



Bethersden Bulletin

NEWSLETTER
17TH SEPTEMBER 2021

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

Headteacher's message

Last week's attendance

99.27%

This week's attendance

96.48%

Year to date attendance

97.19%

**We are aiming for
excellent attendance.**

Our first term is now well under way and I am so incredibly proud of how well all the children across the school have settled back in. The 'Bethersden Buzz' is certainly back and the learning that is taking place in the classrooms is really pleasing to see and hear. I am thrilled each morning that I am in to see the children come across the road with huge smiles on their faces, it really is wonderful to see.

As more normality starts to return to school we are planning more events for the children. On Wednesday 6th October at 2pm we will be hosting the Friends of Bethersden School (FOBS) Annual General Meeting to which you are all very welcome. At this meeting, the trustees will outline the activities of the previous year and also set out the priorities for this year. It is your chance to hear how, through the valuable fundraising activities, your children benefit from the additional money to provide rich opportunities. You are all very welcome to attend and please don't panic, it is not just to ask you to volunteer - although you are very welcome to, it is also about you having a say in how money is raised and spent for your children. Please do put the date in your diary and join us, refreshments will be provided.

The weather continues to be kind to us and there has been lots of outdoor learning taking place across the school. This not only provides the children with fresh air but also a chance to explore the school grounds. Over the coming months we will be looking to further expand our outdoor space thanks to Clarus Homes and we will send out details soon of how you can help us get it up and running but if you have a ride on mower or tractor with grass cutting capability we would love to hear from you.

Just a quick reminder that our Twitter page @BethersdenSch is the best way to see what is happening at school and there are already some great examples of learning across the school so, if you are not already one of our 222 followers, make sure you join us.

Finally, please could I ask you to read the information on page 5 about drop off and collection times and encourage you to show your support for the school as you always do at these times.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Stuart Gawthorpe

Headteacher

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Headteacher's message
- 2 What's been happening at Bethersden
- 3 What's been happening at Bethersden
- 4 What's been happening at Bethersden
- 5 Excellence Awards
- 5 Drop off and collection
- 6 Bethersden Gardeners Society Autumn show
- 6 Birthdays *NEW*
- 7 Dates for your diary

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What have Bumblebee, and Owl Class been learning?

We have had an excellent start to school life in **Bumblebee class**. We have loved exploring our exciting indoor and outdoor learning environments. It has been an absolute joy watching how beautifully the children have settled into school life and how wonderfully they are playing together. We have already started our Read Write Excellence lessons and have learnt our first 6 sounds. We are working really hard to write these sounds and think of words that start with them. In our Maths lessons, we have been learning all about numbers to 4. We have been focusing on being able to recognise our numbers, collect the correct number of objects and to be able to write our numbers. During our Wider Learning, we have also started our fantastic new topic, 'Once Upon a Time'. We have looked at Goldilocks and the Three Bears and helped Goldilocks to make porridge and have been very busy helping the Three Little Pigs to make a house that the Wolf can't blow down.

It is so lovely to see **Owl Class** coming into school every morning with such smiley faces and a wonderful enthusiasm to learn and we are very proud of how well they have adapted to the new routines in year one. Well done Owls!

In Maths we have been learning all about numbers to 10, counting, writing and recognising them. We have been counting forwards and backwards and counting on one more and one less. We have been singing lots of songs to help us count backwards and to find one more/less. You might hear them sing some of them at home! We are continuing with our 'Reading, writing, excellence' lessons learning new sounds and learning to read and write new green and red words. Children are developing their reading skills by applying their phonic knowledge and word recognition skills. We have even found time to enter a writing competition, poems all about Autumn. In Geography we have been talking about where we live and about our school and local area. It has been lovely to see how well the children know what kind of home they live in, they have learnt some new words too such as 'terraced house, semi-detached house and bungalow.' In Science, Owl class have been talking about the seasons and have had some super discussions about what they would see or find in the different times of the year. As part of their transition from Reception class to Year 1, Owls continue to have access to child initiated learning and some of their favourite areas are the home corner, the creative area and exploring the sand and water in the outdoor area. What a wonderful and busy start to the year!

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What a lovely start to the term we've had in **Deer Class!** (An exclamation sentence which is very apt as we've been learning all about sentence types in our English learning).

Our afternoons have been packed full of learning across our wider curriculum. In Geography we've begun our topic all about the UK, beginning with identifying cities across the four countries of the United Kingdom. We also learnt that famous author Roald Dahl was born in the capital city of Wales, Cardiff.

In PSHE we've begun our learning on relationships, specifically focusing on friendship, identifying what makes a good friend. We also experimented with the importance and the value of listening. Although trying to talk to our friends who were covering their ears and talking over us seemed funny at the time, it proved how important good listening skills are.

We are looking forward to continuing this momentum of learning as we progress further into the term.

Otter Class' have begun exploring the story of *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan in English over the last two weeks. We have written character descriptions, diary entries and even a short prequel to the story in the style of Ted Hughes (author of *The Iron Man*). In Maths, we have focused on rounding, using our knowledge of place value. Our Science work on Sound has started with a bang - we have used rice and water to see the vibrations caused when a source produces a sound. The children have enjoyed their Wednesday afternoons studying RE and Music with Mrs Smith and Miss Simpson, whilst it has also worked well having a calm start to Monday mornings by studying drawing techniques in Art. In PE sessions, we've focussed on sprinting techniques and how to run as fast as possible, including studying some video clips of Usain Bolt and the recent Tokyo Olympics.

The children have settled in well to life in Year 4 and we are looking forward to a happy and productive term.

What have Deer and Otter Class been learning?

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What have Badger and Fox Class been learning?

Badger Class. We're two weeks into Year 5 and already the children are rising to the challenges of being upper KS2. As Mr Clark gleefully promised in July, both the level and quantity of the work has shifted up a gear and the demands of the new timetable mean there is no room for wasted time (or 'faffing' about', as it is now known). The children are taking more ownership of their own learning, with a greater emphasis on self-assessment and peer marking. We are learning new acronyms, such as 'WWW' (what went well), 'EBI' (Even better if...) and the teacher's favourite 'RTBQ' (Read the blinking question!!!). Mrs Moss has been providing respite for the class when she teaches on Wednesdays, amazing everyone with her music and French skills while Miss Mexter, as ever, has been holding everything together in the background and making sure everyone washes their hands before making their fruit salads in DT. What a year this is going to be!

Fox Class have returned to school with their usual energy and enthusiasm, and have made a fantastic start to life in Year 6. Having arrived at school on the first day of term to a seascape in the classroom, our English work has had a nautical theme. The children have written creatively about sailors, pirates, sea voyages and more. We have also explored the bible story of *Jonah and the Whale*, which links with the sea-themed text we will be learning about throughout the rest of the term. In Maths, we have been working on place value, learning about numbers to ten million. We have also revised the use of number lines, how to compare and order numbers as well as rounding. Our Science work this term has a biology focus, as we investigate evolution and inheritance. Inspired by Charles Darwin, we have travelled along a 'thinking path' observing living things around the school grounds. We have also created our own fossil records, using play-doh, to model the ways in which we think animals might have adapted over time. Our DT work this term will see us becoming engineers, designing and making products involving pulley systems. With only some string, a pencil and a hair curler, the children have already used their problem-solving skills to create a pulley. In keeping with our English sea theme, in Music we have been exploring sea shanties, starting with a more current shanty, 'Wellerman.'

Excellence Awards

We are delighted that we are now meeting together outside (when the weather allows) to celebrate the successes of the children and present them with their Excellence Awards. IF it is raining a member of the Leadership Group goes around the classrooms. **As many out of school activities have restarted please do remember to send certificates, badges and awards in to school on a Friday so that we can celebrate excellence and achievements from outside school.** Below are the children who received Excellence Awards in the last two weeks.

Bumblebee Class

Emily, Buzz, James, Annabelle

Owl Class

Ava, Rex, Phoebe, Freya

Deer Class

Annabelle, Oskar, Marine, Nancy

Otter Class

Harvey, Lilly-Anne, Freddie, Jack

Badger Class

William, Indiana, Harry, Riley,

Fox Class

Daniel, Daisy, George S, Thomas

Excellence outside school

Belle F, Owl class, Teddy A & Tillie F, Fox class

Drop off and collection

It is lovely to finally see you all back in the playground for collections at the end of the day and we hope that you are feeling comfortable. Please do remember that some people are still very anxious, may not yet have been or are unable to be vaccinated so please remember to keep a safe distance from others where possible.

We have received several comments from parents regarding the drop off and collection arrangements. In order to make this time as safe and comfortable as possible for everyone could I please ask that you park considerately, obeying the road markings and traffic laws around school. The bus stop should be always left clear so that the Homewood and public service buses are able to pull in fully and keep the road moving. If possible, please consider walking if you live locally or park a little further away and walk.

For those of you who bring your dogs to school can I please remind you that not all of our children and parents are comfortable with dogs, this can cause them anxieties when they see them. Please can I ask that you keep your dogs on a short lead, away from the school gates and away from public footpaths where possible.

Thank you for your support with this.

Bethersden Gardener's Society Autumn Show

Over the last few months, Deer Class have been learning about plants and what they need to grow. As part of this, they were growing and observing a variety of different plants. One of these was sunflowers, with seeds kindly donated by Bethersden Gardeners' Society who were running a competition in the village. The competition was to see who could grow the biggest sunflower head and so Deer rose to the challenge and carefully looked after their plants. We initially planted and cared for them in school and then it was over to the children and their families. The sunflowers were sent home to be looked after over the holidays with varied success. Mrs Moss' sunflower was so tasty that the slugs decided they wanted it! However, a number of children managed to grow their sunflowers and last Friday brought their sunflower head into school for measuring. Mr Williams from the society took careful measurements and then took the sunflower heads to be displayed at the society show in the village hall. They were on display for all to see along with a collection of beautiful flowers, vegetables and baking. The winner from Deer class was Mya, whose sunflower was a whopping 25cm in diameter. Well done to everyone who took part. Rumour has it, the competition will be taking place again next year with even more categories - so why don't you have a go!



Birthdays

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to the following members of our school:

Emily
Jayden
Phoebe-Jane
Alex S
William R
Jamie
Sophie
Teddy S
Mya

Sue
Mrs Hogben - Governor



Dates for your diary

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

Date	Event
September	
Tuesday 28 th and Wednesday 29 th	Individual children's photographs
October	
Wednesday 6 th 2pm	FOBS Annual General Meeting – all parents welcome
Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th	Parents evening telephone appointments 3.30pm – 6pm (more details to follow)
Friday 15 th	Year R to Year 6 Flu nasal vaccination
Wednesday 20 th	Last day of term
Thursday 21 st and Friday 22 nd	Inset days – no children in school
November	
Monday 1 st	First day of Term 2 – children return to school
December	
Monday 13 th	Nativity – 2pm
Tuesday 14 th	Nativity – 5pm
Wednesday 15 th	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
Friday 17 th Dec	Last day of term
January	
Tuesday 4 th Jan	First day of Term 3 - Children return to school