatest show (whilst recording for our families to share with us virtually). Both production performances were incredible! Fox Class were true performers - West End worthy in fact! Though we had some hiccups, wigs falling off mid performance, they all worked together like the wonderful team that they are to create an unforgettable show. Fox Class have set the standards extremely high for future Year 6s.

Fox Class,

You have been an absolute pleasure to teach, even despite your grumbles in every RE lesson we've had. I can't quite believe how far you've come in such a short space of time. You started out term 5 not wanting a leaver's production at all, to finishing term 6 with the best productions performances I've ever seen! I had the pleasure of teaching many of you back in Year 1 - you were my first ever class! Having the opportunity to teach you once again for your final terms at Bethersden has been a privilege.

I know you will all go on to achieve wonderful things in life - in fact I wonder if my predictions for 30 years' time will actually come true?

Following a beautiful leaver's assembly, we had some laughs and shed some tears. But it's time to enjoy yourselves; enjoy your summer break and make the most of it before you officially become secondary school students! I wish you all every success!



Our Year 6 production advertising poster, created by Kobi and Alex.



Getting ready to perform our first viewing of 'Fox Class Jackanory' - our Year 6 production.



Enjoying our final few days as a class, with our brand new hoodies!

## Inset days next year

To help you plan your holidays for next year we are publishing our INSET days now. Please do arrange holidays outside school time as your children miss out on learning if they are not here:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 - Staff Development Day

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 - Staff Development Day

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 - Staff Development Day

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Staff Development Day

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 - Staff Development Day

All term dates are all on the school calendar  
<https://bethersden.kent.sch.uk/calendar-2/>

## Excellence Awards

Our final Excellence Awards of the year have been presented to:

Bumblebee Class - Rex, Phoebe, Skylar and William  
Owl Class - Violet, Alexis, Aggie and Mia  
Deer Class - Rosemary, Amelia, Charlie and Indie-Rae  
Otter Class - Eden, Lucy, Vienna and William  
Badger Class - Kitty, George S, Dakota and William  
Fox Class - Whole class for las week, Louie-Rose, Joe

## Learners of the Year

Each year, the Class Teams select one child who has excelled across the year in their class to be recognised as the 'Learner of the year'.

Bumblebee Class Learner of the Year is **Skylar**  
Owl Class Learners of the Year are - Year 1 is **Alfie**, Year 2 is **Marine**  
Deer Class Learner of the Year is **Jesse**  
Otter Class Learner of the Year is **Harry**  
Badger Class Learner of the Year is **George M**  
Fox Class Learner of the Year is **Olivia**

## Uniform and jewellery

Over the summer I am sure that you will be purchasing new uniform and shoes for your child. Please could I remind you that we do have a uniform policy that clearly sets out the expectation for all children to wear the correct uniform. **Shoes should be plain black with no logos or decorations please and have Velcro where children are not yet able to tie shoe laces.** Wearing a school uniform sets a clear expectation that everyone is equal, and it also prepares children for secondary school and later life when many professions have a uniform or dress code that must be followed.

### Our uniform consists of:

Royal Blue sweatshirt  
Pale blue or white polo shirt or cotton shirt  
Dark grey/black trousers or dark grey/black shorts  
Dark grey/Black skirt or dark grey/black pinafore

### *In addition pupils may choose to wear:*

Royal Blue cardigan  
Blue gingham dresses, in warmer weather  
Royal Blue fleece for outdoor use

Leggings are **not** a suitable alternative to trousers but may be worn underneath appropriate skirt or pinafore.

For PE all children need:

White PE t-shirt (available with a school logo)  
Black PE shorts  
A pair of trainers or plimsolls  
A plain dark coloured tracksuit (without fashion logos) for outdoor use

**Please Note:** PE kits should be kept in school all week, fully named and in a named drawstring bag which should be kept in their locker.

Uniform can be purchased from My clothing: [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com). or Phone 08000 699949  
Or County Print & Embroidery - 2 Chapel Mews, Ashford, TN24 8JN. 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.

Thank you for supporting the school by purchasing the school uniform.

### Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school; stud earrings may be worn but should either be removed on PE days to avoid injuries or covered with 'micropore' tape.

If you are planning to get your child's ear pierced over the holidays, please try to do this at the beginning of the holiday so that there is time for the ear to settle before coming back to school. This is to ensure that your child's ear is fully recovered and less likely to cause them discomfort and so the earring can be taken out during PE lessons for the safety of your child and the rest of the class.

## Goodbye and thank you

This term marks a sad goodbye to Wendy Grace - who has had connections to the school for many years! Firstly, through playschool, then as a TA and HLTA here at Bethersden Primary School. We have been so fortunate to have been able to draw upon her wonderful Art and photography skills, her love of Science and passion for RE. She has taught many children, some of which now have children of their own and it is no surprise that she is a favourite with children and staff alike. Mrs Grace always took on every challenge that the school threw at her with skill, passion and dedication. A recent fond memory is at our Bethersden Bushcraft, we needed a fun, woodland based activity... but who could help? You guessed it! Mrs Grace took control and introduced a wonderful activity of making clay faces on the trees! Bethersden Primary school simply will not be the same without you Mrs Grace. But I know you will be back to see us soon! - Mrs Green



## Goodbye and good luck

Mrs Taylor leaves us today to start her Initial Teacher Training. Over the last two and a half years Mrs Taylor has supported children across the school and been responsible for the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' and the 'Easter Egg-spedition' trails around the village. She has also been a much-loved Learning Support Assistant and member of our team. We wish her every success in her teacher training and who knows, maybe one day we will welcome her back to the school in a new role!

## News from the Governors

As another academic year closes, the governors would like to say an enormous thank you to the staff team at Bethersden for their dedication and hard work through this very difficult year. It's been lovely to see the children back in school after lockdown and reconnecting with their learning.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Wendy Grace who has been with us for over 12 years. Wendy's passion for phonics and her teaching of Read, Write, Excellence has seen children excel in this area. We wish you a very happy, well deserved retirement.

The governors want to give their best wishes to all of the Year 6 children as they move on to their secondary schools and new adventures this coming September. I know that they have been working hard on the leaver's performance which we can all view on the school's YouTube channel.

We look forward to September and hopefully a more normal school year which will include sports day, day trips and fundraising events.

Finally, I wish you all a restful and relaxing summer holiday.

Best wishes

Jenn Read and Kate Kirk  
Chair and Vice-chair of Governors